

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020
HELD VIA ZOOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Horvath called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS**In attendance were the following voting elected officials:**

Cedric Hicks, Carson	Hildy Stern, Manhattan Beach
Drew Boyles, El Segundo	Kenny Kao, Palos Verdes Estates
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	John Cruikshank, Rancho Palos Verdes
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne	Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Stacey Armato, Hermosa Beach	Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood	Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Jim Gazeley, Lomita	George Chen, Torrance
Joe Buscaino, LA City	Jennifer LaMarque, SD-4

The following non-voting elected officials were in attendance:

Senator Ben Allen, Senate District 26	Laura Emdee, Redondo Beach
James Butts, Inglewood	

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Martha Guzman-Hurtado, El Segundo	Andrew DeBlock, Asm. Muratsuchi
Tunisia Johnson, Inglewood	Sarah Patterson, SCAG
Jacob Haik, LA CD-15	Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Aksel Palacios, LA CD-15	Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
Denny Shaw, AQMD	Wally Siembab, SBCCOG
Diana Coronado, BIALAV	Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Greg Farr, Caltrans	David Leger, SBCCOG
Asia Powell, CPUC	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Mark Dierking, Metro	Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
Sarah Jepson, SCAG	Brooke Heri, SBCCOG
Arnold San Miguel, SCAG	Philip Friess, Public
Aurelia Friedman, Rep. Ted Lieu	Marta Rodriguez, Public
Sam Liu, Sen. Allen	William Nash, Public
Olina Wibroe, Sen. Allen	

III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Jacki Bacharach confirmed that the agenda was properly posted in the City of Torrance.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach requested the following changes to the agenda be approved: Approval of an invoice for SBCCOG requested construction improvements at the new office; consideration of a Vehicles Miles Traveled metric implementation letter; and consideration of a Housing Element letter. All information handed out related to these items is available here: <https://www.southbaycities.org/committees/board-directors/board-directors-meeting-62>

MOTION by Board Member Hicks, seconded by Board Member Valentine to **ADD** the items to the agenda. No objection. So ordered.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Jepson shared that SCAG is adopting the ConnectSoCal plan in 2 phases due to feedback received. Phase 1 was already adopted to comply with federal requirements. Phase 2 will be in approved September. SCAG has been working with city planners to look at impacts of COVID-19 and how the ConnectSoCal plan can help with recovery efforts. After the September action, the key goal is to have a compliant sustainable community strategy to ensure the SCAG region continues to receive state transportation funding.

The following public comment was submitted in writing in advance of the meeting:

From Diana Coronado (Building Industry Association):

To the Honorable South Bay Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors,

My name is Diana Coronado and I would like to provide public comment on behalf of the Building Industry Association. The Building Industry Association is a non-profit trade Association representing nearly 1,200 companies all affiliated with building housing for all.

On behalf of our membership, I would like encourage the South Bay Cities COG board to send a letter to the Governor asking for a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) extension. We are asking for this due to challenges related to cost, on-going litigation and the current pandemic.

We are not alone in this ask many cities who have already adopted VMT are still sending letters of delay to the Governor based on the aforementioned factors, including of the City of Hawthorne and over 30 different Southern California jurisdictions, including COGs, Board of Supervisors, Cities and government agencies.

As you know, since COVID-19, there have been dramatic changes in transportation patterns such as: the expansion of working from home, learning from home, even receiving medical care from home; and there have been significant decreases in public transit ridership. Based on its current form, SB 743's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) regulations do not take these changes into account.

The requested extension would allow for the informed consideration of VMT and other potential changes to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), affecting municipalities and many different business industries alike. Additionally, funding for the establishment of a regional VMT program has not been approved, and no work on a VMT mitigation fee program has been completed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for the region.

Lastly, The Two Hundred (a group focused on stopping the growing racial wealth gap) has filed an injunction against moving forward with VMT, because the most vulnerable marginalized communities are suffering disproportionately. This belief has been further reinforced by the CA Legislature and so many others, who are also asking for this extension.

Thank you for considering sending a letter of delay to the Governor for more time to implement VMT.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. May Board Meeting Minutes (attachment) – Approved**
- B. No Cost Contract Extension with Fehr & Peers for Local Travel Network Project (attachment) – Approved**
- D. Legislation of Interest to SBCCOG (attachment) – Approved**
- E. Monthly Reports – Receive and Filed**
 - 1. South Bay Environmental Services Center Report (attachment)**
 - 2. Transportation Report (attachment)**
 - 3. Reports from Outside Agencies**
 - a. Metro Service Council Report by Ralph Franklin
 - b. League of California Cities & LA Division Legislative Committee (Bea Dieringer & Jeffrey Kiernan)
 - c. SCAG & Committees (attachment)
 - 1. Regional Council (Judy Mitchell, Mark Henderson, James Gazeley)
 - d. Air Quality Management District (Judy Mitchell, Joe Buscaino, Denny Shaw)
 - e. South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (Olivia Valentine)
 - f. South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle)

Board Member Dieringer asked to remove Item C from the Consent Calendar to discuss further.

MOTION by Board Member Gazeley, seconded by Board Member Franklin, to **APPROVE** all items of the Consent Calendar except Item C. No objection. So ordered.

C. 2020-21 Budget

ITEM C. Board Member Dieringer thanked Ms. Bacharach for providing the additional budget information and asked that the updated information be provided as part of subsequent budget previews. Board Member Dieringer asked for additional information on the positions that are being added to the organization and funding mechanisms for those positions. Ms. Bacharach and Ms. Fuentes explained that all SBCCOG staff positions are at-will and could be eliminated if funding sources disappear. The specific Energy position being discussed is due to new grants that were awarded to the SBCCOG. Normally this work would have likely been given in part to the SBCCOG's current Energy Engineer on call, Greg Stevens. However, due to the stipulations in the grant, the SBCCOG is not allowed to sub-contract out for the services which prohibits Greg Stevens from working on the grants because he is a contractor, not an employee. Ms. Fuentes added that Mr. Stevens' contract is mostly focused on gas related work as the Edison partnership recently ended.

MOTION by Board Member Armato, seconded by Board Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** Item C of the Consent Calendar. No objection. So ordered.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Experiences with the National League of Cities

Board Member Buscaino, who serves as the President of the National League of Cities gave a brief overview of the organization and the work they do on behalf of cities throughout the country. Board Member Buscaino explained that the NLC represents over 19,000 cities, towns, and villages across the US and is the largest city organization in Washington DC. Priorities over the past year include homelessness and infrastructure, but the focus has recently been on the federal response to COVID-19 impacts on cities, particularly those under 500,000 in population that were ineligible for CARES Act funding. The NLC has been working closely with Congress to implement a new relief package that helps provide relief funding to cities of all sizes.

B. COVID-19 Business Impact & Reopening Survey May 2020

This presentation was postponed at the request of the presenter.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION REPORTS

A. Metro Report

Mr. Lantz reported that the Metro Board requested a report on the use of force by law enforcement on the Metro system; evaluation of current security contracts with LA County Sheriff, LAPD, and LBPD; and the efficacy of community policing at Metro. The Metro Board also wants to create a Metro Code of Conduct for the security personnel that starts with the agency's vision, mission, and values and will help change the culture of enforcement. There were also motions made to request further information on the "mutual aid agreement" that appeared to link the cessation of bus service with the use of Metro buses to move protestors out of areas by police forces. The Metro Board wants more explicit protocol and procedures for the discontinuation of service in the future. The Metro Board also is looking to re-invigorate the Metro art program to focus on bus/rail station exhibits. Metro ridership has increased to 500,000 riders per day which is still lower than pre-pandemic levels but is showing signs of recovery. Lastly, the Metro Board is looking at a pilot program that cuts student fares by 50% for K-12, homeless, and students.

Chair Horvath took this time to thank Board Member Butts for his exceptional leadership of the Metro Board and his representation of the South Bay's interests over his term. Board Member Butts thanked Chair Horvath for his partnership and noted that nothing would have been possible if it wasn't for the teamwork that took place.

Ms. Bacharach noted that Metro Board Member John Fasana who is the longest serving Metro Board Member and represents San Gabriel Valley cities is retiring in November. His departure will have a big impact on the Metro Board, particularly for the South Bay as he was a strong partner and supporter of South Bay issues.

B. Transportation Committee report

a. Comments re: I-105 Express Lane EIR (attachment) – Approved

Mr. Lantz gave a brief overview of the project and the request to include off-freeway arterial enhancements as part of the overall project that gets bonded. Because there are no federal funds

building this I-105 ExpressLane, the project will have to bond against all future tolls collected to pay for construction, meaning that there will be no surplus revenues available for off-freeway improvements, unlike the I-110 ExpressLane which helps fund local projects. In order to have a truly integrated corridor, the SBCCOG is proposing the bonds be expanded to include local projects. The letter would also be sent to the Gateway Cities COG along with a request that they submit a similar letter as they represent the remaining I-105 Corridor cities.

MOTION by Board Member Franklin, seconded by Board Member Boyles, to **APPROVE** the letter. No objection. So ordered.

IX. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. South Bay Fiber Network

- a. **Contract with Magellan for Technical Services as needed**
- b. **Work Order #2 change order**
- c. **Work Order #3**

Ms. Bacharach explained that the SBCCOG has been utilizing the services of Magellan Advisors for technical support during the buildout of the SBFN. The Magellan proposal included 3 tasks, but SBCCOG staff is only recommending approval of Task #1 with a not-to-exceed budget of \$60,000 on an as-needed basis. Board Member Butts shared that he has worked with Jory Wolf of Magellan Advisors in the past and noted he is incredibly knowledgeable. Board Member Dieringer asked for clarification on the Magellan contract, noting that if the project is expected to be completed in August, is a \$60k contract appropriate. Chair Horvath explained that they have been providing technical services, of which some will likely be needed following the last connection to the SBFN. He added that because this is a not-to-exceed contract that is billed hourly, if only a portion of that budget is needed, there will be obvious cost savings.

Ms. Bacharach moved on to explain the Work Order #2 change order which is needed due to reduced scope which also led to cost savings that will be reallocated to other site connections. Work Order #3 is for the additional sites not covered in Work Order #2, of which the SBCCOG office connection is one.

MOTION by Board Member Buscaino, seconded by Board Member Valentine to **APPROVE** the Magellan Contract as recommended by staff, **APPROVE** Work Order #2 change order, and **APPROVE** Work Order #3. No objection. So ordered.

B. Senior Services

Ms. Bacharach reported that the LA County Great Plates Delivered program was extended through July 10th. Board Member Huff thanked the cities for providing special services to their seniors during the pandemic and announced the upcoming July 28th Senior Services Working Group meeting.

C. Homeless Services

Ms. Bacharach reported that LAHSA submitted its "Post COVID-19 Recovery Plan" to the Board of Supervisors on June 23rd. Lomita's Project Roomkey site is scheduled to decommission on July 29th and will serve as the pilot for the decommissioning process for the County. Current residents will be moved to other interim housing, including the Bridge Home opening in San Pedro on July 7th. The Lomita site is closing due to other commitments of the service provider. Measure H funding recommendations are expected to be released soon that will be followed by a two-week comment period. The next SBCCOG Homeless Services Task Force meeting is July 1st where there will be a presentation on the funding recommendations.

D. SCAG Regional Early Action Program funds to accelerate housing

Ms. Bacharach announced that SCAG is allocating a certain amount of funding to use based on RHNA allocations. There is a July 1st deadline to apply for the Local Early Action Planning Grant Program funding that will provide grants to be used towards preparation and adoption of planning documents, process improvements to accelerate housing production, and to facilitate compliance with the 6th RHNA cycle.

E. Office Update

Ms. Bacharach gave a brief update on the office move, noting that construction has been completed and staff is currently in the middle of unpacking items and preparing the office for eventual operations. She also added that due to changes in building ownership and a disagreement over improvements to the additional

space, SBCCOG staff has decided against moving forward with the expansion. She explained that the new owners received construction estimates and determined they were unwilling to pay for the costs without a \$40,000 contribution towards the construction by the SBCCOG. SBCCOG staff attempted to get them to honor the deal made with the original owners, but they were unwilling to compromise and offered instead to amortize the \$40,000 at 8% interest over the term of the lease. This is not be a financially prudent option, leading SBCCOG staff to reject that offer.

Ms. Bacharach added that staff is requesting Board authorization to pay for the construction upgrades requested by the organization during the build-out of the space. Chair Horvath added that the amount is within the overall move budget.

MOTION by Board Member Boyles, seconded by Board Member Franklin, to **APPROVE** payment of the construction invoice for the current office space. No objection. So ordered.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach explained that there are two letters that are being considered for approval. The first letter requests a delay in the implementation of SB743 which changes the evaluation of road projects from a “level of service” to a “vehicle miles travelled” method. Public comment was received (available above) urging the delay due to impacts of COVID-19. The letter requests a one-year delay, but Board Member Valentine requested it be increased to a two-year delay.

MOTION by Board Member Valentine, seconded by Board Member Armato to **AUTHORIZE** the letter amending it to request a 2-year delay in SB743 implementation. No objection. Abstentions by Board Members Dieringer and LaMarque. Motion passes.

The second letter requests the Governor grant a six-month delay in the adoption of housing element updates. This letter was requested by the Community Development Directors and is supported by SCAG.

MOTION by Board Member Dieringer, seconded by Board Member Huff to **AUTHORIZE** the housing element letter. No objection. Abstention by Board Members LaMarque. Motion passes.

Both letters are available online here: <https://www.southbaycities.org/committees/board-directors/board-directors-meeting-62>

- F. Sharing City Responses to the Coronavirus, Reopening Strategies, Protests and Other Challenges**
Board Members briefly shared their respective cities’ plans on re-opening city hall and other city facilities. Board Member Valentine also shared that their city is getting an enormous amount of complaints regarding fireworks, a sentiment shared by almost all other Board Members.

G. Election of Officers (attachment) – Approved

Ms. Bacharach announced that nominations are currently open but that the recommendation is to accept any floor nominations, close nominations, and accept the slate as recommended.

MOTION by Board Member Dieringer, seconded by Board Member Armato, to close nominations and accept the new slate of officers and at-large Steering Committee members are recommended by the Nominating Committee. No objection. So ordered.

Board Member Valentine thanked Chair Horvath for his leadership and accomplishments during the past year and asked Ms. Bacharach to share some additional comments. Ms. Bacharach shared additional sentiments from SBCCOG staff and highlighted the unique term Chair Horvath had beginning with travelling Board meetings and later on the virtual meetings required by the pandemic; his hands-on approach to developing an innovative General Assembly; and his active role on numerous SBCCOG committees. Board Members shared their thoughts and thanked Chair Horvath for his kindness, collaboration and inclusion, and continual adaptation to the ever-changing times. Senator Ben Allen also joined the meeting and thanked the Chair for his partnership and thoughtful leadership of the SBCCOG. Other guests in attendance also shared their thoughts with Chair Horvath and thanked him for his service.

Chair Horvath expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone and noted his observance that SBCCOG staff works incredibly hard and efficiently to provide outstanding service, adding that much of what he accomplished would not have been possible without the staff.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

NOTE: Oral reports are only made to clarify or amplify written attachments. All reports that were submitted or handed out are available online here: <http://southbaycities.org/committees/board-directors/board-directors-meeting-62>

- A. SCAG Committees** – No report given.
 - 1. **Energy and Environment** (Judy Mitchell, Jim Osborne)
 - 2. **Transportation** (James Gazeley, Drew Boyles)
 - 3. **Community, Economic, & Human Development** (Mark Henderson, Frank Zerunyan & Mark Waronek)
- B. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission** (Bill Brand/Kenneth Kao) – No report given.
- C. Stormwater Funding**
 - 1. CCCA/LCC Stormwater Funding Options Committee – No report given.
- D. South Bay Aerospace Alliance** – No report given.
- E. KHHR (Hawthorne Airport) Committee re: Community Impacts** – No report given.
- F. California Association of Councils of Governments** – No report given.

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Horvath announced the Special Board Meeting – A Dialogue for South Bay Elected Officials: Meaningful Changes to Policing that is taking place on Monday June 29th.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm to Monday, June 29, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice.

David Leger
Assistant Board Secretary