

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2015

8:00 am – 9:30 am

South Bay Cities Council of Governments' Theatre
Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Board Member and 2nd Vice Chair Jim Osborne of the City of Lawndale called the meeting to order at 8:10 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Hany Fangary, Hermosa Beach
Jim Osborne, Lawndale
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates
Jim Vandever, Palos Verdes Estates
Laura Emdee, Redondo Beach
Steven Zuckerman, Rolling Hills Estates
John Addleman, Rolling Hills Estates
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates

City Staff

Caroline Velarde, Hawthorne
Michael Rock, Lomita
Jacob Haik, Los Angeles - District 15
David Roberts, Los Angeles - District 15
Gabriel Medina, Los Angeles - District 15
Rebecca Liu, City of Los Angeles
Joe Mendoza, Palos Verdes Estates
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

Resident

Victoria Locke, Lawndale Resident

Legislative Representatives

Sabiha Khan, US Senator Feinstein
Cameron Onumah, US Senator Feinstein
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu
Lara Larramendi, Congresswoman Hahn
Samuel Liu, Senator Allen
Javier Perez, Senator Hall
Avelino Valencia, Senator Hall
Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember Burke

Other Agencies

Josh La Farga, Laborers Union
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities
Sam Pedroza, LA County Sanitation
District
Chris Cagle, South Bay WIB
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG

SBCCOG Program Update

Jacki presented a PowerPoint on the SBCCOG recent projects and discussed a proposal to LA County Supervisors' Don Knabe and Mark Ridley-Thomas for services for homeless people in the South Bay. The SBCCOG received an agreement from Supervisor Knabe's Office to fund half of the initiative and is currently waiting to hear back from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The proposal for services asks for \$300,000 each from Supervisors Knabe and Ridley-Thomas for the next year to provide a dedicated team of people to work on homelessness in the South Bay, with a focus on permanent housing and supportive services. Jacki mentioned the battery electrical vehicle (BEV) project that allowed residents to use battery electric vehicles and report their experience and noted that the final report is on the website. Additionally, Jacki mentioned that the SBCCOG is preparing an executive summary of the BEV project and will be having a meeting with industry stakeholders in the coming months.

Regarding the Green Building Challenge, Jacki discussed how the challenge is an incentive program, launching in September 2015 and ending August 2016, for businesses to compete to conserve and promote sustainability through energy efficiency, material and waste management, water conservation, transportation and education. The Green Building Challenge works with business owners in measuring their sustainability improvements through a game, culminating in a recognition event; funders include Southern California Edison and The Gas Company, and the SBCCOG continues to look for other partners. This project has been successful in Chicago, IL and Dallas, TX; however, the SBCCOG represents the first multi-jurisdictional entity in the United States to conduct this project. The SBCCOG is working with the designers of this project in the aforementioned cities. Jacki requested contacts for businesses that may be interested in the project and assistance with publicizing it.

Jacki reviewed how cap and trade funding impacts California cities, and how most of the funding generated from cap and trade is earmarked for the inner cities. The SBCCOG is trying to modify the guidelines for the entire state to recognize the diverse needs of different areas such as the South Bay. Jacki mentioned that there are cities passing on the opportunity to apply for funds because of the narrow cap and trade guidelines. Jacki also discussed how SCAG did not receive its proportionate share of what it should have from cap and trade, which may be due to the inflexible guidelines.

Regarding land use, the transportation investment is based on public transportation with incentives focused on increasing density around transit and cycling for the first and last mile. Jacki mentioned this is a great idea for cities/regions that have a lot of transit. However, for areas that are transit poor and congested and where density is very unpopular, like it is in the South Bay, increasing density around public transit will not provide a solution. Jacki emphasized that the private sector is taking the lead in regards to implementing ride and car sharing and stated that there is a need for more engagement by the public sector to incorporate such strategies into public sector strategies so that cities can take advantage of current innovations. Jacki stated that development should be focused around neighborhood centers; this conclusion is drawn

from SBCCOG research and demonstration projects. Currently, the SBCCOG is drafting land use chapters for all the climate action plans, working with the Energy Commission and the UCLA Luskin Center.

Jacki went into specific areas of where state definitions should be modified to be more inclusive of all types of communities. For example, the definition of high quality transit corridors and complete streets, the SBCCOG advocacy of slow speed travel and lanes and education so that people understand their own travel needs. (See PowerPoint on file.)

Lastly, Jacki referenced a handout inviting attendees to the Public Input Session on the Five-Year LA County Strategic Plan for Economic Development, 2016-2020 to be held on Tuesday, July 14 from 2-4 pm at the SBCCOG Theater.

City Issues

Jim Osborne mentioned how A.B. 718 (Chu): Removal of Regulatory Authority: Vehicles Used for Human Habitation and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) rate increases will impact South Bay cities and opened the topic up for discussion. Joe Mendoza of the City of Palos Verdes Estates asked if anyone in attendance went to a debriefing on A.B. 718 on July 1. Jim Osborne shared that the City of Lawndale passed a resolution opposing the bill and Jeff Kiernan from the League of California Cities shared that there was testimony taken at the Committee hearing, but there was not a vote on the measure yet. Jeff shared that the bill is of concern for the entire South Bay region and is on the “League’s 2015 Hot Bill List,” which Jeff distributed as a handout to attendees.

Sam Pedroza of the LA County Sanitation District discussed S.B. 485 (Hernandez): County of Los Angeles: Sanitation Districts and mentioned that the storm water bill would help cities partner and use the services of the sanitation districts to put programs together as mandated, and further stated that the bill had previous opposition from private water companies, but these companies are now in support. Sam asked for letters of support to the Assembly Local Government Committee, which will review the bill on July 15. Sample support letters are on the Sanitation District website www.lacsd.org, in addition to more comprehensive information on storm water issues. The SBCCOG has sent a letter of support for the bill.

Jeff Kiernan from the League of CA Cities discussed A.B. 113 (Committee on Budget): Local Government and shared that the League is opposed to the bill due to the impacts on many cities that previously had Redevelopment Agencies (RDAs), particularly loans made to RDAs and the interest rates on the loans. Additionally, Jeff discussed A.B. 306 (Hadley): School Districts: Reorganization which would allow men and women serving in the military to send their children to school districts of their choice. Furthermore, Jeff mentioned that the Governor called two different special sessions for health care and transportation funding. Jeff referenced S.B. 16 (Beall): Transportation Funding, which would be a temporary funding source for the pavement management system for streets and roads in lieu of dwindling funding from the Gasoline Tax.

Federal Offices

US Senator Dianne Feinstein

Cameron Onumah discussed the state of California's historic drought and stated that it may continue for many years and is of primary concern to the Senator. Cameron mentioned that the Senator is working with all 58 counties in the state, specifically LA County and the local governments and regions within the County to discuss how the drought is impacting them and identify local solutions. Cameron cited that West Basin Municipal Water is participating in innovative ways to recycle water, as well as Orange and Santa Barbara County and that the Senator is on a fact finding mission. Additionally, Cameron mentioned the Senator supported trade legislation that gave the President authority to negotiate the trade bill also known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on behalf of the nation. The Senator recognizes that California has the largest economy of any state in the nation and is directly impacted by TPP.

Sabiha Khan added that the Federal Highway Trust Fund is set to expire July 31 and that the leaders in both houses are currently negotiating the reauthorization of the program. One scenario being proposed is a short term six month funding patch that would extend the program through the end of the year, in order to allow for more time to come to an agreement on the six year reauthorization of the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Moreover, Sabiha shared that the Senator strongly supports the reauthorization of the US Export-Import Bank, especially considering that the bank supports and finances 164,000 jobs nationwide, contributes \$675 million in reducing the federal deficit and is a critical tool for CA businesses. The Senator understands the urgent need for reauthorization and is hopeful that the Senate Majority Leader will make this issue a priority and allow the US Senate to debate and reauthorize the bank as soon as possible. Sabiha also shared that the S. 178 - Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act became law on May 29, 2015, which includes provisions from the Combat Human Trafficking Act, which Senator Feinstein authored, along with US Senator Rob Portman of Ohio. The Act would reduce the demand for sex trafficking and increase penalties for buyers of sex acts, expand reporting on trafficking prosecutions, require training on targeting and prosecuting buyers, which will provide victims with health services and restitution, and expand wire tapping authority to cover all human trafficking cases and strengthen crime victims rights.

US Congresswoman Janice Hahn (D-44)

Lara Larramendi discussed how the US House of Representatives voted on different issues, including Interior Appropriation, education reform, medical research and two resolutions pertaining to the Bosnia genocide and the grievances of the Tibetan people, identified in a handout she provided entitled, "Legislative Update." The Interior Bill has provisions that block clean water and air regulations and the Congresswoman will oppose it. The education reform bill, The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), is strongly opposed by Democrats as it takes funding away from low income and minority schools, in exchange for giving states more flexibility. Regarding surface transportation, the Federal Highway Trust Fund will run out of funding and the authorization for the program will expire and have negative consequences; Lara

mentioned that California has ample state funds and can continue construction for a period of time. Moreover, Lara reviewed MAP-21, which was passed in 2005 and stated that there have been numerous short-term extensions to the bill, with the most recent expiring May 2015, resulting in a new July deadline. Lara shared that there are disagreements on how to fund MAP-21 and how Democrats are pushing for a long-term bill, specifically President Obama's GROW American Act, which is a six-year bill. Lara also mentioned that Democrats have proposed a variety of funding mechanisms, including increasing the Gasoline Tax, raising taxes on the wealthy and authorizing a Vehicle Mileage Traveled (VMT), which hurts many western states due to driving distances. Lara elaborated on how the GOP wants to pay for the bill extension through comprehensive tax reform and overhauling the tax structure to eliminate loopholes, which could take a long time, especially with the expiration date for July 31. The House will continue with the short-term extension through December 2015. Additionally, Lara mentioned Congresswoman Hahn's freight bill H.R. 935 – Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2014 and thanked the SBCCOG for its support; she mentioned it is on hold depending on the surface transportation bill, with Chairman Shuster expressing support for the bill. The Congresswoman's other priority is the Merchant Mariners bill H.R. 569 – Veteran's Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013. Lara shared that many WWII merchant marines were not eligible for any GI benefits, and that Congresswoman Hahn wants to provide \$25,000 lump sum payments to 5,000 WWII Merchant Mariners; the bill was referred to the Veterans Affairs Committee and Congresswoman Hahn and Brooks (R-Indiana) are seeking to introduce a bill to award the WWII Merchant Mariners with the Congressional Gold Medal. Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Lara shared that the Congresswoman opposes it because of the impact TPP will have on American jobs, human rights protections domestically and abroad and the ability for foreign corporations to sue the US Government for regulations that impact profits; lastly, Lara stated that there was a push by Democratic members to include provisions to TPP to prevent currency manipulation.

US Congressman Ted Lieu (D-33)

Joey Apodaca reported that the Congressman has been focusing on the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs, since it's the largest VA in the nation and Los Angeles is home to the largest population of homeless veterans. Congressman Lieu has been working closely with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald to eradicate homelessness among the veteran population in LA, as part of the President's goals to reduce VA homelessness by the end of 2015. Secretary McDonald has emphasized that if the nation does not solve homelessness among the VA population in Los Angeles, then it will not be able to solve it nationwide. Joey mentioned the ribbon cutting at the West Los Angeles VA for the grand opening of a long-term therapeutic supportive housing building on the campus and another grand opening in San Pedro at the Blue Butterfly housing facility for women veterans and their children. The Congressman is participating in the Homes for Heroes program on June 5 in Downtown LA in collaboration with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti and Secretary Robert McDonald in launching the program, which is a partnership of the VA, the LA City Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the Housing Authority for the City of LA and the County of LA. The program is designed to encourage landlords to rent to homeless veterans, using Section

8 housing vouchers from the VA to house the entire homeless population in Los Angeles. The program aims to remove the stigma of renting to the homeless and encourage landlords by offering them incentives. Joey also shared that the Congressman is advocating for the Homeless Veterans Act in order to renew and extend the Veterans Advisory Committee established in 2001 through 2020, which is endorsed by veteran groups nationwide. Regarding encryption, Congressman Lieu is working on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, specifically the Subcommittee on Information Technology in collaboration with Chairman William Hurd to send a bipartisan opposition letter to FBI Director James Comey regarding the Bureau's encryption backdoor proposal that allows private companies to "crack codes" to monitor communications. Congressman Lieu met with the LA Area Chamber of Commerce Innovation and Technology Council and they were supportive of his actions on this issue. Regarding marijuana eradication, the Congressman's amendment to H.R. 2578, the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 was passed by a voice vote, which cuts the \$18 million Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in half and uses the savings to increase the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Youth-Oriented Program by \$4 million and the Victims of Child Abuse program by \$3 million, with the remaining \$2 million sent to the Spending Reduction Account, emphasizing the Congressman's bipartisan approach to legislation. Regarding the LA Air Force Base, the Congressman is working on forming a Defense Advisory Board comprised of defense contractors in the South Bay, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), and the LA Area Chamber of Commerce. Congressman Lieu wrote a letter to US Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James emphasizing the important role the Air Force base plays in the 33rd District, as well as the Space and Missile Systems Center, and the role each plays in the national defense and how both work in concert with the other entities within the LA aerospace hub. Joey shared that Congressman Lieu reiterated the importance of the base and missile center during his testimony at the US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, specifically the Subcommittee on Defense. Lastly, Joey shared the Congressman's support of the reauthorization of the US Export-Import Bank and how when he was a state senator, he tried to create an Export-Import Bank at the state level; Joey stated that the House Majority Leader Ken McCarthy has no plans to bring it to the Floor at this time and he will work with his colleagues to encourage him to change his mind. Moreover, Joey shared that the US Export-Import Bank is responsible for sustaining 1.5 million jobs since 2007 and creating 164,000 American jobs last year alone.

State Offices

CA Senator Benjamin Allen (D-26)

Samuel Liu stated that the Budget passed on schedule with help from both houses and the Governor. Senator Allen sits on the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, specifically the Senate Subcommittee No. 1 on Education, with education receiving more focus and funding in the budget. Two major issues in the state, transportation and healthcare, are currently discussed in terms of identifying ways to improve aging infrastructure and providing services to those most in need. Samuel referenced S.B.

786 (Allen) Adult Education: Adult Education Block Grant Program and how it directly impacts the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SoCal ROC). The Department of Finance has not recognized the special nature of categorical funding for SoCal ROC and Senator Allen will be asking Assemblywoman Autumn Burke and David Hadley to coauthor the bill to ensure that SoCal ROC receives a portion of the future funding allocation. SoCal ROC is in the hole by \$3 million and Samuel requested those in attendance send letters of support to Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell who is the chair of the Assembly Education Committee. Additionally, Samuel mentioned that S.B. 277 (Allen) Public Health: Vaccinations passed, however those who oppose the bill are trying to get a referendum for next year.

CA Senator Isadore Hall, III (D-35)

Avelino Valencia shared that S.B. 63 (Hall): Seaport Infrastructure Financing Districts seeks more funding for the maintenance of the ports to keep them more competitive worldwide. S.B. 232 (Hall): School Accountability: CA Collaborative for Educational Excellence: State Administrator addresses school district receivership assistance and authorizes the superintendent to direct the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) to advise and assist school districts at the request of the state-appointed trustee or administrator of the district. Additionally, Avelino shared that one of the key school districts that is having some issues is Inglewood Unified School District and the Senator is trying to facilitate the ease of the transition. Avelino discussed S.B. 510 (Hall): Speed Contests and Reckless Driving: Impounded Vehicles that requires the removal of all illegal vehicle modifications used for the purpose of street racing prior to said vehicle being released from impound, due to the increase in street racing and associated deaths in the district. Avelino mentioned the state legislature passed a balanced budget that was on time, with the availability of more funding for the programs that were cut in prior year budgets. There will be \$115 billion allocated to the general fund and an unprecedented \$4.6 billion to the state's rainy day fund and reserve; the budget also invests more than \$68 billion into K-12th education, which translates into approximately \$10,000 more per pupil, which aligns with the Senator's desire to increase funding for improving education.

Assemblywoman Autumn Burke (D-62)

Robert Pullen-Miles discussed the redevelopment trailer bill and how the Assemblywoman was very interested in the reimbursement of the recognized obligations. The Assemblywoman is having conversations with city managers in the district to assess their opinions on the bill. Robert mentioned the Assemblywoman sent a letter to the PUC concerning the Golden State Water Company's issue with black and brown water in the City of Gardena and is asking for the PUC to hold a hearing in Gardena in order for residents to participate and provide testimony in September. Regarding Inglewood Unified School District, Robert mentioned the district has been under state receivership for years and has challenges with various state trustees. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson will need to appoint another state-appointed trustee to the district. The Assemblywoman will meet with Superintendent Torlakson on this issue. Additionally, Robert mentioned the Assemblywoman's

legislation priorities, highlighted in the handout provided at the meeting entitled, "Assemblywoman Autumn Burke's Legislative Package." Notably, Robert discussed the following: A.B. 852 (Burke): Public Works: Prevailing Wages; A.B.: 907 (Burke): Career Training: Adult Students; A.B. 1361 (Burke): Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program: Veterans; and A.J.R No. 11 (Burke): Military Bases: Closures. Assemblywoman Burke will be hosting her 1st Back to School and Health Wellness Fair community event on Saturday, August 29 at Oakwood Park and is looking for sponsors; the event will provide school supplies and health screening for the entire family.

Assemblyman David Hadley (D-66)

Tom Brewer shared that A.B. 1452 (Hadley): Certificated Employees: Personnel Files: Expungement: Egregious Misconduct was signed into law, which closes a loophole that permitted school administrators to expunge a teacher's record of misconduct. The Assembly Member felt that some of the publicized issues with some teachers' misconduct required the close in said loophole. The Assemblyman introduced 8 bills this year and 3 are still moving forward. A.B. 728 (Hadley): State Government: Financial Reporting requires state agencies who have been audited, make their statements of the audit results available on their website 5 days after the completion of the audit. Additionally, Tom thanked Assembly Member Burke and CA Senator Allen for co-authoring A.B. 306 (Hadley): Public Schools: Attendance Alternatives: Children of Military Personnel and stated that the bill will most likely pass and further emphasized the need for continual support for the LA Air Force Base. Tom referenced S.B. 16 and said that the Republican Caucus opposes the bill and is working on alternatives. Tom emphasized the need to improve the roads and find a better funding mechanism during the special session in the summer. Additionally, Tom welcomed everyone in attendance to the Assembly Member's Open House tonight from 5-7pm at the new district office located on 23211 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 200, Torrance. Tom informed attendees that other areas of interest among constituents include vaccinations and opposition to the recently approved law in addition to small businesses complaining about operating in the state of CA due to some of the recent regulations at the local and county level.

Comments From the Board

Jim Osborne opened up the meeting for discussion. Jim Osborne cited the whooping cough as an example of the need for vaccinations. Samuel Liu shared that vaccinations are good for public health and cited RAND Corporation studies. Jacki Bacharach asked about the number of shots given at one time with Samuel Liu stating that the decision is up to the parent and the doctors to spread the number of vaccination shots out over multiple visits. Tom Brewer mentioned the issue with vaccines and the presence of mercury and preservative in shots and that there are concerns regarding the correlation between autism and vaccinations.

Jim Osborne also mentioned the PUC rate increases and Tom Brewer shared that Assembly Member Hadley is aware of the impact this will have on the South Bay. Jeff Kiernan mentioned the Governor's efforts to find a revenue stream for transportation funding only takes into consideration the state highway system, not the local streets and

roads. Jeff shared that the League, in collaboration with other regional agencies, publishes a pavement management tool to emphasize how underfunded local streets and roads are in addition to the state highway system. Jeff emphasized the need to push for funding for local streets and roads to ensure upkeep and maintenance due to the \$78 billion deficit from 2014-2024 that will impact both the state highway system and local streets and roads. David Roberts of LA City asked if US 101 Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Boulevard would be included. Avelino Valencia stated that the Senator and the other state representatives have a great relationship with the CA Department of Transportation and said they can assist with facilitating requests for fixing a pothole and other maintenance concerns.

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Jim Osborne adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am until Thursday, October 8, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments