

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff January 10, 2019 Meeting Notes

SBCCOG Chair & Rolling Hills Estates Mayor Britt Huff called the meeting to order at 8:13 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Mark Waronek, Lomita
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Jennifer LaMarque, Supervisor Hahn D4
Betty Lin Peterson, PVE
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates
Mary Campbell, Hermosa Beach
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne

Legislative Staff Representatives

Brent Robinson, U.S. Senator Harris
Jeannette Christian, U.S. Senator Feinstein
Tess Harmon, Congressman Barragán
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu
Olina Wibroe-Benson, State Senator Allen
Daryl Sweeney, State Senator Bradford
Brandon Stansell, Assemblymember Burke
Andrew DeBlock, Assemblymember
Muratsuchi

City/County Staff

Lisa Berglund, Carson
Alexa Davis, Rolling Hills Estates
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

Other Agencies

Tina Cox, AQMD
Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Javiera Cartagena, SCAG
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG
Marilyn Lyon, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts

SBCCOG Program Update

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach highlighted the activities of the SBCCOG since the October meeting. Jacki discussed how the SBCCOG website serves as a resource for homeless and senior services within the South Bay and welcomed suggestions for posting additional resources. LA County and United Way are providing grants to cities to work on homelessness, and LA County Supervisor Ridley-Thomas is spearheading homelessness initiatives and his staff meets with the SBCCOG quarterly to discuss resources. Ms. Bacharach mentioned two homeless service strategies the SBCCOG is considering implementing in the South Bay including Safe Parking, which provides a safe place for homeless to park from 6 pm to 6 am and a Shared Housing Program. The SBCCOG is also hosting First Responder Trainings for cities, with 67 law enforcement personnel having participated so far, and is also coordinating Housing and Health Fairs that provide showers, beauticians, DMV for IDs and criminal justice for record expungements. The homeless count is January 23. There is still a need for volunteers in every city. Additionally, Ms. Bacharach discussed the cross-training of both the SBCCOG

Senior Services and Homeless Committees, since there are a lot of seniors that are homeless.

The SBCCOG is working on three major projects over the next year. The SBCCOG received a grant from CalTrans to do a slow speed network feasibility study and will be working with cities to identify neighborhood streets and rights of way good for slow speed vehicles. There will also be a technical advisory committee with cities. Ms. Bacharach mentioned the Civic Spark Fellow working on Adaptation Planning per SB 379, which requires cities to have adaptation strategies within their Hazard Mitigation Plans. The SBCCOG is helping cities to develop those strategies by doing vulnerability assessments and then developing individual strategies for cities. Lastly, the SBCCOG is working on implementation of the South Bay Regional Broadband Initiative. Four proposals were received to connect 55 buildings throughout the South Bay to fiber optics, including all city halls except Manhattan Beach and other auxiliary buildings. Ms. Bacharach stated that Regional Broadband is an important transportation strategy, which allows for telemedicine and telecommuting expansion among other things. The SBCCOG is working with Metro to receive approval to use Measure M sub-regional funds to pay for the capital construction. Cities will pay the monthly fees. We may need letters of support to move this forward. Ms. Bacharach detailed that Metro is accelerating projects including I-405 curve, I-105 Express Lane and Green Line Extension to Torrance. Ms. Bacharach mentioned how cities are saving kilowatt hours but funds are limited since the future of local government partnerships is in flux and there is uncertainty re: additional funds for energy efficiency projects. Lastly, Ms. Bacharach welcomed attendees to upcoming workshops including Cannabis State Regulations, Goods Movement and the General Assembly.

Ms. Bacharach's PowerPoint presentation is accessible via the following link:
[http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION Leg%20Briefing%201.10.2019.pdf](http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_Leg%20Briefing%201.10.2019.pdf)

Federal Offices and State Offices

Representative Jeanette Christian of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office discussed that this is the longest government shutdown and the Senator is disappointed about it but will not be voting on legislation that supports construction of the wall at the border. She is interested in how the government shutdown is impacting constituents in order to make a case for re-opening the government. The Senator is planning to introduce legislation focusing on immigration and homelessness, but will wait until the government re-opens. Ms. Christian also shared that the nomination for William Barr to become the next U.S. attorney general is next week but emphasized that she has no comment on the vote for him.

Representative Joey Apodaca of Congressman Ted Lieu's Office reiterated the concern re: the government shutdown and that the Congressman is starting his third term. He will remain on the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary and the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He will focus on issues such as North Korea, Middle East

and Yemen. He was elected as the Co-Chair to the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee. Regarding legislation, Congressman Lieu introduced the Climate Solutions Act, which supports generating renewable energy sources and models AB 32: The California Global Warming Solutions Act. The Congressman is making climate change a top priority as well as border security.

Brent Robinson, Representative from U.S. Senator Kamala Harris' Office mentioned that the Violence Against Women's Act expired and needs to be renewed and that the Senator will be working diligently to get this act renewed once the government shutdown has ended. Mr. Robinson mentioned that Friday, January 11 is the last day for individuals impacted by the wildfires in Northern and Southern California to apply for individual FEMA assistance and stated that the FEMA website is not being updated during the shutdown. He shared that individuals can go to local recovery centers for more information. Senator Harris reintroduced the LIFT Act (Livable incomes for Families Today) and S. 488: Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2019. Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, asked if after the government shutdown ends will pay be retroactive? Mr. Robinson stated that it varies from shutdown to shutdown since it depends on how the shutdown is negotiated. Councilman Kenneth Kao commented that the Violence Against Women's Act should not have an expiration date.

Tess Harmon, Representative from Congresswoman Nanette Barragán's Office provided information on H.R. 1 – For the People Act of 2019, which increase transparency around donors, restricts lobbying, and expands voting rights by implementing provisions like automatic voter registration. In regards to the shutdown, the Congresswoman has a significant number of constituents who work for the Transportation Security Administration and her office is receiving calls regarding payroll. Additionally, the Congresswoman's appointment to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce should be confirmed this evening, making her the second Latina to hold a seat on this committee. Lastly, Ms. Harmon shared that the Congresswoman is hosting a Town Hall on January 22 with more details to come in the next few days.

Representative Olina Wibroe from State Senator Ben Allen's Office and shared that the Senator introduced six measures that are spot bills and two senate constitutional amendments (S.C.A 1) focused on affordable housing construction for local jurisdiction and environmental bills around climate change. The Senator is no longer on the Education Committee, but newly on the Senate Environmental Quality, Judiciary, Natural Resources and Water, and Governmental Organization Committees. Ms. Wibroe mentioned the shooting during the weekend where three people died and the Senator did release a statement regarding the incident. The Senator is attempting to get a rate increase for health districts, and will continue to have a focus on affordable housing with local control, environmental issues and pushing for plastic pollution and climate change bills. Board Member Olivia Valentine requested clarification on the Senator's focus on affordable housing with local control. Ms. Wibroe shared that the state should not give a blanket requirement for all cities since cities know what is best around their housing needs. Lomita Councilman Mark Waronek mentioned SB 50 – Planning and Zoning: Housing Development an Equitable Communities Incentive and that Senator Wiener is open to receiving suggestions from local elected and chambers. Ms. Bacharach asked

about restoring redevelopment and Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities stating that SB 5 – Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program is an opt-in tax increment financing bill that the League is supporting authored by Senator Beall. Ms. Huff recommended that Senator Allen advocate for smaller cities that are common in the South Bay to ensure their needs are taken into consideration.

Daryl Sweeney, Representative from State Senator Steven Bradford’s Office mentioned that the Senator has no new bills yet, and that the Senator is Chair of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee. The Governor’s budget will be released today and this will create a lot of discussion around approving a public bank, especially with cannabis being legalized. Mr. Sweeney shared that the Senator has been speaking around the state regarding his California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018 and the lack of diversity and social equity for those trying to access the cannabis industry.

Representative Brandon Stansell of Assemblymember Autumn Burke’s Office discussed AB 1520 - Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force which seeks to lift a million children out of poverty. The Assemblymember is seeking to receive more funding for this issue and will be conducting more outreach. Programs that will be prioritized for funding include childcare, early childhood education, home visiting programs, after school and summer school programs, workforce development, Medical expansion, affordable housing, CalWORKs increases and expansion of Promise Zones. The Assemblymember is also focused on Career Technical Education and the need for more skilled workers.

Andrew DeBlock of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi’s Office thanked the SBCCOG and Jacki Bacharach for their leadership and wants to partner with the SBCCOG on Broadband expansion. Mr. DeBlock mentioned that Broadband and the Green Line Extension are priorities for the Assemblymember as well as working with AQMD to eliminate the use of hydrofluoric acid at Torrance Refinery. The Assemblymember will remain on all the same committees except for the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. The Assemblymember is the Assistant Majority Leader for Policy and Research and remains the Chair of the Select Committee on Aerospace and will be doing local hearings again and will share once the schedule is available. The Assemblymember reintroduced AB 39 – Education Finance which seeks to establish K-12 school funding targets for per pupil spending.

League of Cities Update

Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities discussed the changing dynamic of the legislature with there being 28 Democrats to 10 Republicans in the Senate and 60 Democrats to 20 Republicans in the Assembly, which means that the Democratic Moderates are no longer necessary to get the 2/3 vote since Democrats have a Super Duper Majority. Mr. Kiernan referenced that the League will be supporting SB 5 and not supporting SB 50 which focuses on transit oriented development and job rich areas. The Senate Transportation and Housing Committee has been split into two separate committees, and State Senator Ben Allen no longer serves as Chair on the Senate Housing Committee, which means the South Bay does not have a direct connection on

the committee level. Therefore, it will be important for cities to be more engaged around housing. Lastly, Mr. Kiernan invited attendees to the Legislative Meet and Greet hosted by SBACC, the League and SBCCOG on February 1 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Board Member and Councilman Kenneth Kao of Palos Verdes Estates inquired about the cell phone towers legislation and Mr. Kiernan shared that the FCC moved forward administratively and that the League has been working to fight the rule change by the FCC. The rule passed by the FCC shortens the time for cities to approve a cell tower in their district and caps the amount cities can charge for cell towers, forcing the use of public infrastructure for telecommunications companies and allowing said companies to receive benefits at a discounted rate, which could lead to a legal battle.

Discussion and Public Comment – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am to Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion, South Bay Cities Council of Governments