

**South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Infrastructure Working Group November 30, 2011 – Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Rob Beste, Chair (Torrance); Massoud Ghiam (Carson); Maryam Jonas (El Segundo); Frank Bigdeli & John Felix (Gardena); Keith Lockard & Emilio M. Murga (Inglewood); Earl Schwartz (Lawndale); Jim Goodhart (Palos Verdes Estates); Steve Huang & John Mate (Redondo Beach); Craig Bilezerian (Torrance); Anthony Cole (CALTRANS); Paul Choy & Dave Pilker (LA County DWP); Fulgene Asuncion & Lan Saadatnejadi (Metro); Mike Bohlke (Representing Metro Director, Pam O'Connor); Jacki Bacharach, Marcy Hiratzka & Steve Lantz (SBCCOG); Lynn Grijalva & Dr. Ramon Grijalva (Addison Burnet Group, Inc.); Alex Geyer (Breen Engineering); Alan Clelland (Iteris, Inc.); Joe Mulvihill (Psomas); Gary Miller & Carlos Ortiz (RBF Consulting); Marcella Low, Paul Simmonds, & Lizette Verduzco (Southern California Gas Company)

Chair Beste called IWG meeting to order at 12:07pm.

I. **Self-Introductions and Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were approved as presented.

II. **South Bay Measure R Updates** –

Early Action Project Updates for SBCCOG FY 2012-13 SBHP Budget Request to Metro- Steve Lantz reported that the SBCCOG is near to completing compilation of project budget requests. Cities that still need to complete their requests have been called by Mr. Lantz or Iteris. The next step is to bring the budget requests to the Measure R Oversight Committee on Dec 12 for approval to submit to Metro; cities need to inform Mr. Lantz of there are any changes in their budget requests.

III. **Southern California Gas Company Advanced Meter Program Presentation** - Paul Simonds, Marcella Low, and Lizette Verduzco of SCG brought an actual advanced meter for display and distributed project overviews. The Gas Company will be upgrading 6 million existing natural gas meters with a wireless communication device by 2017, using \$1.05 billion awarded by the CPUC in April 2011. The new meters will automatically read and securely transmit 12 hours of data 4 times a day (on a next-day basis), providing more frequent and detailed data to help customers better control energy use and costs. Gas usage is still recorded in the traditional way; the new wireless communication device transmits the information electronically. The communication device is battery-powered (20 years of battery life.) 4,000 Data Collector Units (DCU) will be installed throughout SCG's service territory in early 2012, and will be mostly pole-mounted (existing poles of 25 feet or higher; new poles will be installed if necessary.) The DCUs are A/C or solar-powered stainless steel boxes, weighing 80 pounds each. Advanced Meters will communicate with two to three DCUs. SCG plans to begin end-to-end community outreach in 2012Q2, customer notification in 2012Q3, and mass installation community outreach in 2013Q4.

Steve Lantz noted that many cities have sophisticated neighborhood councils and community groups who are concerned about poles and asked how will this issue be addressed? Mr. Simmonds answered that SCG would like to appear before as many people as possible. They understand that people are concerned about the placement of poles/boxes and SCG wants to work well with communities in implementing this. Carlos Ortiz of RBF Consulting asked what the radio frequency will be. Mr. Simmonds said that the DCUs are licensed to 460 MHz frequency, but the frequency for the home SCG box will be higher than 450 MHz. Frequencies will be appropriately adjusted for cities using municipal utilities. David Pilker of Los Angeles County DPW asked how SCG plans to address general community push-back. Mr. Simmonds answered that SCG is learning lessons now and will be able to apply resolutions once this comes to the South Bay. Late next year, 10,000 boxes will be installed in the Lakewood/Cerritos area. Alan Clelland of Iteris asked how the information will be used. Mr. Simmonds responded that this program is for the benefit of users/consumers, and that no private information will be shared. Since there will be labor savings once the system is installed, there will be no extra long-term monthly charge beyond a \$2 monthly increase that will cease as the program installations are completed.) Jim Goodhart wondered about disruptions in gas services during the installation process; Mr. Simmonds said that no disruption of gas services is anticipated. Residential meter installation takes 15 minutes. Steve Lantz asked if SCG service technicians making house-calls will be equipped with this knowledge and the retrofit technology. Mr. Simmonds did not think so. There are alarms if the advanced meters are tampered with, but they will not shut off. They will not monitor leakage, only usage through a one-way information stream. Eventually, threshold services will be able to be customized, if people want them. Marcella Low and Dennis Lord are the SCG Public Affairs representatives for the South Bay, should anyone have further questions.

IV. **Project Cost Estimating and Construction Industry Update - Caltrans Presentation to the California Transportation Commission** – Steve Lantz provided an attachment to the agenda that lists project costs on a statewide level. He did not add anything more than what was in the attachment.

- V. **Metro Guidance on Communication Materials/Signage** - Steve Lantz provided an attachment to the agenda. As he had done in October, Mr. Lantz reported that Metro had provided guidance with Measure R signage. The Call for Projects procedure is the same for Measure R, regarding signage. A proposed SBCCOG Measure R logo will be brought to the MR Oversight Committee. Mr. Lantz will coordinate this process with Metro.
- VI. **Green Construction Update** – Chair Beste had nothing to report. Steve Lantz said that Metro had discussed holding a workshop in the South Bay but no details have been released yet.
- VII. **PUC Regulations on Street Lighting** – Chair Beste recapped the meeting in Rancho Cucamonga a few weeks ago, hosted by Moreno Valley. The Southern California Street Light Coalition met with a law firm to discuss a proposed Scope of Services, to assist in reaching a settlement agreement with SCE for the streetlight tariffs. The next steps are a) to put together a Resolution for cities/counties to consider adopting and to use for support when evaluating whether or not they can participate financially in the action and b) draft a Cooperative Agreement for consideration. The SBCCOG has a copy, if anyone is interested. The CPUC will discuss this issue soon. Chair Beste spoke on behalf of the City of Torrance. Torrance will probably sign on in support of this movement to monitor the proceedings. Jacki Bacharach mentioned that the SBCCOG receives updates on this movement from Moreno Valley, and that she will continue to distribute action items and proceedings to IWG members.
- VIII. **Agencies & Other Reports:**
- **SBCCOG** – Jacki Bacharach reminded city staff about “A Day at the County” on December 7, and provided fliers. She also announced the finance planning workshop at the SBESC office on December 8, where Public Financial Management will be showcasing two Manhattan Beach municipal projects. She said that the County will have a financing effort in the future and this will help us be ready for that joint effort. Ms. Bacharach also announced the “Things Everyone in Local Government Should Know about Land Use Planning Brown Bag Seminar” to be presented by Mike Jenkins, the SBCCOG Legal Counsel, for city staff on January 12. The final announcement regarding upcoming events was about the SBCCOG’s 13th Annual General Assembly on February 24 in Carson. Steve Lantz added that there is still room in the exhibit area for vendors, and that interested parties should contact Kim Fuentes. Ms. Bacharach reported that the SBCCOG received funding from SCAQMD for the Local Use Vehicle (LUV) program for another year. The SBCCOG hopes to have 5 vehicles in the extension program. The SBCCOG is also a pilot area of SCAG’s grant for electric charging stations. If a South Bay city installs stations anywhere, please let the SBCCOG know. The SBCCOG has been notified of a special offer from ECOtality- a resident can receive free charging station in their home if they purchase a Nissan Leaf; \$2,200 will be given for installation. The ECOtality contact is in the email that Ms. Bacharach sent to South Bay City Managers. Alan Clelland of Iteris asked if there are any new compressed natural gas stations in the South Bay, and Chair Beste reported that one was recently installed in front of Torrance’s maintenance yard.
 - **SOUTH BAY TRAFFIC FORUM, LA County Dept. of PW** – Paul Choy distributed a South Bay Traffic Forum Status Report for November 2011, which contained the following project summaries: South Bay Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Project, El Segundo Area Intelligent Transportation (ITS) Project, and various Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (TSSP) Projects.
 - **Metro** – Fulgene Asuncion: draft Regional Transportation Plan has been released by SCAG. Final plan to be adopted on April 5, 2012. The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has announced the solicitation of proposals for Round 2 of the SGC's Sustainable Communities Planning Grants. The deadline for the grant opportunity is February 15th, 2012.
 - **Metro TAC & Streets and Freeway Subcommittee** – Steve Huang reported that there will be no meeting in December. Fanny Pan will become the Chair of TAC in January 2012.
- IX. **Metro CMP South Bay Development Mitigation Fee Update Workshop** – Robert Calix of Metro will lead a two-hour workshop, during which, Metro will present the South Bay modeling results of its Congestion Management Program Development Fee and answer questions about the proposed fee and next steps. This workshop will occur on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 from 10am -12 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance CA 90503. Mr. Calix wants to discuss this with South Bay Planners and City Managers before sharing South Bay data with other COGs. Attendees will learn benefits from implementing these projects and discuss fees. Mr. Calix would like to have this discussion
- X. **Other Business** – Anthony Cole of CALTRANS and Maryam Jonas, of the City of El Segundo, announced their retirement on December 30, 2011; the IWG Working Group wished them well. Chair Beste announced that on November 29, the County held another workshop regarding the Water Parcel Fee Ordinance. An election is anticipated for May 2012.
- XI. **Adjournment** – Chair Beste adjourned the meeting at 1:02pm until ***January 25, 2012***. If you would like to add an item to the agenda please e-mail *Marcy@southbaycities.org* before Monday, *January 17, 2012*.