

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

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

Thursday, April 9, 2015

8:00 am – 9:30 am

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Theatre  
Torrance, California 90501

Chair Jim Goodhart called the meeting to order at 8:11 am and proceeded with the flag salute and call to order. The following individuals introduced themselves and were in attendance:

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

Steve Napolitano, LA County – District 4  
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo  
Mark Henderson, Gardena  
Hany Fangary, Hermosa Beach  
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates  
Jim Knight, Rancho Palos Verdes  
John Addleman, Rolling Hills Estates  
Steven Zuckerman, Rolling Hills Estates  
Laura Emdee, Redondo Beach

### **City Staff**

Michael Rock, Lomita  
Caroline Velarde, Hawthorne  
Jacob Haik, Los Angeles – District 15  
Joe Mendoza, Palos Verdes Estates  
David Roberts, Los Angeles

### **Legislative Representatives**

Sabiha Khan, US Senator Feinstein  
Cameron Onumah, US Senator Feinstein  
Maurice Lyles, US Senator Boxer  
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu  
Lara Larramendi, Congresswoman Hahn  
Samantha David, Senator Allen  
Avelino Valencia, Senator Hall  
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember  
Burke  
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember  
Gipson  
Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley

### **Other Agencies**

Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber  
of Commerce  
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities  
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG  
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG  
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG  
Marilyn Lyon, SBCCOG  
Chris Cagle, South Bay WIB  
Sharon Green, LA County Sanitation  
District  
Stan Myles, AQMD

## **SBCCOG Work Program Update & Legislative Issues**

Kim Fuentes, Deputy Director of the SBCCOG, presented through PowerPoint the subjects that the SBCCOG and the SBESC are currently working. She discussed the General Assembly and how the SBCCOG is continuing the conversation by asking questions related to how people like their neighborhood using the SBCCOG website and social media. She mentioned the increased attendance at the exhibit hall and encouraged legislative offices to have their representative present next year. Kim also mentioned some of the SBCCOG initiatives including a proposal to provide services to the homeless in the South Bay; the battery electric vehicle (BEV) demonstration project with the report being available when complete on the website; the Cash for Kitchen program in which the SBCCOG works collaboratively with West Basin Municipal Water District, Torrance Water and the Gas Company to work with commercial kitchens conducting water audits for those businesses as well as teaching them how to use less water and providing free equipment that uses water more efficiently. Kim stated that the program assists approximately 50 kitchens a year and welcomed those in attendance to provide referrals to kitchens for the SBCCOG to contact for the program.

Kim also discussed grants and how the SBCCOG is working with Councilman Joe Buscaino's Office to provide outreach through Department of Water and Power in District 15 for electricity and water conservation programs. Kim mentioned the Green Building Challenge and how the SBCCOG is seeking funding from Southern California Edison and the Gas Company, with the idea of gamifying energy efficiency, water conservation and recycling efforts among the 900 identified commercial properties and businesses throughout the South Bay. Kim shared the Ride Amigos website demonstration, which focuses on sustainable travel options for commute trips as well as event planning travel. Additionally, the SBCCOG is monitoring legislation on helicopter noise and is also providing support to the LA Air Force Base, with the tour for new legislators coming up in April. Regarding cap and trade, Kim mentioned that SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach will travel to Sacramento to advocate for more funding for governments in the South Bay by making more flexible guidelines.

SBCCOG Transportation Consultant Steve Lantz discussed the Mobility Matrix and how Metro has reached out to the sub-regions in the county to develop a complete list of projects, programs and strategies and stated the SBCCOG has completed its list, which includes 377 projects. Steve stated the next steps for Metro are to use this matrix as input for its long-range transportation plan and a sales tax measure scheduled for November 2016. Regarding the Harbor Gateway Transit Center, Steve shared that Metro has to pay for all the legal costs related to the transfer of the center from Caltrans. Steve discussed the I-110 Express Lane and how it generates surplus revenue to be spent in the corridor in which it was created and the SBCCOG is working with Metro to ensure funding is allocated, accordingly. Kim discussed the Tour of the Lake Machado Project on April 27 and the May 18 event entitled, "Understanding Community Choice Energy: A Forum for California Local Governments."

## Federal

Maurice Lyles from US Senator Barbara Boxer's Office shared that the senator plans on retiring in 2016, but will continue to be engaged in politics. Senator Boxer has introduced some legislation, notably the Homeless Veterans Welcome Home Act for approximately 40,000 families who receive housing assistance through the Veteran Affairs' offices each year; this legislation will initiate a pilot program that will provide furnishing to homeless families upon moving into said housing. The bill establishes a three-year pilot program and awards grants to eligible organizations to facilitate the delivery of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to qualify for housing through the VA housing assistance program; this program requires the VA to prioritize communities with the greatest need for homeless services. The maximum amount of assistance for an eligible veteran is \$2,500; the bill also authorizes \$5 million for three years to be appropriated for the program. Another area of concern for the senator is electronic cigarettes; the senator sent a letter to the Commissioner of the FDA urging him to enforce strong regulations for e-cigarettes. Maurice also shared that studies show that the most critical hours for youth to get in trouble are typically when youth leave school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and that the senator was the original sponsor of the Federal Afterschool Program Bill; the senator is currently renewing that bill so that organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, among others, can receive funding for youth programs. Maurice mentioned that the senator introduced The Violence Against Women's Act to reduce domestic and international violence; she also introduced the Survivor Outreach and Support (SOS) Campus Act that addresses sexual assault on college campuses and ensures that each college has an advocate for survivors of sexual assault.

Joey Apodaca from Congressman Ted Lieu's Office shared that Congressman Lieu has been appointed to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Budget Committee. Joey emphasized that the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is the primary investigative body for the House of Representatives and it has the authority to scrutinize any matter under the jurisdiction of a standing committee; said committee investigates abuses of power in the government and the private sector and guards against fraud and abuses of public trust by private companies. Congressman Lieu has worked to maintain national focus on the superbug outbreak, which impacted two major hospitals - UCLA and Cedar Sinai - in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District and has called for an FDA investigation and congressional hearings into all aspects of the crisis. Joey stated that in the Budget Committee, Congressman Lieu focuses on core priorities instead of giving tax breaks to top earners and works with both sides of the aisle to set national budget policy that will increase the wages of the middle class, protect Medicare and Social Security, and invest in infrastructure, education and innovation. Congressman Lieu is supportive of the president's budget because it maintains focus on the middle class and stops the sequestration cuts that impact the 33<sup>rd</sup> District. Joey discussed the Congressman's focus on the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) and the services available at the VA to keep veterans and their families in their homes; these programs also find housing for those in need in order to meet the goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2015. Joey further elaborated that the SSVF has \$93 million nationally for said programs, with Los Angeles receiving \$30 million for nonprofits to work to end homelessness, especially since Los Angeles has the largest veteran homeless population in the nation.

Sabiha Khan from US Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office discussed the senator's Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act and protections against cyber hacking. Sabiha shared the senator's focus on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which provides provisions from the Combat Human Trafficking Act, including training for law enforcement with a victim-centered approach to combating human trafficking. Senator Feinstein also introduced the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015, an amendment to the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, to protect additional land and help manage California's desert resources through conservation and renewable energy development. Additionally, Sabiha mentioned the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary grants funding process and stated that the pre-application deadline is May 4 to compete for \$500 million made available for transportation projects. Lastly, Sabiha mentioned the postponement of the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. Sabiha introduced her colleague, Cameron Onumah who is also covering the South Bay cities. Cameron introduced himself and stated he covers the cities of South Los Angeles, Hawthorne, Gardena, Lawndale and issues impacting African Americans statewide. Cameron stated some of the priorities for the senator include housing, and mentioned that the senator is supporting Jordan Downs Housing Projects in its current effort to receive \$30 million through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Grant provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Lara Larramendi with Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Office shared that the Congresswoman is participating at the Standup for Transportation Event at the Long Beach Transit Center this morning. Lara distributed a flyer to everyone in attendance entitled, "Congresswoman Janice Hahn Out and About," highlighting the Congresswoman's latest news and initiatives. Lara also discussed the need for support for the Freight Network Trust Fund, which the SBCCOG supported last fall that was reintroduced through H.R. 935 with the goal of renewing the Freight Network Trust Fund. Lara also mentioned H.R. 563 dealing with World War II Merchant Mariners Act of 2015 and that the Congresswoman is receiving letters from veterans advocating for merchant marines to receive benefits; the bill is currently located in the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs. Another key legislation that the Congresswoman is focused on is H.R. 1697 Communities First Act, which will help properties with electric vehicle charging facilities and hydrogen gas refills to receive tax credits. Lara stated that the Congresswoman will host a Senior Briefing on May 22 in the City of Carson at the Carson Community Center and stated that the US Post Office on North Long Beach on 101 East Market was recently named after former Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald. Lastly, Lara indicated that the Congresswoman is the Chair for Congressional Port Caucus and will be hosting an event, along with the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach, to review the port facilities.

## **State**

Samantha David from CA Senator Benjamin Allen's Office discussed the senator's focus on SoCal ROC. Samantha distributed a handout entitled, "Senator Ben Allen 2015 Legislation" and shared that the senator is leading the effort to get the \$3.5 million needed to continue the SoCal ROC program by working with other legislators and SoCal ROC lobbyists around this issue. Samantha mentioned that the senator will be on the Los Angeles Air Force Base Tour; she also shared that S.B. 380 Topline Teacher Recruitment Act would allow for

the top 5% of secondary school students who desire to pursue teaching the opportunity to attend a state school and be reimbursed for a five-year commitment to teaching upon graduation. Jim Goodhart shared that SoCal ROC is an important issue for the South Bay school districts, including the need for sustainable funding.

Avelino Valencia from CA Senator Isadore Hall, III Office shared the assignments of the senator including his chairmanship of the Senate Standing Committee on Governmental Organization and vice chairmanship of the Legislative Black Caucus. Avelino discussed the following legislation: S.B. 232 school district receivership assistance, which authorizes the superintendent to direct California Collaborative for Educational Excellence for advice and assistance to school districts; S.B. 428, which will exempt law enforcement from criminal jury duty; S.B. 510 dealing with street racing inspection and the removal of all illegal modifications; S.B. 278 authorizing the operation of an iPoker website within California's borders, which further requires the California Gambling Control Commission to consult with the Department of Justice to prepare regulations for the operations of the iPoker website. The senator's district office has moved to its new location - 222 West 6th Street, Suite 320, San Pedro, CA 90731. Jim Goodhart asked who will pay for the modifications of the car inspections referenced in S.B. 510 with Avelino stating the car owner.

Robert Pullen-Miles from Assemblymember Autumn Burke's Office shared that the Assemblymember will attend the Los Angeles Air Force Base Tour. Robert mentioned that the Assemblymember was appointed to the Commission for Economic Development. Robert discussed legislation identified in the handout entitled, "Assemblymember Burke's Committee Assignments," including the following: a joint resolution regarding the Los Angeles Air Force Base; A.B. 907 dealing with career training at regional occupation centers for secondary education, which would render those students eligible for financial aid to promote workforce training; A.B. 852 focusing on expanding the prevailing wage to public work projects, including public and private hospitals, since funding for construction comes from conduit bonds provided by local governments, thereby categorizing hospital construction as public works projects, which require prevailing wages for compensation; A.B.1361 providing Cal-Grants for Veterans and removing the age statute for eligibility. Suzanne Fuentes of El Segundo asked whether A.B. 852 increases the cost of building hospitals; Robert shared the State Building and Construction Trade Council of California sponsored the bill and some labor unions. Robert distributed a handout entitled, "Assemblymember Autumn Burke Education Town Hall Meeting" to be held on April 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Inglewood City Hall Community Room A.

Tom Brewer of Assemblymember David Hadley's Office distributed a handout entitled, "Assemblymember David Hadley Fact Sheet Assembly Bill 803 & 306" and discussed the following legislation: A.B. 1048, which removes the caps on the reserves that school districts are allowed to carry on the books to allow school districts to set their own caps; A.B. 803, which impacts Carson, Gardena and Lomita, sets parameters for how cities can opt-out of school districts in order to allow cities to establish their own districts. Tom also mentioned A.B. 306 that enables active duty personnel to choose what school to send their children to, which would also impact the Los Angeles Air Force Base. Suzanne Fuentes shared that the El Segundo approved a letter to support A.B. 306 during its past council meeting. Steve

Zuckerman of Rolling Hills Estates asked if Assemblymember Hadley has reached out to the school districts, with Tom sharing that some of the unions are not supportive of this bill. Suzanne Fuentes stated that El Segundo and Wiseburn Unified School Districts are supportive. Steve Zuckerman asked if Assemblymember Hadley talked to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. Jacob Haik of Los Angeles District 15, mentioned the impact of this bill on the San Pedro School District and shared that there are new high schools in San Pedro and that he would like to setup a meeting with Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley and Los Angeles Councilman Joe Buscaino to streamline certain components of the bill. Suzanne Fuentes mentioned the LA Times article on this issue.

Christopher Wilson from Assemblymember Mike Gipson's Office thanked the SBCCOG for allowing the Assemblymember to speak at the Board of Director's meeting. Christopher discussed the following legislation: A.B. 25 expanding the availability of Cal-Grants for students at small universities like Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; A.B. 383 pertaining to hepatitis C testing and treatment cost reduction; A.B. 1298, which is a "spot" bill in the Government Code section, with the intention to amend a portion of the code in preparation for the NFL stadium proposal for Carson. Steven Zuckerman asked if the bill addressed CEQA impacts with Christopher stating the project would still be subject to CEQA, but would be fast-tracked; A.B. 484 dealing with zero emission technologies, congestion and financing districts for the ports. Christopher discussed the Assemblymember's committee assignments, including the appointments to the Assembly Select Committees on Ports and Foster Care; Chair of the Select Committee on Infectious Diseases in High Risk Disadvantaged Communities. He plans to have a select committee hearing on infectious diseases during Hepatitis C Awareness Month in May. Additionally, Christopher shared that the Assemblymember is working with Councilman Joe Buscaino and the State Parks on the East Wilmington Green Belt Project in order to extend the current grant under Proposition 40. Lastly, Christopher shared that the Assemblymember will be hosting a Small Business Workshop on May 15 at Los Angeles Harbor College, in collaboration with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Small Business Development Center.

## **LA County**

Steve Napolitano, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe's Office, mentioned the unanimous decision by the LA County Board of Supervisors to authorize a study, which will be conducted by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), on raising the minimum wage. Steve mentioned that there would be hearings throughout LA County so that small businesses could weigh-in on the impacts of wage increases on their businesses. The Marina del Rey hearing will be coming up and will focus on the impacts of the minimum wage increase within the unincorporated areas. Steve Zuckerman asked what the population is in the unincorporated areas and Steve stated approximately 1.5 million.

## **Other Agencies**

Sharon Green from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District distributed a handout entitled, "S.B. 485 (Hernandez) Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts: Stormwater Authority" and discussed the need for support on S.B. 485. Jim Knight of Rancho Palos Verdes stated that the city passed a letter of support for the bill and that it will help cities with municipal separate stormwater system (MS4) support and stormwater drainage.

Jeff Kiernan from the League of CA Cities distributed two handouts entitled, "Los Angeles County Division 2015 Bill List" and "2015 League of California Cities Hot and Priority Bill List as of April 8," respectively. Jeff asked for support on these bills including S.B. 485 dealing with stormwater. Also, Jeff mentioned that the League participated on a conference call regarding enforcement of water wasters. He also shared Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins' focus on affordable housing and mentioned A.B. 35 & A.B. 1335, which will help to fund affordable housing in lieu of the redevelopment disbandment and shared that there was a hearing today on redevelopment dissolution. Furthermore, Jeff discussed public safety and an increase in home/auto burglaries and how this may be tied to realignment. Jim Knight asked about enhanced infrastructure financing districts and Jeff shared A.B. 2 and the reconstitution of redevelopment. Jeff mentioned that Governor Brown has identified transportation funding as a big issue and discussed S.B. 321 and the gas tax revenues and decline in gas prices.

Jim Goodhart congratulated Councilpersons Mark Henderson of the City of Gardena and Laura Emdee of the City of Redondo Beach on their elections.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am until Thursday, July 9, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie Champion  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments