

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2015

8:00 am – 9:30 am

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Theatre

Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Board Member and 1st Vice Chair Jim Knight of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes called the meeting to order at 8:14 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Ralph Franklin, Inglewood
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo
Jim Knight, Rancho Palos Verdes
Patrick Furey, Torrance
Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach

City Staff

Kenneth Farfsing, Carson
Cecil Rhambo, Jr., Carson
Eleanor Jones-Barthe, Torrance
Steve Burrell, Lomita
Raymond Cruz, Rolling Hills
Joe Mendoza, Palos Verdes Estates

Legislators

Benjamin Allen, CA Senator
Isadore Hall, III, CA Senator
David Hadley, Assemblymember
Patrick O'Donnell, Assemblymember

Legislative Representatives

Nicolas Rodriguez, US Senator Boxer
Sabiha Khan, US Senator Feinstein
Cameron Onumah, US Senator Feinstein

Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu
Lara Larramendi, Congresswoman Hahn
Samuel Liu, Senator Allen
Avelino Valencia, Senator Hall
Brandon Stansell, Senator Hall
Sharnette Clemons, Senator Hall
Erika Velazquez, Senator Hall
Angela Sanna, CA Senator Holly Mitchell
Dave Loudon, Assemblymember Hadley
Brian Mineghino, Assemblymember Donnell
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember
Gipson

Other Agencies

Danielle Valentino, Metro
Josh La Farga, LiUNA Local 1309
Laborers Union
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities
Sharon Green, LA County Sanitation District
Charles Gale, Municipal Water District
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
Stan Myles, South Coast AQMD

SBCCOG Program Update

Jacki announced that the Governor signed the Energy bill today. She also discussed how the South Bay cities are preparing climate action plans and should be meeting all state goals by 2020 and 2035. The SBCCOG is assisting cities with energy efficiency, energy storage, solid waste, land use and transportation chapters of their individual climate action plans and is also preparing a subregional climate action plan. By the end of next year the SBCCOG hopes to have climate action plans for all the South Bay cities completed.

Jacki stated the SBCCOG was successful in getting dedicated enhanced homelessness services to the South Bay through LA County funding. PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) will be hired to provide the services. She discussed the Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) program and how the SBCCOG provided these vehicles to individuals in the South Bay for two months at a time to chart their use. The SBCCOG will be hosting an event on November 12 entitled, "Charging Forward: Realizing the Potential of Electric Vehicles" to share the findings of the report, with one particular finding being that the South Bay is not meeting the state's goals for fleet conversion and that there are not enough vehicles sold that are alternative fuel to meet the transportation goals by 2020.

Regarding the Green Building Challenge, the SBCCOG received a grant from Southern California Edison and The Gas Company, in partnership with Golden State Water to promote a free competition to encourage energy efficiency, water savings, and recycling events among South Bay businesses and property owners. The SBCCOG is working with South Bay mayors and the Chambers of Commerce to secure more participation; currently there are 24 participants in the challenge, which started September 1, 2015 and ends August 31, 2016. This is the first challenge of its kind in Southern California and the SBCCOG hopes to have 200 participants in the challenge.

Jacki discussed SBCCOG upcoming events including the October 22 "2nd South Bay Cities Public Input Forum" that will focus on the LA County Strategic Plan for Economic Development (2016-2020), with remarks by Bill Allen, the President and CEO of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Additionally, Jacki shared information on the SBCCOG Holiday Light Exchange, which switches out the one-strand holiday lights of community residents and replaces them with LED lights for free. Jacki mentioned that on November 19 the SBCCOG will host a Volunteer Reception to honor its 25 active volunteers. On October 22, Phil Washington, the CEO of Metro, will be speaking at the SBCCOG Board Meeting. And at the November 19 Board Meeting, West Basin Municipal Water District will be coming to discuss its desalination project.

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

Board Member Jim Knight discussed the need for collaborative governance and how the SBCCOG Legislative Briefing is designed to bring various entities together to exchange ideas, network and to ultimately accomplish regional goals for collective

benefit. He opened up the discussion by requesting if those in attendance had topics they wanted to discuss further. Issues identified included rate increases among water companies, [AB 718](#), cap and trade funding, the Transportation Conference Committee (First Extraordinary Session Conference Committee on SB 4 and AB 3) and possible impact on transportation funding.

State Offices

Senator Isadore Hall, III mentioned that the legislature passed a budget without any deficits and considerable monetary reserves, allowing for more investment in the following: K-12 education; California State University programming to reduce tuition rates; career technology training programs that are critical to meeting the growing industry demands for businesses including SpaceX and Northrop Grumman, among others; a multi-billion dollar water bond for desalination & reclamation of runoff and to address the drought; the passage of [SB 350](#), which will reduce carbon emissions, positioning California as a leader in air quality in the nation; cities to use some portion of what was once Redevelopment Agencies to attract businesses; [SB 63](#) which allows the ports to be creative in how they are financed, infrastructure development and the redevelopment of the ports to foster economic development in the region.

Assemblymember David Hadley shared that this is his first year in Sacramento and in an elected office. During his time in office, he has observed that there is zero culture of oversight in the legislature, but that through the change of term limits, there will be a more institutional process of oversight. He mentioned that although 2,300 bills came through the legislature this year, the legislature did very little to address the state's water challenges. Additionally, he is not optimistic regarding how the state completed the budget, especially since the Governor called two extraordinary sessions to deal with Transportation and health care related issues, indicating a poor allocation of general fund revenues to address these core functions of state government. The Assemblymember acknowledged that SB 350 will be a defining piece of legislation and also discussed the importance of California leading from a shared prosperity perspective regarding environmental policy. Moreover, he stated that California accounts for 1 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the world. Regarding cap and trade, Assemblymember Hadley acknowledged that it is unclear how the funding will be spent and that California has the most volatile revenue stream of any state in the country, except for a few states that are dependent on the price of oil. He urged that California needs to be mindful as the state creates spending obligations and revenue streams over the next couple of years.

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell cited that he represents the 70th District, which includes the cities of Long Beach, Catalina, Signal Hill, and San Pedro and previously served on the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and on the Long Beach City Council. Regarding the budget, the Assemblymember reported that the Governor locked a lot of funds into one-time expenditures and made reference to the economic contributions of oil in lieu of SB 350. Some of the Assemblymember's priorities extend beyond mass transit to include transportation with a particular focus on the ports and

moving mass containers in and out of the ports more efficiently and in a green manner. Regarding cap and trade, there is over \$1 billion worth of funding and the South Bay needs to ensure its getting its fair share. The ports are a major source of pollution to the Southern California region and receiving adequate cap and trade funding will enable the ports to operate in a more green and efficient manner. The Assemblymember detailed the importance of making Goods Movement a high priority issue, along with education, specifically low income and English language learning students. He referenced additional issues that he focuses on including the implementation of Common Core State Standards and equipping teachers with the essential tools in order to modernize the education system. He emphasized the need for multiple paths to success for high school students, especially through advanced manufacturing training. Lastly, Assemblymember O'Donnell indicated that he passed a bill that addresses emergency service wait times to ensure greater accountability and responsiveness.

Senator Ben Allen represents the coastal portion of the South Bay. He mentioned that he sits on Senate Subcommittee 1 on Education and that there was an increase in the funding for K-12 schools in the passage of the budget, which is a welcome change considering that he served on the school board in Santa Monica and Malibu before being elected to the Senate, with his district along with others, trying to keep the school budget solvent without too many programmatic cuts. He suggested that within the next fiscal year, California will spend more than \$68 billion in education, which is approximately \$10,000 per pupil in K-12 education - an increase of 15% in just two years. The budget also provides for additional funding for UC and CSUs, permitting an additional 15,000 students to attend universities, in addition to adding 13,000 preschool and childcare slots. The senator shared his controversial bill on vaccinations, and stated that this was a personal issue since his father had polio and his constituency is appalled at the resurgence of such dangerous communicable diseases due to a lack of vaccinations. He referenced that there are 400 people dying of the measles every single day throughout the world and unless there is a shut down of international airports, trade, and tourism, local populations render themselves vulnerable to such diseases without vaccination. The Senator understands that there are people who have differences of opinion about vaccinations and that there are challenges with implementation and asked for feedback, as the legislation will not be in effect until the next school year. Additionally, the Senator cited a bill signed by the Governor to protect veterans from pension scams and how he is working on legislation that would give the State Water Resources Control Board more regulatory control over a particular type of mining causing mercury invasion in rivers in Northern California. Also, he remarked that the Governor signed his bill on Alzheimer's that sets new guidelines for Alzheimer's care provisions. Moreover, he is working on a bill through the Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments to incorporate a vote center model to assist with the low voter turnout in California, which was 42% voter turnout statewide and 31% turnout countywide during the last November election. As such, the Senator is collaborating with the Secretary of State to review what has been done in Colorado, where the vote center model includes sending every resident ballots and allowing for said ballots to be mailed or dropped off at local voting centers. Voters are able to go to a voting center 10 days prior to an election, which includes two full weekends with the

centers being fully staffed, which includes language assistance and disability accessibility. In Colorado, the implementation of the vote center model led to a 12-15% voter turnout increase and a 30% reduction in state cost. The Senator remarked on the passage of the Water Bond and the significance of the drought and how the state is looking at examples in other countries, including Israel's drip irrigation technology used in the agricultural sector, and the use of rainwater capture and cisterns in every home in Australia. He specified the need for infrastructure to be in place to capture water, especially in lieu of El Niño and identified the lack of such infrastructure in Southern California to capitalize on stormwater. The senator did not vote for [AB 718](#) due to concerns over implementation, but is willing to work with cities to improve the bill to better equip them to deal with their homeless populations in a more productive way. He mentioned that he serves on the Transportation Conference Committee that has been established to review the ongoing infrastructure needs of the state. The average Los Angeles resident spends double the average American in car repairs because of the bad conditions of the roads. He noted that road maintenance is becoming a big economic problem and how he is trying to bring transit into the conversation by engaging with the SBCCOG. Lastly, the Senator stated that he met with the Vice Mayor of Beverly Hills and they are working on a measure to address the Metro board's makeup in LA County. He observed how smaller cities are disadvantaged since there is one Metro board member per 1 million Los Angeles city residents versus one Metro board member per 1.5 million smaller city residents in LA County. He commented about a proposal to increase the Metro board by two members - one that would represent the smaller cities and the other one representing LA County unincorporated areas. He shared that he would like to receive the SBCCOG recommendation on this matter, especially in lieu of the upcoming transportation tax measure.

Assemblymember Mike Gipson's representative Christopher Wilson shared that the Assemblymember completed his first year in the legislature. The Assemblymember has one bill on the Governor's desk, [AB 835](#), pertaining to vehicular manslaughter and expanding the statute of limitation from three to six years. The bill received wide community support and is personal to the Assemblymember, whose 3 year old son was killed due to a hit-and-run. Although the Assemblymember is not a member of the Transportation Conference Committee, he is closely monitoring the hearings that will be taking place throughout the state in October. Regarding the budget highlights, Christopher shared the state created its own Earned income Tax Credit and increased funding in education, while also maintaining a \$1.1 billion reserve. The Assemblymember has held several select committee meetings in the district covering campus sexual assault, the Compton Community College District and returning local control to the district, and the 21st century California approach to ending AIDS.

Senator Holly Mitchell's representative Angela Sanna stated that the senator's priorities include health and human services, public safety and education. The Senator chairs the Senate Select Committee on Women and Inequality - Strategies to Promote Opportunity and is focusing on being in the district more often in order to be more visible among stakeholders and with constituents. Recently, the Senator had a successful event dealing with immigration and providing assistance to those that have no access to

resources, including quality schools, vaccinations, and driver's licenses. She is also actively connecting and partnering with organizations and stakeholders around these issues. The Senator is focusing on getting elementary and middle schools access to resources to assist students with opportunities for college admission and success. Angela discussed [SB 23](#) and how the bill is one of the leading ways to reduce child poverty in California, which aligns with Senator Mitchell's main goal, specifically reducing the amount of poverty in the district through educational pathways.

Senator Hall mentioned the need for more jurisdictional oversight over how water companies are able to penalize cities and assess residents for water use. Regarding cap and trade, he indicated that the legislature has no authority over the Governor's administrative authorization of cap and trade resources. When reviewing AB 718, Senator Hall shared his concern for homeless individuals living in their cars and receiving excessive prosecution and penalties. Senator Hall shed light on how the northern part of his district has approximately 50 RVs alone where people are living out of their cars. He pointed out the need for legislation that provides alternative places for homeless individuals to stay. Moreover, Senator Hall reiterated that the homeless are everyday people whose lives have been turned upside down by economic hardships and how it's incumbent upon the legislature to create policies to help mitigate the homelessness situation by creating shelters, providing supportive services and education opportunities, among others.

Assemblymember Hadley specified that he voted for AB 718 in its original form and stated that dealing with the issue of homelessness presents a considerable cost to cities. He also expressed that he will not vote for higher transportation taxes until the South Bay stops getting short-changed. As it relates to cap and trade funding, he intimated that there are two particular issues at hand including particulate matter, metals and toxic material that are released by industrial processes, which are an environmental justice issue in that it's important to make sure people who live near major ports and industrial facilities are protected. Assemblymember Hadley stated that SB 350 is fundamentally about carbon emissions and that carbon is not a toxic substance and as such, there needs to be a balance between dealing with toxic emissions and low carbon emissions in California.

Assemblymember O'Donnell stated that he could not support AB 718 since in his district, there are multiple service centers for the homeless. He urged the need for the SBCCOG to become more active around cap and trade, and he offered to work with the SBCCOG to advocate for its fair share of funding for the South Bay region, especially since this region creates cap and trade funding sources.

Senator Allen discussed how school districts in the South Bay pooled their ROP funds to create SoCal ROC, which provides technical and trade education and how SoCal ROC has lost its ROP funding source, which was replaced by a new funding mechanism for career and technical education through regional consortia using community college district lines. He proposed a bill to make SoCal ROC eligible for adult education funding sources; however, the bill received pushback due to inflexibility

in funding sources. Senator Hall added that SoCal ROC serves multiple cities and is a regional center and Senator Allen asked for the SBCCOG continued support on this issue.

Jacki discussed how the South Bay is different from other regions when considering cap and trade funding since cap and trade is mainly focused on transit oriented development, and the South Bay has few of those places. Instead we focus on neighborhood oriented development. Therefore, we advocate for more flexibility for these funds. Jacki communicated that the SBCCOG is concerned that public health is being defined as only walking and biking, and that through the findings from its BEV and NEV projects, fleet conversion should be included in the public health dialogue.

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office representative Sabiha Khan discussed how the Senator co-hosted a roundtable discussion on human trafficking with the intent to form the [Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Task Force](#) with partners across the city, County and federal level. The task force was awarded \$1.5 million by the U.S. Department of Justice. The senator visited the West Los Angeles Veteran Affairs campus and announced the current introduction of the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2015 that would give the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs new authority to provide housing for homeless veterans on the West LA campus. She also announced the congressional approval for seismic safety projects at three VA facilities in California, including one in San Diego which will receive \$187.5 million to construct a 45 bed spinal cord injury center and a 43 bed community living and hospice care center; one in Long Beach that will receive \$101.9 million to construct a 120 bed living center, a clinic to provide in-and-out patient mental health services, and a plant to provide heat and power to the campus; and lastly, one at the West Los Angeles VA for a \$35 million project where they will renovate and retrofit Building 205 to provide supportive housing for 70 homeless veterans. Another major priority for the senator is the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank; Senator Feinstein co-sponsored the bill and on September 29, 2015, she published an op-ed piece in the Los Angeles Daily News urging her colleagues in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank as soon as possible, especially considering the importance of the bank to small businesses in California. The drought is one of the senator's top priorities. The Senator introduced in July the [California Emergency Drought Relief Act](#), a bill that will provide both short and long-term provision designed to help communities cope with the ongoing drought and combat future droughts, including assistance for drought stricken communities. It will also create a new Department of Agriculture program that will help stabilize water supplies for rural and disadvantaged communities with fewer than 10,000 residents, particularly those living in the Central Valley who were living off bottled water. The goal is to create drought resiliency and provide support for desalination projects throughout the state, in addition to creating storage projects for the building of new reservoirs and to increase capacity of existing reservoirs, while also identifying 105 potential water recycling projects with the ability to produce approximately 854,000 acre-feet of water and authorize \$200 million to help support [U.S. Code Title 16 -](#)

[Conservation](#). The Senator has been on C-SPAN to discuss this legislation with the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the floor of the U.S. Senate to gain broader support. Cameron requested that the SBCCOG member cities share how their cities are dealing with the drought and its impacts. Additionally, Senator Feinstein did support giving President Obama the authority to negotiate the [Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#) (TPP), and the Senator will be monitoring the agreement. Lastly, the Senator introduced the [Small Business Lending and Inequality Reduction Act](#), which will help underserved communities and underserved small business owners gain access to capital through the US Small Business Administration. It will increase their ability to receive loans to help small businesses that are traditionally underserved in order to increase their capital, thereby increasing their services to the community and the amount of people they employ.

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer's Office representative Nicolas Rodriguez shared priorities for Senator Boxer including the passage of the [DRIVE Act, also known as the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act \(FAST\)](#), the six-year transportation bill, which provides \$55 billion a year for six years, with three years fully funded, for highways, highway safety and transit programs. The funding would provide an increase in assistance to transit development in cities and states and in the formulaic funding for both highway and transit. Nicolas reported that 50% of the funding that states spend on highways comes from the federal government and that this is a high priority for the Senator. The Senator recently toured facilities at Metrolink and Union Station to highlight the need for funding for train control, in order to increase safety for regional transit and provide front-line assistance to municipal transit to develop the needed technology. The Senator co-introduced the [Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act](#), a bill that prohibits oil drilling along the West Coast's outer continental shelf. The Senator is greatly concerned with the safety and economic issues that exist with drilling near or on the coast of California.

Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Office representative Lara Larramendi mentioned that the Congresswoman sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and will be reviewing the reauthorization of the [Transportation Bill](#) and shared that today the Republican Caucus is meeting to agree to put forth a nominee for Speaker to be voted on by the end of the month. Lara acknowledged that the committee is looking to take action on the continuing resolution for the [Highway Trust Fund](#), which expires October 29. She had a copy of a California congressional delegation letter signed only by the Democratic members that is addressed to the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, outlining the 21 priorities important to California, notably the long-term funding of the bill and the President's budget increases to transportation by 76%, which prioritizes passenger rail investment. Lara shared the importance of the freight program and how California has three of the top five Amtrak corridors in the country. Additionally, the Congresswoman received accolades at the Metro Legislative Briefing, along with Congressman Karen Bass and Grace Napolitano, for [H.R. 3620 - Local Hire Act](#), which allows transit companies to include local hires as a priority in their contracts. Lastly, Lara emphasized the Congresswoman's priority on

electric vehicles and the need for creating public-private partnership for electric vehicle charging stations and electric vehicle charging property tax credits.

Congressman Ted Lieu's Office representative Joey Apodaca emphasized the urgency of the Export-Import Bank reauthorization. He shared an example of the devastating impact to the South Bay with one company terminating a satellite contract with Boeing because they could not receive funding from Export-Import Bank, with the value of said Boeing contract being worth \$130 million for the El Segundo area. Joey also stated that Boeing announced layoffs earlier this summer. Regarding the Exxon Mobil refinery, Joey acknowledged the challenges with safety practices and pollution and how the refinery will be sold by Exxon Mobil to PBF Energy Western Region, LLC. Congressman Lieu spoke with the President of PBF Energy Western Region Jeffrey Dill and a representative from Exxon Mobil to receive assurances that every worker and contracted worker will keep their job, if so desired. Regarding the [Army Fee Assistance](#), Joey commented that the Army assists active service members with childcare if it's not available on the base; however the waiting period for disbursement of child care funds for member families can take about seven months, forcing many families into bankruptcy. The Congressman sits on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and has been working with the chairman of the committee to address this issue. Additionally, Congressman Lieu invited the U.S. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James to the LA Air Force Base to tour the base in order to emphasize the key role the base plays in maintaining national security in carrying out the mission of the Space and Missile Systems Center. During the tour, the Congressman showed the U.S. Air Force Secretary the plug-in electric vehicle fleet on the base with the hope that it will spread to bases nationwide. He also co-hosted a press conference to establish the importance of transportation and infrastructure spending in regards to safety and the economic boost for the region. Joey referenced that the Congressman supports the [Grow America Act](#), which would authorize President Obama's long-term six-year transportation plan for the cost of approximately \$478 billion. Regarding the [Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act](#), also known as the DARK Act, Congressman Lieu opposed it, since he would like for California to make stronger laws for GMO labeling, if it so chooses. Lastly, the congressman passed his first bill into law entitled the [Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act](#).

Public Comment - There was no public comments.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Board Member Jim Knight adjourned the meeting at 9:56 am until Thursday, January 14, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments