

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff**

**April 11, 2019 Meeting Notes**

SBCCOG Chair & Rolling Hills Estates Councilmember Britt Huff called the meeting to order at 8:15 and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

### **Elected Officials and Board Members**

Mark Waronek, Lomita  
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates  
Jennifer La Marque, LA County D-4  
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates  
Geoff Rizzo, Torrance

### **Legislative Staff Representatives**

Brent Robinson, U.S. Senator Harris  
Jeannette Christian,  
U.S. Senator Feinstein  
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember  
Gipson  
Olina Wibroe-Benson, State Senator Allen  
Daryl Sweeney, State Senator Bradford  
Brandon Stansell, Assemblymember Burke  
Cody Bridges, Assemblymember Muratsuchii  
Stacy Trinidad, Assemblymember Muratsuchi

### **City/County Staff**

Bruce Moe, Manhattan Beach  
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

### **Other Agencies**

Lisa Bergland, Carson  
Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber  
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities  
Estee Sepulveda, SCAG  
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG  
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG  
Rosemary Lackow  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG  
Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts  
David Gamboa, CSUDH

### **SBCCOG Program Update**

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach highlighted the activities of the SBCCOG since the January meeting. Jacki discussed the SBCCOG work around homelessness and stated that there is a lack of housing and a growing problem with getting people into permanent housing. She stated that motels may serve as good alternative sites for potentially housing the homeless. Patricia Donaldson of Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce shared that former military facilities could be another alternative option for housing the homeless and Ms. Bacharach requested further information to explore this further. Ms. Bacharach noted that there is an opportunity for senior shared housing and that the SBCCOG will be working with LA County to learn more. She noted the presentation to the SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group from Silvernest, a private company that provides software to screen and match potential applicants. Additionally, Ms. Bacharach referenced the safe parking sites for homeless and Palos Verdes Estates Councilman Kenneth Kao asked about it. Ms. Bacharach mentioned that the Safe Parking organization screens potential applicants that use of such parking sites. Regarding broadband, Ms. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG is asking Metro for \$4.4 million for the construction costs to create the fiber network throughout the South Bay cities. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that fiber is a critical component to the 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system. She asked that those in attendance send a letter to Metro highlighting the need for regional broadband and noted that the SBCCOG could forward a sample

letter emphasizing broadband as part of the transportation network. Ms. Bacharach discussed the SBCCOG work around an Age Friendly South Bay, which focuses on ensuring facilities and policies are accessible and responsive to seniors and noted that the SBCCOG is seeking funding sources through Kaiser and others to develop this program. Ms. Bacharach detailed the Climate Action and Adaptation Planning being conducted by the SBCCOG Civic Sparks fellow Carolyn Yvellez, which includes vulnerability assessments for cities.

Ms. Bacharach's PowerPoint presentation is accessible via the following link:

[http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative\\_staff/PRESENTATION\\_Legislative%20Briefing%20Update%204.19.pdf](http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_Legislative%20Briefing%20Update%204.19.pdf)

## **Federal Offices and State Offices**

**Representative Jeanette Christian of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office** discussed the Fighting Homelessness through Services and Housing Act (S. 923) which seeks to increase federal resources to battle homelessness by authorizing \$750 million in grants annually for the next five years for local governments to combat homelessness. Ms. Christian also highlighted the Ensuring Safe Housing for Our Military Act (S. 703) which addresses health and safety in privatized military housing after a recent Reuters investigation found hazardous living conditions in privatized military housing throughout the United States. She asked those in attendance to share this information with South Bay residents, especially those in need of housing or housing repairs

**Brent Robinson, Representative from U.S. Senator Kamala Harris' Office** also discussed the housing and homelessness crisis and cited the Senator's bill, the Rent Relief Act, would create a new, refundable tax credit to put more money in the pockets of families at a time when renters' wages have remained stagnant and housing costs have increased rapidly. Mr. Robinson indicated that this bill is designed to provide a financial lift and some relief to the 21 million middle class families that spend approximately 30% of their income on rent. The bill would reduce poverty by 2.4 % or lift 7.8 million people and 2 million children out of poverty. Mr. Robinson also stated that U.S. Senator Harris is a co-sponsor on U.S. Senator Feinstein's Fighting Homelessness Act (S. 923). Lastly, Mr. Robinson shared that Heather Hutt is now the State Director for U.S. Senator Kamala Harris' state office.

**Cody Bridges of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi's Office** detailed AB 1286 the Shared Mobility Devices bill which will create a statewide minimum standard requirement for shared mobility devices that will require basic safety standards and prohibit waivers of rights to protect riders. He also mentioned AB 1064 -Firearms Transactions which would improve public safety and bring increased accountability, transparency and security to gun sales in California by requiring gun dealers to comply with a set of responsible business practices and authorize the Department of Justice to fine irresponsible dealers who break the law.

**Representative Olin Wibroe from State Senator Ben Allen's Office** outlined AB 39 Education Finance and how it would increase the base grants to amounts equal to the national average per-pupil funding level. She also discussed SB 54 known as the California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act that would establish a comprehensive plan to "reduce and recycle" 75% of single-use plastics by 2030. Additional bills discussed included AB 428 Special Education Funding, which would provide high cost service allowances for the purpose of increasing funding to schools

that serve special need students. Additionally, Ms. Wibroe detailed SB 45 – Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 which would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4.3 billion to mitigate fire damaged areas, and reduce other environmental risks.

**Daryl Sweeney, Representative from State Senator Steven Bradford’s Office** highlighted SB 426 – Dymally Fellows Project, a bill that would require the university to establish the Dymally Fellows Project, to be operated out of the Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political and Economic Institute at the California State University, Dominguez Hills, to provide college matriculation services to high school pupils and community college students residing in specified geographic areas located near the campus. The bill would appropriate \$300,000 to the university to develop and implement the project. Mr. Sweeney noted that the Senator is the Chair of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee, where the Senator is focusing on predatory lending and advocating for capping the interest rates.

**Representative Brandon Stansell of Assemblymember Autumn Burke’s Office** discussed AB 24-Targeted Child Tax Credit which would provide a fundamental, holistic level of support for families living in poverty with children, by accounting for the basic necessities of a family when issuing credit. Targeted child tax credit will provide fundamental support to those living in deep poverty. Mr. Stansell also mentioned AB 147-The Wayfair Implementation and Small Business Relief Act which promotes marketplace fairness and balance to the needs of consumers, small business and local government. The SBCCOG supported this bill.

**Christopher Wilson of Assemblymember Mike Gipson’s Office** highlighted AB 955 Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water System Needs Assessment that would require the Water Replenishment District to assess water systems serving disadvantaged communities in Southeast LA County to help troubled water systems develop a plan to acquire the resources it needs to come into compliance with safe drinking water laws and regulations. Mr. Wilson also discussed AB 1422 Hate Crime: Homeless, a bill that seeks to define and add “homeless status” to the list of actual or perceived characteristics qualifying as a hate crime. The Assemblymember has 19 bills and is the Chair of the Assembly Democratic Caucus, which has a focus on redevelopment.

Ms. Bacharach asked those in attendance to share their thoughts about the new Governor’s priority areas. Olin Wibroe stated the Governor has a focus on early childcare education and that there is a concern of using monies from the rainy-day fund. Brandon Stansell agreed and echoed that the Governor has a high priority on early childhood education and poverty. Daryl Sweeney mentioned that the Governor prioritized housing and shared that he is opening up an LA office.

## **League of Cities Update**

**Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities** provided contextual information regarding the Legislature in which the Democratic Party has a solid 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority in both houses. Mr. Kiernan mentioned the opposition to SB 50 and stated the bill includes the job rich areas, no limits on density and limiting single family housing. He referenced that the League is supporting a tenant protection measure and mentioned that the Governor’s trailer bill on housing gives authority to COGs and SCAG to determine how this works. Mr. Kiernan also mentioned that the League supports AB 11 increment tax financing but opposes the affordable drinking water fund.

## **Discussion and Public Comment**

Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember Mike Gipson's Office mentioned that the wireless carriers are in a pending law suit with the National League of Cities. Jeff Kiernan shared that cities should comply with current FCC regulations while the lawsuit is pending. Brent Robinson welcomed cities to show support for the Senator's Rent Relief Act. David Gamboa of CSUDH discussed the Dymally Institute's focus on identifying new public service leaders in the South Bay and increasing the interest in the public service sector. Sharon Green from the Sanitation Districts discussed AB 1672 – Solid Waste: flushable products which would prohibit the labeling of a covered product as safe to flush, safe for sewer systems, or safe for septic systems, unless the product is a flushable wipe that meets certain performance standards. Estee Sepulveda of SCAG invited those in attendance to the upcoming General Assembly on May 2-3. Board Member Jennifer La Marque of LA County D-4 mentioned Project Lifesaver which seeks to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 am to Thursday, July 11, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie Champion, South Bay Cities Council of Governments