

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020  
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Valentine called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**II. VERIFY QUORUM**

**In attendance were the following voting elected officials:**

Cedric Hicks, Carson	Hildy Stern, Manhattan Beach
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	Kenny Kao, Palos Verdes Estates
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne	John Cruikshank, Rancho Palos Verdes
Stacey Armato, Hermosa Beach	Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood	Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale	Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Joe Buscaino, Los Angeles CD-15	George Chen, Torrance

**The following non-voting elected officials were in attendance:**

James Butts, Inglewood

**Also, in attendance were the following persons:**

Martha Hurtado, El Segundo	Wally Siembab, SBCCOG
Aksel Palacios, LA CD-15	Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Jacob Haik, LA CD-15	David Leger, SBCCOG
Kim Turner, Torrance	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Greg Farr, Caltrans	Naomi Albert, SBCCOG
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities	Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG
Mark Dierking, Metro	Larry Kosmont, Kosmont Companies
Sarah Patterson, SCAG	Stephen Sawyer, Charter/Spectrum
Denny Shaw, AQMD	Jim Roos, Public
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG	Bill Sewell, Public
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG	

**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 reported the following clarifications/updates: Item IX-A is an action item; Three items were mailed out prior to the meeting which were an updated legislative matrix as of the morning, a copy of an SB 1120 opposition letter sent to SBCCOG representatives, and a copy of the new SBCCOG newsletter.

Lastly, Ms. Bacharach announced that Mr. Leger will be taking votes via Reverse Roll Call to expedite the voting process while maintaining compliance with the Brown Act.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. July Board Meeting Minutes (*attachment*) – Approved
- B. Integrated Pest Control MOU with McGowan Consulting (*attachment*) – Approved
- C. Renewal of Scope of Work with Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (*attachment*) – Approved
- D. South Bay Chamber of Commerce Memberships (*attachment*) – Approved
- E. Status of Legislation of Interest to SBCCOG (*attachment*) – Received and Filed
  1. Information on the Restaurant Act Proposal mentioned last month by Mr. Kalb (*attachment*)
- F. Monthly Reports – Receive and Filed

1. **South Bay Environmental Services Center Report** (*attachment*)
2. **Transportation Report** (*attachment*)
3. **Reports from Outside Agencies**
  - a. League of California Cities & LA Division Legislative Committee (Bea Dieringer & Jeffrey Kiernan)
  - b. South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle)
  - c. SCAG Update Newsletter

Chair Valentine announced she would like to remove Item E from the Consent Calendar. Board Member Dieringer added she would like to pull Items B, C, and D as well.

**MOTION** by Board Member Horvath, seconded by Board Member Hicks, to **APPROVE** Consent Calendar Items A and F. No objection. So ordered.

Board Member Dieringer expressed her concerns about Item B and C. Regarding Item B, some of the language in the contract. Ms. Fuentes explained that the contract is to assist McGowan in their contract goals with local Watershed Management Groups by posting content to the SBESC website. Board Member Dieringer added that her other concern with both Items B and C is the appearance of a quid pro quo for providing information. The response is that the SBCCOG is posting public information for the Watershed Management Group and they are compensated us for that. As for Item D, Board Member Dieringer explained that she had questions about the Chamber memberships but had a conversation with Ms. Bacharach and was informed that these memberships are paid for via contracts/grants.

Chair Valentine had questions about the Restaurants Act proposal as there was little information available. Ms. Bacharach noted that staff will look into the bill number and specifics and will present that at the next Steering Committee meeting.

**MOTION** by Board Member Dieringer, seconded by Board Member Horvath to **APPROVE** Items B, C, and D of the Consent Calendar. No objection. So ordered.

## **VII. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Achieving Economic Vitality in a Covid-19 Economy: What South Bay Cities Need to Know**

Larry Kosmont, Chairman and CEO of Kosmont Companies presented on the challenges cities face because of COVID-19; a land use revolution; new rules and new tools; and a look into the future. Mr. Kosmont explained that as we leave the response and relief phases of the pandemic, focus must be made on the long-term economic recovery. Mr. Kosmont also touched on a land use revolution in areas such as hotel, retail, office, residential, and industrial sectors. Mr. Kosmont explained that as two of the biggest hit industries, hotels and retail, continue to suffer, cities will continue to feel economic pain as the median California city collects more than 1/3 of its tax revenue from sales tax and TOT. Those industries have been heavily impacted and also appear to be the longest anticipated recovery timelines as well. Mr. Kosmont went into further detail on many different land use sectors and the challenges and opportunities they face. He took some time to focus on the need to consider rezoning dying retail space with multi-use functionality, such as housing, retail, and entertainment. He also highlighted that the warehouse/logistics industry is able to take advantage of the pandemic as even more purchasing is done online. Amazon has started purchasing old JC Penney locations to serve as mini warehouses that will allow them to offer same-day delivery to most areas of the nation. Mr. Kosmont concluded by touching on post-pandemic economic development tools cities could use such as the reimagination of retail spaces; Development Opportunity Reserve; Sales Tax Assessment Revenue; Special Districts such as EIFD, CRIA, and CFD; and Asset Sales and Public Financing such as selling surplus land or leveraging low interest rates to reduce debt costs. More detail is available in Mr. Kosmont's full presentation online here:

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/board\\_directors/meeting/PRESENTATION\\_SBCCOG%20-%20Resetting%20Econ%20Dev%20Table%20-%20August%20Board%20Meeting.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/board_directors/meeting/PRESENTATION_SBCCOG%20-%20Resetting%20Econ%20Dev%20Table%20-%20August%20Board%20Meeting.pdf)

Board Member Buscaino thanked Mr. Kosmont for his presentation and shared that the LA Tourism Bureau is urging residents to eat at three restaurants, visit three museums, and stay three nights at local hotels. If every employed Angeleno participated in this concept, over \$1.4B in economic activity would go back into the LA economy and create 20,000 jobs. He shared the video available at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eeuqCSsm5J3zLJZwiu\\_H-NZHnMbdBfqJ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eeuqCSsm5J3zLJZwiu_H-NZHnMbdBfqJ/view). Mr. Kosmont added that one thing that all cities can do is help promote the sanitization practices at hotels. Consumer confidence is low

when it comes to going back to hotels, entertainment venues, etc. Efforts to increase that confidence will help industries recover faster.

Ms. Bacharach asked if there was any analysis done on goods movement and the impact on local travel. Mr. Kosmont explained that at this time, focus has been on the supply chain as it experienced severe disruptions during the pandemic. There is some activity coming back to the US as it's safer to be closer than far away like in China.

## **B. SBCCOG Collaboration with Cities on Adaptation Strategies**

Naomi Albert, a CivicSpark Fellow working with the SBCCOG since last year, presented her work with SBCCOG cities on adaptation strategies. Ms. Albert explained that the adaptation strategies address each city's vulnerabilities to climate change by helping the community adjust, prepare for impacts, and build resilience to changing conditions. The document serves as a resource to help staff update policy documents such as the General Plan or Climate Action Plan. It also helps support city compliance with SB 379 which required climate adaptation planning. Ms. Albert then took some time to review the adaptation strategies and the level of participation of SBCCOG cities. She also touched on the main climate impacts that cities are focused on and popular adaptation strategies chosen by the cities. Ms. Albert concluded her presentation by reviewing some of the next steps which include continued engagement with community members to gather feedback on the documents; city adoption of the strategies through their respective processes; continued implementation of sub-regional strategies; and continued efforts to identify funding to continue adaptation planning and implementation. Ms. Albert's full presentation is available here:

[https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/board\\_directors/meeting/PRESENTATION\\_City%20Adaptation%20for%20Board%20Meeting\\_08.27.pdf](https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/board_directors/meeting/PRESENTATION_City%20Adaptation%20for%20Board%20Meeting_08.27.pdf)

Board Members thanked Ms. Albert for her presentation, her service to the SBCCOG, and wished her well on her future endeavors.

## **VIII. TRANSPORTATION REPORTS**

### **A. Metro Report**

Mr. Lantz reported the following items from the Metro Board meeting: the SBCCOG's Measure M MSP projects were approved; Metro is setting aside \$400k in their budget for public art installation on busses; Revenue Service Hours in the upcoming year will be about 5 million, down from approximately 7 million pre-pandemic. There was considerable discussion on the Crenshaw/LAX line and the challenges that line has faced recently as Metro tries to complete the project. Substandard craftsmanship and other errors have led to construction delays and delays in the significant amount of testing required prior to opening. Metro CEO Phil Washington announced that he was creating a task force to study the implementation of free fares across all of Metro's bus and rail services. Approximately 16% of revenue currently comes from fareboxes which would have to be replaced. This would also have impacts on municipal operators, Access Services, and MetroLink. The task force is expected to return in January with additional information.

Mayor Butts added that he did question how this initiative would be paid for without a direct answer from the CEO. The reality is that this is a significantly different business model that he hasn't quite figured out yet.

Ms. Bacharach added that at the last PAC meeting, there was discussion around the changing of Metro's Congestion Pricing Study to "Traffic Reduction Study" and what she felt was the disingenuousness of that name change. This is something the SBCCOG should continue monitoring.

### **B. Transportation Committee report**

Mr. Lantz reported that there was no Transportation Committee meeting in August.

## **IX. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### **A. LA vs. Hate County Campaign – APPROVED**

Ms. Bacharach reported that this is an initiative from LA County that was supported by the Steering Committee. The County is partnering with local artists commissioned to create graphics such as "LA vs. Hate" or "South Bay vs. Hate" that could then be used for multiple purposes. The campaign is about the importance of standing up to hate crimes and hate incidents. The campaign aims to publicize the 211 service to report hate crimes in an anonymous manner. It is not affiliated with law enforcement. From January through July 2020, there were over 250 calls that reported 31 hate crimes. The idea is that the SBCCOG would officially support the program and request a "South Bay vs. Hate" image be created.

Board Member Franklin asked if there was a cost associated with artwork. Ms. Bacharach explained that there is no cost to the SBCCOG.

**MOTION** by Board Member Franklin, seconded by Board Member Horvath, to **SUPPORT** the LA vs. Hate campaign. No objection. So ordered. (Manhattan Beach was not present during the vote.)

**B. South Bay Fiber Network**

Ms. Bacharach reported that the core ring is operational, and the full project should be completed by the end of December.

**C. SCAG Regional Early Action Program funds to accelerate housing**

Ms. Bacharach explained that SCAG will be working with the COGS to fund ideas to help promote housing. Ideas were solicited from the cities. One proposal being considered is the identification of commercial sites that could most likely location convert to multi-purpose with residential components. Further coordination with SCAG staff is needed. Mr. Siembab added that he has been on webinars recently that illustrated the State's sole focus on building housing and not looking at things like Larry Kosmont discussed earlier.

**D. Senior Services**

Board Member Huff announced that the next meeting is Tuesday September 22 from 9:30-11:30am via Zoom. There will be a discussion on the standalone Department of Aging being considered in LA County.

**E. Homeless Services**

**1. MOU with Redondo Beach (attachments) – APPROVED**

Ms. Bacharach reported that the MOU is between the SBCCOG and City of Redondo Beach for their Homeless Court program. This is part of the Innovation Funds received from LA County. The Board of Directors previously approved the use of these funds, this is the contract documentation that is required.

**MOTION** by Board Member Tanaka, seconded by Board Member Buscaino to **APPROVE** the MOU. No objection. So ordered. (Manhattan Beach was not present for the vote.)

Ms. Bacharach also shared the new logo for Homeshare South Bay, which is a pilot project being funded through the Innovation Funds that aims to prevent homelessness by housing somebody needing housing with somebody with extra space. The SBCCOG is looking for an intern to help work on this project.

**F. Tech Talk**

Ms. Bacharach gave an overview of the first Tech Talk but noted that it wasn't exactly what the cities were looking for based on survey results. The goal of these workshops will be to look into services that will build off the SBFN and bring more services to the cities.

**G. Special Board Meeting on Policing and Public Safety in the South Bay**

Chair Valentine shared that she thought it was a very informative meeting. Mayor Butts explained that he provided a brief "nuts and bolts" presentation on being a partner with your city's police chief, a rudimentary understanding of police culture, and how that creates the situations we're seeing today.

Ms. Bacharach added that survey results for this meeting were all very positive and expressed interest in continuing the dialogue.

Board Member Buscaino thanked the Board for leading this much needed discussion right now.

**H. Other**

No other items were discussed.

**I. Pandemic Update - sharing/discussion**

Board Member Buscaino shared that Mayor Garcetti signed a directive that works to create contactless government centers that aims to move as many public facing services online/contactless. This could be items such as permitting/plan checks.

## **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: <https://www.southbaycities.org/committees/board-directors/board-directors-meeting-64>**

- A. Metro Service Council Report by Don Szerlip** – No report given.
- B. SCAG Committees** – No meetings in August
  - 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)
- C. Air Quality Management District** (Judy Mitchell, Joe Buscaino & Denny Shaw)  
Board Member Buscaino provided a brief update including the upcoming Aliso Canyon settlement that will install monitoring systems at schools and other sites as well; incentives for mobile source conversions; and efforts to work with ships in the Ports of LA and Long Beach to implement more electric conversion efforts as ports are on course to be a huge source of pollution in coming years.
- D. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission** (Bill Brand/Kenneth Kao) – No report given.
- E. Stormwater Funding**
  - 1. CCCA/LCC Stormwater Funding Options Committee – No report given.
- F. South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce** (Olivia Valentine) – No report given.
- G. South Bay Aerospace Alliance** – No report given.
- H. KHHR (Hawthorne Airport) Committee re: Community Impacts**
- I. California Association of Councils of Governments** – No report given.  
Ms. Bacharach announced that CALCOG is going to be working with the League of CA Cities to consider Brown Act amendments that would allow for hybrid in-person/virtual meetings going forward.

## **XI. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Valentine adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm to Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice.

David Leger  
Assistant Board Secretary