

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Breakfast with Legislative District Staff

Thursday, October 10, 2013

8:00 am – 9:30 am

MINUTES

South Bay Environmental Services Center
SBESC Theatre
20285 Western Avenue
Torrance, California 90501

Chair Dan Medina called the meeting to order at 8:24 a.m.

Flag Salute & Call to Order & Introductions

The Flag Salute was conducted by Patricia Donaldson and the Call to Order by Chair Dan Medina.

The following individuals introduced themselves and were in attendance:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne
Dan Medina, Gardena
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates
Susan Fuentes, El Segundo
Steve Napolitano, LA County-District 4
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills
Pat Furey, Torrance

City Staff

Domenica K. Megerdichian, Torrance
Michael Rock, Lomita

Legislative Representatives

Bill Orton, Senator Wright
Timothy Lippman, Assembly Member Muratsuchi
Jennifer Zivkovic, Senator Lieu

Other Agencies

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Patricia Donaldson, SBACC
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Jeffrey Kiernan, League of California Cities
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Locklow, SBCCOG
Marilyn Lyon, SBCCOG

SBCCOG Work Program

- *Transportation* – Jacki Bacharach provided an update, via a PowerPoint presentation, on the activities of the SBCCOG since the last Legislative Briefing, including SBCCOG transportation, land use and environmental programs. Regarding Measure R, Bacharach stated that the funding allocation of \$906 million is for construction and highway improvements in the South Bay. Bacharach further shared that the SBCCOG hosted a Green Construction Workshop for member cities to learn about Metro policies governing this type of construction. Bacharach mentioned the SBCCOG Bench of Contractors, which is a list of approximately 20 contractors identified for design and project construction that cities can use for the implementation of Measure R projects. Bacharach stated that four of the projects have been completed to date and many are on the way to completion. Bacharach mentioned Measure R funded SBCCOG design and studies conducted as part of a strategy to investigate the solvability of certain long-term transportation issues. Bacharach discussed the City of Torrance Del Amo project and the SBCCOG feasibility study between the City and County of Los Angeles for the completion of the project through Western Avenue. Bacharach shared the SBCCOG position on the LAX rail connection and the \$2.5 billion in SBCCOG identified projects, specifically neighborhood development and local streets, which was included in the SBCCOG letter to Metro Chair Diane Dubois, as it pertains to the 2014/2016 Los Angeles County transportation sales tax measure (the letter was a handout at the meeting). Bacharach further discussed Metro's waiver of the maintenance fee for the Express Lanes transponders and requested cities to send letters to Metro to waive the maintenance fee indefinitely. Bacharach shared Harbor City Gateway Transit Center improvements made by the SBCCOG, through partnering with the Sector Council and Metro, including a restroom, improved signage and the Silver Line to Downtown Los Angeles.

- *Programs at the SBESC* – Regarding the SBESC, Bacharach shared information about the City of Lomita’s Energy Leader Program award as a Platinum City, achieving energy savings and how several SBCCOG member cities are almost at the platinum level. Bacharach discussed the Cash for Kitchens program and the free energy and water efficiency devices available to restaurants through the SBESC; further information was provided on the SBESC training programs, available through a partnership with Southern California Edison (SCE) commencing in November 2013 through March 2014, for city staff certification. Bacharach provided additional information on the following: the street light acquisitions for cities; property assessed financing programs through the Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) and FigTree; partnership funds from SCE to conduct climate action planning for member cities; neighborhood oriented development; car sharing opportunities; the Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) project with the interim report due in the Spring 2014; plug in electric vehicle readiness; vanpools and express lanes; information on the Economic Development Roundtable and the upcoming meeting on October 17; and the list of upcoming events (the upcoming events flyer was a handout at the meeting). Olivia Valentine inquired about the status of the Car-to-go program, with Bacharach responding by sharing information on the status of the pending approvals for the Cities of Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach.

State Offices *(due to bill signings and other obligations, no legislators will be able to attend in person)*

- *Senator Roderick Wright* – Bill Orton discussed the Senator’s stance on regional cooperation and legislation. Orton further discussed Governor Brown’ approval of SB 470 – Community Development: Economic Opportunity, which was supported by the League of California Cities, a number of cities, and put-forward by the City of Long Beach, which provides cities a re-use opportunity for redevelopment properties currently owned by the state, in order to increase cities’ ability to determine the use of such properties. Orton stated that Senator Wright had a dozen bills signed into law and mentioned the Inglewood Forum and Weisenberg School District bills. Orton discussed the indirect impact of the federal government shutdown on the state and the Governor’s demur on whether the state will pick up federal obligations, including food stamps and school lunch programs, since funding for these programs has been cut. Orton further mentioned that executive action might be considered to fund said federally funded, social programs in November. Orton also discussed that in 2014, there will be more favorable legislation forthcoming for cities redevelopment, post-dissolution. Chair Medina mentioned that the Veteran Affairs’ hospitals would remain open, in spite of the government shutdown. Orton reiterated that the state and federal government are determining how November payments will be made to veterans with disabilities, widows, and a range of recipients of veteran funds.
- *Assembly Member Muratsuchi* – Timothy Lippman presented information on a June 2014 ballot measure that would reallocate bond funds for multi-family housing for veterans and families, which is currently not allotted for such purposes. Lippman mentioned that the Governor has signed all seven bills that the Assembly Member authored dealing with such issues as education and public safety. The chaptered bills discussed by Lippman include the following: AB 370 – Consumers: Internet Privacy, which would require the operator to disclose whether other parties may collect personally identifiable information when a consumer uses the operator’s website or service; AB 754 – Income Taxes: Voluntary Contributions: California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account for coastal protection program funding; AB 66 – Electricity: System Reliability, requiring electrical corporations to provide information on interruptions on services to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which was amended to include remediation provisions for frequently occurring outages to local areas, effective January 1. Lippman mentioned that Assembly Member Muratsuchi would be in continual communication with the PUC and outage-affected cities for further investigation and action by local energy providers while the implementation of said bill takes place. Lippman further discussed that in 2014, the Assembly Member plans to continually push for more legislation pertaining to veterans’ services, utility services, aerospace community hearings and MS-4 permitting implementation. Chair Medina inquired about the shutdown effects on the Assembly Member’s office with Lippman stating that there have been no direct impacts. Lippman discussed that the Employment Development Department (EDD) is dealing with a worsening backlog for claimants and that the Assembly Member’s office is monitoring the trickle down effect to CalVet. Olivia Valentine asked about the Assembly Member’s position on the AES energy plant in the City of Redondo Beach and the remodel application. Lippman stated that the Assembly Member has written to the Energy Commission requesting a full needs-analysis and if the report shows that there are better alternatives or the power is not needed, he would oppose.
- *Senator Ted Lieu* – Jennifer Zivkovic presented information on the federal government shutdown and the impacts to EDD, specifically that federal employees that are furloughed would be eligible for unemployment insurance. Zivkovic stated that the following bills were chaptered: SB 333 – Crimes:

Emergencies False Reporting dealing with fake 9-11 calls; SB 118 – Unemployment Insurance: Education and Workforce Investment Systems focusing on targeting training resources on industries with projected growth; SB 209 – Income Taxes: Exclusion, Deferral, Qualified Small Business Stock, pertaining to retroactive taxes for small business tax credits; SB 353 – Health Care Coverage: Language Assistance identifying deceptive marketing of Affordable Care Act (ACA) products and requiring non-English materials to have certain information; SB 57 – Electronic Monitoring: Removing or Disabling GPS Devices, specifically with the tampering of the GPS ankle bracelet for sex offenders and making it a felony for tampering with said device. Zivkovic mentioned that the Senator's two year bills for 2014 will focus on the following: SB 49 – School Safety Plans; SB 2 – Political Reform Act of 1974, seeking greater transparency of campaign contributions; SB 266 – Health Care Coverage: Out-of-Network Coverage, providing outpatient information regarding billing and disclosure. Zivkovic further shared that the Senator wrote a letter to SCE regarding responsive action for a solution to the power outages. Chair Medina reiterated the issue with scammers and the ACA, billing issues with medical procedures and consumers verifying insurance coverage.

- *Additional Comments* – Bill Orton mentioned that the State Exchange for health care, through CoveredCA, received one million hits to the website in the first week and 16,000 applications within the first few days, in spite of issues with the federal system's technical glitches. Orton responded to a question by Olivia Valentine and further stated that 16 states opted to provide state exchanges, with the federal government providing the exchanges in those states that do not have a state exchange for health care. Orton shared information on the Medicaid program expansion under the ACA and federal contributions to Medicaid expansion and the Supreme Court ruling not requiring states to expand Medicaid. Lastly, Orton stated that the ACA success would largely be measured by the success of Los Angeles County, since the county is the largest health care delivery system in the nation. Timothy Lippman provided information on a Town Hall Meeting, hosted by Assembly Member Muratsuchi, to be held on October 19, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, with attendance of representatives from CoveredCA and health care providers who will answer questions regarding health care coverage.

Federal Offices *(please note that there may be no legislative staff available due to the government shutdown.)*

- No information was provided.

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

- Steve Lantz discussed the letter to Diane Dubois, Chair of the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, regarding the potential future LA County transportation sales tax measure (the letter was disseminated at the meeting as a handout). Lantz shared that the letter presented the needs of the South Bay, specifically \$2.5 billion in transportation needs, not including I-405 main line expansion, extension of the rail line in the City of Torrance and funding sustainability. Lantz provided information on proposed legislation, including the amended SCA 4 – Local Government Transportation Projects: Special Taxes, Voter Approval, sponsored by Senator Carol Liu, that would provide that the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for local transportation projects, requiring the approval of 55% of its voters voting on the proposition, if the proposition proposing the tax includes certain requirements. Lantz stated that the bill was amended to include sustainability projects and prohibited the use of Proposition A, C funds for the completion of existing projects. Lantz further discussed the LAX connector project and Metro's new report and the current disagreements regarding revisions to the Crenshaw Line and the people mover transfer. Lantz stated that Metro has less than \$200 million for the project and LAX must come up with \$1 billion for the project; alternatives are being considered and are an important issue to the SBCCOG. Lantz further mentioned the sustainability requirements in the SCA 4 and the need to define sustainability from a mobility perspective.
- Jeff Kiernan discussed the following legislation: AB 1229 Land use: Zoning Regulations regarding allowing cities to reinstate inclusionary housing ordinances to meet affordable housing requirements; regulation, specifically towards massage parlors, rehabilitation homes and the homeless bill of rights pertaining to AB 5; realignment, storm water and the water bond, cap and trade funding and the Governor's budget proposal; sequestration, marijuana dispensaries and special classification for zoning regulation; the gubernatorial election; SB 470: Community Development, Economic Opportunity and economic development.
- Suzanne Fuentes mentioned an article in the LA Times dealing with AB 327 – Electricity: Natural Gas, Rates and how the bill authorizes the PUC to develop a new formula for electrical rates based on region,

specifically lowering the rates for hot, hinter land regions, including the Inland Empire, Valley and High Desserts by raising the rates in mild climate regions, specifically the coastal communities, in order to address current electricity rate inequities, assist low-income energy users and maintain incentives for renewable energy investments. Jacki Bacharach mentioned the conversation with SCE and shared information on how there is an assumption that the inland communities need more energy, while coastal communities need less, with high energy rate users comprising tiers 3, 4 and 5, which includes coastal areas. Bacharach shared that the information received from participants of the SBESC electric vehicle programs shows that they are classified as high-energy users within the aforementioned energy tiers. Timothy Lippman mentioned this might be a way for energy providers to recoup infrastructure costs. Jeff Kiernan stated that Senator Lieu voted against the bill and that the League of California Cities did not take a position on this bill. Bill Orton asked about non-destructive testing with Fuentes providing a definition. Chair Medina discussed his meeting with the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) regarding the MS-4 Permit and stated that the City of Gardena is against the MS-4 Permit due to a lack of data and the monitoring structure. Medina further discussed the Dominguez Channel and Monsanto's toxic waste contamination and the \$1.5 million fees charged to cities that go through the channel, including Gardena, Carson, San Pedro, Lomita, Hawthorne and Inglewood. Medina urged cities to oppose the MS-4 Permit and stated that the US EPA and LA County do not support the MS-4 Permit. Medina shared that his presentation and a copy of the opposition letter are available upon request and further mentioned that at the Board of Directors' Meeting on October 24, information will be presented on the MS-4 Permit.

Public Comment

- Jacki Bacharach shared information on the following events:
The SBESC Free Holiday Light Exchange to be held November 18-20, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and wanted to know if there are sponsors for the holiday lights.
- Chair Medina shared information on the West Basin 15th Annual Water Harvest Festival to be held October 26, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Medina also mentioned the flyer for the SBACC/SBCCOG "A Getting to Know You Evening!" to be held on October 30, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Additional information was provided on the 6th Annual SBESC Volunteer Recognition Reception to be held November 21, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Lastly, Medina discussed the 15th Annual General Assembly scheduled for February 28, 2014 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Pat Furey shared information on an event he is hosting regarding how to "Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent" to be held on October 16, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Chair Medina requested posting the flyer to the website.
(All the aforementioned information was disseminated at the meeting as a handout)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m. until January 9, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Submitted By:

Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments