

South Bay Cities Council of Governments- Legislative Briefing Minutes of January 10, 2013

Briefing with Legislative District Staff- Minutes

January 10, 2013

SBESC Theatre

20285 S. Western Ave, Torrance, CA 90501

The meeting was called to order by Chair Franklin @ 8:00 a.m.

Flag Salute & Call to Order & Introductions

The following Elected Officials were in attendance

James Dear, Carson

Julie Ruiz-Raber, Carson

Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo

Daniel Medina, Gardena

Daniel Jurazek, Hawthorne

Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne

Ralph Franklin, Inglewood

James Gazeley, Lomita

James Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates

Ellen Perkins, Palos Verdes Estates

Susan Rhilinger, Torrance

The following people were also in attendance

Kate Kennedy, Congressman Waxman

Jennifer Zivkovic, Senator Lieu

William Orton, Senator Wright

Darryn Harris, Assemblymember Bradford

Demitrius Harris, Assemblymember Hall

Heather Hutt, Assemblymember Hall

Marisol Barajas, Assemblymember Lowenthal

Timothy Lippman, Assemblymember Muratsuchi

Steve Napolitano, Supervisor Knabe

David Biggs, Carson

Greg Carpenter, El Segundo

Michael Goodson, Hawthorne

Sam Pedroza, LACSD

Jeff Keiernan, League of CA Cities

Michael Rock, Lomita

Jacob Haik, Los Angeles

Clay Curtin, Manhattan Beach

Patricia Donaldson, SBACC

Marcy Hiratzka, SBCCOG

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

Lisa Rodriguez, SBCCOG

Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG

Marilyn Lyon, SBESC

Matthew Horton, SCAG

Eleanor Jones, Torrance

SBCCOG Work Program Update

Jacki Bacharach followed Chair Franklin's introduction with a brief update on the SBCCOG's recent activities:

- The purpose of the South Bay Measure R Highway Program is to improve operations of I-405, I-110, I-105, SR 91 Ramp and Interchange Improvements in South Bay by constructing improvements on the freeways and the South Bay major arterial network. Escalated funding available is \$1.512 billion (inflated), funding about one-half of the identified needs. The first five-year phase consists of 43 projects totaling approximately \$176 million. Projects include interchange improvements, street improvements, Intelligent Transportation System Improvements and a new transit center in Torrance. 43 projects approved to start during 1st 5 years; 32 FY 2011-13 projects are underway; 4 Caltrans projects and 1 local project are negotiating funding agreements with Metro; 6 projects will receive their first funding in FY 14-16. Specific projects are being implemented as new Measure R funding is available each year. Ten new Metro Call for Project applications using more than \$13 million in South Bay Measure R as Local Match
- Transportation Updates- LAX rail connection, Crenshaw-LAX rail project issues, Project Acceleration following failure of Measure J, I-110 Express Lane, Harbor Gateway Transit Center.
- SBESC Updates- CPUC and CEC policy issues, Energy Upgrade California, Regional Energy Network, Climate Action Planning, Can support legislative events.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments- Legislative Briefing Minutes of January 10, 2013

- Mobility Initiative Updates- Carsharing, Battery Electric Vehicle Drive the Future Project, Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness research and promotion of charging infrastructure, Vanpool Promotion, ExpressLanes.
- Economic Development Coordination Updates
- The SBCCOG's 13th Annual General Assembly will be held on Friday, February 22, 2013 from 8:30am-3pm at the Juanita Millender MacDonald Community Center in Carson. Free admission. This year's theme is "At What Cost? The Unintended Consequences of Declining Revenue." Legislators invited to be on hand 8:45 am – 9:45 am to talk informally with attendees. California Forward Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor, Fred Silva, is our new kickoff speaker. Other speakers include President and CEO of Kosmont Companies, Larry Kosmont, KNN Public Finance Managing Director, David Brodsky, and Vice President of Transportation for Amazon, Girish Lakshman.

Federal Office Updates

Staff gave updates on Legislators' priorities, what issues are being heard in each district, and Debt ceiling & Defense spending:

- Kate Kennedy, representing Congressman Waxman: The Congressman is excited to be representing the South Bay (District 33). He is opening second district office in Manhattan Beach in January. We have an active, hands-on outreach program in regards to hearing constituents' issues. Health care and environmental issues are two of the Congressman's main legislative priorities, along with the defense and aerospace industry (he knows this is the main industry in the South Bay, and wants Washington DC to understand that the South Bay's aerospace technology is mission-critical.) The Congressman voted for the recent fiscal cliff bill (this delays any immediate defense cuts.) He hopes to find a long-term balance that is fair for everyone. El Segundo Councilmember Fuentes: It is encouraging that the Congressman is embracing sequestration. It is critical to find a solution. Hawthorne Councilmember Valentine: what can we do to support him in his goal to emphasize the importance of the South Bay's aerospace technology to Washington DC? Ms. Kennedy will touch base with the Congressman and his Chief of Staff in Washington DC regarding this specific matter, and send the proper correspondence to Jacki Bacharach, who will forward it to everyone, should they wish to support the Congressman in his goal of promoting South Bay aerospace technology.
- Jennifer Zivkovic, representing Senator Lieu: Under redistricting, the Senator's South Bay jurisdiction increased (District 26). He looks forward to working with the Palos Verdes Peninsula elected officials. Committee appointments include: Labor and Industrial Relations, Governmental Organization, Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, and Insurance. He was also elected to serve on Executive Committee of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. One of the Senator's main areas of interest is workforce development and his *Sector Strategy Approach* aligns workforce training based on competitive business sectors in CA, and ensures that current job training appropriately reflects future available jobs. In 2012, the Senator passed AB 1402, which recasts and revises the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program (EWD Program) to more closely align with economic and workforce best practices and extends the program's sunset date from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2018. He is hearing a lot of concerns about public and school safety. To address these issues, the Senator has reintroduced his School Safety Plan Bill (SB 49), which requires Unified School Districts to include safety plans in their audits. This includes active-shooter preparedness. To address the concerns that come with AB 109 (realigning certain responsibilities for lower level offenders, adult parolees and juvenile offenders from state to local jurisdictions) the Senator has introduced SB 57, which would make it a felony for high-risk offenders to remove their GPS monitoring devices.
- William Orton, representing Senator Wright: The Senator (District 35) bases part of his Legislative Calendar on what he hears from constituents, so organizations or offices that have legislation they'd like to address with the Senator should do so now. The Senator's main goal is the resurrection of manufacturing in CA, and making improvements to this using existing structure (businesses and community). Mr. Orton also spoke about the allocation of potential surplus funds, and how Senate Leader Steinberg forecasts that California faces a dramatically smaller budget problem in 2013-14 compared to recent years. According to Mr. Steinberg, assuming steady economic growth and restraint in

South Bay Cities Council of Governments- Legislative Briefing Minutes of January 10, 2013

augmenting current program funding levels, there is a strong possibility of multibillion-dollar operating surpluses within a few years. The Governor is also proposing to change the way in which education is funded, and that may dominate headlines and backroom discussions for most of the year. To close, Mr. Orton emphasized “don’t blow the money” in regards to maintaining the trust of the people when the government receives extra money. Using such funds unwisely will undermine public support that was acquired through the last election.

State Office Updates

Staff gave updates on Legislators’ priorities, what issues are being heard in each district, and the focus of the next Legislative Session:

- Darryn Harris, representing Assemblymember Bradford: Handouts were distributed, listing the Assemblymember’s Committee Assignments for 2013-2014 Legislative Session (Utilities & Commerce, Appropriations, Insurance, and Local Government.) Our District (62) does not anticipate having to make any cuts to the budget for this Fiscal Year, but revenue projections are not set in stone. One of the Assemblymember’s main priorities is the issue of DIVCA (Digital Infrastructure & Video Competition Act). This act creates a fair and level playing field for all market competitors that does not disadvantage or advantage one service provider or technology over another, and promote the widespread access to the most technologically advanced cable and video services to all California communities in a nondiscriminatory manner regardless of socioeconomic status. The PUC opened a rulemaking in 2012 to establish rules for the video franchise renewal process, and we will be monitoring the PUC’s progress and working with local cable companies. Regarding AB 109, Jacki Bacharach will be sending this morning’s update from the Assemblymember, for distribution.
- Heather Hutt & Demetrius Harris, representing Assemblymember Hall: Due to redistricting, Torrance, Gardena, and Carson are now part of Assemblymember Hall’s District (64). Committee appointments include: Appropriations, Redistricting, Human Services, Governmental Organization, Delinquency Prevention and Youth Dev, and Regional Approaches to Addressing the State’s Water Crisis. The Assemblymember is looking forward to meeting all of the elected officials in his new area, and encourages the use of his open-door policy! A new satellite office in Wilmington will open soon. A flyer promoting his Joint Swearing-In Ceremony with Congresswoman Hahn on January 17 was distributed. A handout promoting “Connecting You to Opportunities”, a breakfast meeting on February 1 for small businesses interested in government contracting, was also distributed.
- Marisol Barajas, representing Assemblymember Lowenthal: Due to redistricting, the Assemblymember no longer has jurisdiction over the Palos Verdes Peninsula, but does so over San Pedro (District 70), which is part of the SBCCOG. Committee appointments include: Transportation, Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials, Health, Legislative Ethics, and Mental Health Oversight. Budget comments from the Assemblymember will be forwarded to JB later today for distribution.
- Timothy Lippman, representing Assemblymember Muratsuchi: The Assemblymember (District 66) will have jurisdiction over Manhattan Beach to the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Gardena, Lomita, Torrance, and West Carson. Committee appointments include: Veterans Affairs, Budget, Judiciary, and Natural Resources. The Assemblymember encourages the use of his open-door policy, especially as he is new to the Assembly. He is in the process of opening a new field office in central Torrance; the information will be forwarded to Jacki Bacharach. The Assemblymember’s main goals are to correct problems and cuts that were made in the past. Please let me know of any legislative proposals you would like to discuss. My email address is timothy.lippman@asm.ca.gov. The outreach plan for next two years is being developed. Gardena Councilmember Medina emphasized that it is important for veterans to receive the medical benefits that were previously cut. Mr. Lippman offered to put Councilmember Medina in touch with the Assemblymember’s Chief Consultant on this matter, and mentioned that public hearings will be held soon.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments- Legislative Briefing Minutes of January 10, 2013

City Issues Identified for Discussions and Dialogue

City Councilmembers and others in attendance were given the chance to voice their concern for the issues that most affect their city and the South Bay:

Mayor Pro Tem Fuentes, El Segundo: Shifting education funds from wealthier communities to disadvantaged communities will adversely affect some South Bay cities. With the passage of Proposition 30, California has the highest income and sales tax rates in the country, and this will drive CA residents out of state. The Assembly & Senate have to teach its constituents how to live within their means, and government agencies need to be especially business-friendly to minimize the suffering of the economy.

Response to Mayor Pro Tem Fuente's comments about realignment:

- Councilmember Rhilinger, Torrance: Torrance has been spending a lot of money on these efforts.
- Chair/Councilmember Franklin, Inglewood: Realignment support is needed from the state level; if the State is going to give local government its criminals, it needs to provide the funds for the necessary resources.
- Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities: The County received half of the funds the state had access to, but cities have hardly collected any state funds.

Deputy Napolitano, 4th District of LA County: Realignment is a main issue for the County, which is still waiting for the ongoing state funding that was promised. Incarcerating dangerous criminals to local law enforcement compromises the public's safety, and this has already been demonstrated by the early-release of a man who killed several people in North Hollywood. Regional monitoring efforts will happen, as more funds become available from the State. Regarding the Clean Water Clean Beaches Measure, Supervisor Knabe supports its *purpose*, but **not** the way it is being carried out. This Measure is a proposed fee on parcel owners that will generate funding to complete projects that protect public health, and increase drinking water supplies, by cleaning up our rivers, lakes, bays, beaches and coastal waters. Notices of a Public Hearing and Protest Forms were sent to all residential, business and public parcel owners in the county, containing customized parcel fees but people dismissed them as junk mail. At the Public Hearing on January 15, 2013 if a majority protest of the parcel owners throughout the County has been received, then the item will be rejected. If the protest fails, the Measure is currently scheduled to go to the second step, which could be a mail-in ballot next Spring. The special election mail-in ballot would be sent only to property owners. It is being done this way because polls show that if a ballot measure went to all registered voters, the initiative would be much less likely to pass. The Supervisor sees this as an underhanded attempt to pass this initiative and is strongly against taxpayer rip-off. Additionally, Proposition 30 funds will be used by school districts to pay for this measure, if passed, and there is no sunset. While he remains committed to improving water quality, he believes that every voter in the County should have the opportunity to decide on this fee, through an open and transparent initiative process, which should be putting it before the voters and not in a mailing. The Public Hearing for this Measure is scheduled for *Tuesday, January 15, 2013 in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room*. At that time, if there is no majority protest, the Supervisor will again push for a Regular Ballot on an election day. He will not support the item if it is a Special Election by mail and only for property owners. The Supervisor encourages those who oppose the Measure to fill out and mail in the Protest Form that is attached to the Notice. He will make a motion to extend the protest beyond January 15th.

Response to Deputy Napolitano's comments about the Clean Water Clean Beaches Measure:

- Chair/Councilmember Franklin, Inglewood: Cities lacking the funds to meet the mandate are especially concerned; it is difficult to identify the discharger of pollution for a specific area or guess which city is responsible for pollution in another jurisdiction. Policy makers should take this information back to the capital for reconsideration. The SBCCOG has not taken a position on this measure.
- Mayor Pro Tem Fuentes, El Segundo: Our city agendized this as a protest ballot.
- Councilmember Gazely, Lomita: The government needs to stop taxing property owners for everything.
- City Manager Biggs, Carson: Our city is in favor of this measure.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments- Legislative Briefing Minutes of January 10, 2013

- Councilmember Perkins, Palos Verdes Estates: Our city protests the water measure as well.
- Councilmember Medina, Gardena: Can Deputy Napolitano send Jacki Bacharach information on this measure, for city councils that are not meeting until after January 15th?
- Deputy Napolitano, 4th District of LA County: South Bay Cities within Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' District did not receive Supervisor Knabe's email about this measure. There is no way to submit a protest electronically, but faxes may be sent, besides attending the hearing.
- Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities: The League's Los Angeles division supported this measure because it gives money back to cities.
- Councilmember Rhilingner, Torrance: Pollution contaminants need to be checked for the water measure because part of it is from the air and extremely difficult to identify the source.

City Manager Carpenter, El Segundo: The El Segundo Museum of Modern Art celebrates its opening on Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 10 am until 5 pm. Address: 208 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. General Opening Hours: Friday to Sunday 10 am until 5 pm, Monday to Thursday: schooldays and special events, by appointment only. Admission free! ESMoA is a new art laboratory that has purposely been built with leaks. Every experiment welcomes to spread the spark of creativity. ESMoA is run by artlab21 foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization. www.ESMoA.org

Chair/Councilmember Franklin, Inglewood: The Congress and US Senate need to strongly consider Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or the TIGER Discretionary Grant program. It provides a unique opportunity for the U.S. Department of Transportation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Local transportation issues that could benefit from such funds include the Crenshaw light rail line that needs to go into LAX and eventually to Torrance, grade separation and maintaining safety and quality of life. It was surprising that no cities mentioned Redevelopment Successor Agencies this morning.

Sam Pedroza, LA County Sanitation Districts: The Puente Hills landfill is shutting down effective October 31, 2013. Green waste is processed as alternative daily cover here, so please work with your haulers in the South Bay since this could affect you.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruiz-Raber, Carson: Please attend the SBCCOG's 13th Annual General Assembly, if you can. The date is Friday, February 22, 2013 from 8:30am-3pm at the Juanita Millender MacDonald Community Center in Carson.

Councilmember Medina, Gardena: The City will hold its 29th Annual MLK parade January 12, 2013 at 10 a.m. on Van Ness and Marine Avenues.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Franklin adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. until April 11, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.