

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff

Thursday, October 11, 2018

MEETING NOTES

SBCCOG Chair & Rolling Hills Estates Mayor Britt Huff called the meeting to order at 8:07 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque, LA County D4
Don Brann, El Segundo
Nancy Hersman, Manhattan Beach
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates
Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne

Legislators

Congresswoman Nanette Barragán
Congresswoman Maxine Waters
State Senator Ben Allen
State Senator Holly Mitchell
State Senator Steven Bradford

Legislative Staff Representatives

Brent Robinson, U.S. Senator Harris
Jade Suh, U.S. Senator Feinstein
Francisco Carrillo, Cong. Barragán
Kim Ortega, Cong. Barragán
Hamilton Cloud, Congresswoman Waters
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu
Aurelia Friedman, Congressman Lieu
Samuel Liu, State Senator Allen

Olina Wibroe, State Senator Allen
Hannah Cho, State Senator Mitchell
Daryl Sweeney, State Senator Bradford
Brandon Stansell, Assemblymember Burke
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember Gipson
Sarah Patterson, Assemblymember O'Donnell
Melissa Ramoso, Assemblymember Muratsuchi

City/County Staff

Greg Grammer, Rolling Hills Estates
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
Basil Hewitt, Sanitation Districts
Angie Lee, Sanitation Districts
Glenn Acosta, Sanitation Districts
Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts
Jan Vogel, South Bay WIB

Other Attendees from Congresswoman Maxine Waters D.C. Delegation: Clement Abonyi, Jr.-Staff Assistant, Kevin Burris-Senior Counsel, Rykia Dorsey-Press Secretary, Kristofor Erickson-Deputy Staff Director, Erika Jeffers-Senior Policy Director, Bruce Johnson-Senior Counsel, Esther Kahng-Senior Counsel, Janae Ladet-Professional Staff Member, Danielle Lindholm-Professional Staff Member, Erica Loewe-Press Secretary, Daniel McGlinchey-Senior Professional Staff Member, Charla Ouertatani-Staff Director, Lisa Peto-Legislative Director/ Chief Counsel, Twaun Samuel-Chief of Staff, Glen Sears-Senior Policy Advisor, Marcos Manasalvas-Press Assistant, Patrick Fergusson-Legislative Counsel, Kathleen Sengstock-Senior Legislative Assistant, Nicole Robinson-Executive Assistant to Congresswoman Waters, Nate Woodward - Staff Assistant, Sidney Williams-former Ambassador to the Bahamas, spouse.

SBCCOG Program Update SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach highlighted the activities of the SBCCOG since the July meeting. She cited the SBCCOG "Year in Review," which provides a snapshot of accomplishments of the SBCCOG. In particular, Ms. Bacharach discussed

the SBCCOG's work dealing with homelessness including improving the SBCCOG website, which serves as a resource to cities. Ms. Bacharach mentioned that LA County is working with cities providing a grant to implement homeless plans and solutions that encourages collaboration. She also referenced the Safe Parking program in Koreatown and how a similar program could be offered in the South Bay. The SBCCOG is hosting First Responders trainings and ride-alongs in partnership with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) and shared that the SBCCOG assisted in the planning of a homeless fair in Harbor City, which had over 100 in attendance.

During her presentation, Ms. Bacharach also referenced the following, including a handout entitled, "Resolving the Housing-Carbon Dilemma in State Policy: The Role of Local Government White Paper October 2018":

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_10.18%20White%20Paper%20on%20state%20housing%20policy.pdf

Ms. Bacharach also distributed a letter the SBCCOG wrote pertaining to the Crenshaw LAX Plan letter:

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_10.8.18%20SBCCOG%20letter%20to%20Metro%20re%20Crenshaw-LAX%20Operating%20Plan.pdf

Ms. Bacharach's PowerPoint presentation is accessible via the following link:

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/10.18%20SBCCOG%20Legislative%20Briefing%20Presentation_Final.pdf

Federal and State Offices

Congresswoman Maxine Waters discussed her legislative package including H.R. 4159 – Making FHA More Affordable Act that requires Federal Housing Administration mortgage borrowers to pay mortgage insurance premiums only when their remaining principal balance exceeds 78% or more of the home value or sales price. Additionally, the Congresswoman cited her focus on housing, specifically H.R. 4160 - Preventing Foreclosures on Seniors Act and H.R. 6102 – Homeowner Mortgage Servicing Fairness Act. The Congresswoman assisted the City of Torrance in receiving \$64,000 for the construction of 8 electric vehicle charging stations located at the Torrance Park and Ride Regional Terminal. Additionally, Torrance Transit is expected to receive more than \$18 million in federal support through transportation formula grants. MS. Waters also wrote letters of support for Gardena's GTrans priorities including its compressed natural gas fueling facility and solar energy bus transit system. The Congresswoman helped Metro receive a federal bus and bus facilities grant for \$10.5 million to replace 30 aging diesel buses with clean fuel buses for use in the South Bay area. Moreover, Ms. Waters is working to protect infrastructure programs from budget cuts and advocating for reinvestment, given the critical breakdown of water systems and bridges throughout the country. The Congresswoman provided a handout detailing legislative priorities and grants opportunities that will benefit the South Bay region: http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_Congresswoman%20Waters%20Briefing%20for%20SBCCOG.pdf

Congresswoman Nanette Barragán also highlighted the lack of funding for infrastructure, which is impacting the quality of the water in cities such as Compton, and how the deteriorating infrastructure inspired the investment of trillions of dollars through an infrastructure bill to create local jobs and allocate funds for roads, bridges, technology and water infrastructure. Ms. Barragán mentioned being on a coalition to try to get more Latinos in executive positions within Metro so that there is diverse representation. The Congresswoman identified transportation and immigration as priority issues in her district and that the government is moving to deport non-citizens who are using social services, which will have a series of consequences. Ms. Barragán also mentioned the ongoing crisis around homelessness and the importance of maintaining federal funding. The Congresswoman cited that she has introduced several bills to assist homeless veterans to receive housing vouchers, by reallocating vouchers from counties that underutilize them to counties that have a shortage, such as Los Angeles

County. Ms. Barragán stated that regardless of zip code, public transportation accessibility is a priority and shared her campaign to become appointed to the United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce so that she can focus on environmental injustices that disproportionately impact communities of color.

State Senator Ben Allen asserted the importance of early childhood education and as the Chair of the Education Committee, the Senator understands how the science shows that the earliest stages from zero to 3 direct the trajectory of the child's life and that educational disparities are present once children reach kindergarten. Senator Allen indicated that strong intervention programs are necessary in providing kids and families with a strong preschool infrastructure that is accessible. Mr. Allen denoted that affordable housing, CEQA, the Trade War, healthcare and tax reform will be salient issues for the new Governor to address. Lastly, Senator Allen pointed out the significance of the LA Air Force Base as an economic driver for the region and the need to keep the base local, especially since the base has critical partnerships with cities, colleges, industry, and communities in the South Bay.

State Senator Bradford announced that the legislature funded K-12 at its highest rate in the history of California and more funding went to the UC and CSU educational system. Mr. Bradford noted the passage of Net Neutrality and legislation requiring more women represented on corporate boards, in addition to ending cash bail. Furthermore, the Senator echoed concerns regarding offshore drilling and the importance of protecting California's coastline. Mr. Bradford introduced 19 bills, of which 11 were signed into law, most prominently SB 1294 dealing with cannabis inclusion and social equity in providing people of color, women and veterans with greater access to the industry. As the Chair of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee, Mr. Bradford introduced legislation that will assist with banking for the cannabis industry given that there are over 3 million people in California that are unbanked. The Senator mentioned that SB 1055 would encourage banks to incentivize such individuals to open bank accounts and SB 1361, which increases transparency between government and financial institutions, would reduce fraudulent bank accounts. Regarding law enforcement, Senator Bradford passed SB 978 that requires law enforcement to list all policy, procedures and trainings online to be compliant with the California Public Records Act and records requests; he also shared that SB 1232 provides an extension for victims of crime to receive support and compensation through the Victims Compensation Board. Lastly, Senator Bradford announced SB 1250 that deals with domicile residency and allows elected officials to have multiple residencies but maintain one fixed domicile. The Senator also provided a handout detailing his legislative package:

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_Senator%20Bradford%202018%20Legislation.pdf

State Senator Holly Mitchell thanked the SBCCOG for convening this meeting and explained how her district shares a portion of Inglewood with Senator Bradford's district. She cited the following handout featuring legislation that she introduced during 2017-2018: http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_Senator%20Mitchell%20Legislative%20Bill%20Package%202017-2018.pdf Senator Mitchell focused on her role as Budget Chair and that the state's \$200 billion budget is the largest in California's history. Since California has recovered from the Recession, the state has been able to invest more in infrastructure, particularly in the areas of transportation, fire, census, and housing. The Senator mentioned a \$5 billion appropriation through SB 1 - The Gas Tax, which includes \$2.2 billion for local cities and counties. Ms. Mitchell mentioned the appropriation of \$25 million to the Office of Emergency Services for fire, support and mutual aid, especially important for cities since it allows for Cal Fire to partner with cities and counties to strategically locate new equipment throughout the state to prevent delays during emergencies. Additionally, California appropriated \$90 million for census outreach to effectively address the potential for an undercount in the state. The Senator emphasized that cities and counties have been positioned as the primary safety net around homelessness and affordable housing construction, and shared that the state has allocated \$500 million for local emergency homeless programs, including direct

allocations to cities and counties under the Continuum of Care Program. Senator Mitchell also underlined her role as the Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and that there have been contentious hearings around amending water contracts and the restructuring and reorganization of the state's aged water system. Notably, the Senator stressed that the budget will not necessarily reflect the priorities of the new administration until possibly the May Revision. Ms. Mitchell stated that California has historic reserves and the importance of not going back to the days of budget cuts that harmed constituents and local governments.

Melissa Ramoso of Assemblymember Muratsuchi stated the Assemblymember had 6 bills that were signed into law, specifically electric vehicle parking, the Healthy School Act, which protects school children from exposure to high toxic pesticides and AB 3138, which enforces stricter penalties on facilities that handle highly toxic or flammable chemicals to prevent accidents that might pose serious risks to the public and environment. Ms. Ramoso highlighted the Assemblymember's offshore drilling bill, AB 1775, which was signed into law, but that AB 427 that sought to establish an Aerospace Commission was not. The Assemblymember plans to bring it back in the incoming session.

Christopher Wilson of Assemblymember Mike Gipson Office distributed a handout spotlighting the Assemblymember's 8 bills signed into law by the Governor: http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_AM%20Gipson%20Legislation.pdf. Mr. Wilson referenced AB 577 regarding the Sativa Water District, a historic bill that permits the state to take over the Water District to address and overhaul the issue of brown water. Mr. Wilson emphasized that Los Angeles County will assume responsibility as of October 29, 2018 and focus on the identification of a successor agency to ensure that equity is present for customers who pay on average \$62 a month for water.

Brent Robinson of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris' Office announced the Senator's position on the Judiciary Committee and how she stands with victims of sexual assault. Mr. Robinson provided information on a national confidential 24/7 hotline 1-800-656 HOPE. Mr. Robinson detailed the Senator's bill S.B. 3392 - Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Act, which provides \$30 million annually in grants to train and address health disparities and racial and implicit bias directly correlated to the increase of maternal morbidity. Moreover, Mr. Robinson cited Serena Williams challenge in giving birth and the implications of racial bias on the quality of care that women are receiving prior to and after childbirth. He shared that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has conducted studies on this as well and that there are many disparities for women in LA County around maternal and infant mortality. The Senator is introducing the LIFT (Livable Incomes for Families Today) the Middle Class Act, which will provide a refundable tax credit up to \$6,000 for families and \$3,000 for individuals in the form of a tax refund or a monthly advance and refundable tax credit. Mr. Robinson also indicated the significance of ensuring that individuals and families are not falling into homelessness. As such, the Senator introduced the Rent Relief Act to ensure that no more than 30% of people's income are going towards rent. Both bills seek to actively put money back into low to middle income families' pockets to prevent the increase of homelessness.

Jade Suh from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office pointed out that the Senator has been a champion for environmental justice issues, alluding to how on October 9 the Senator called on the U.S. Forest Service to halt a planned wild horse gathering in California's Modoc National Forest out of concern that hundreds of the horses could be sold to slaughterhouses. Additionally, Ms. Suh stated that the Senator spearheaded the California Desert Protection Act, which designates three national monuments in the California desert: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains, protecting nearly 1.8 million acres of the California desert. On Appropriations, Senator Feinstein has been working to secure more funding for Community Development Block Grants and home grants for affordable housing. Ms. Suh also noted the Senator's involvement in the passage of the America's Water Infrastructure Act, which authorizes up to \$70 million in federal funds for South Bay Water Recycling

projects. Senator Feinstein has prioritized transit infrastructure projects and has been instrumental in bringing \$1.2 billion in federal grants for the Purple Line. Currently, the Senator is tracking homelessness in California and hopes to introduce legislation to address this critical issue. Ms. Suh also provided a one-pager on the Senator's legislative agenda as follows: http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_US%20Senator%20Feinstein%20Update.pdf

Joey Apodaca and Aurelia Friedman representing Congressman Ted Lieu's Office discussed information regarding the Congressman's activities and priorities. The Congressman serves on the House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet because of his computer science background and focuses on cyber security issues and national security. Congressman Lieu also sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee - the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee and focuses on cyber terrorism. The Congressman co-sponsored 34 bills and amendments, notably, H.R. 5433 – Hack Your State Department Act, which requires the State Department to establish a bug bounty pilot program to provide compensation for reports of previously unidentified security vulnerabilities of its internet-facing information technology. Mr. Apodaca also discussed H.R. 2810 – National Defense Authorization Act which underscores the Congressman's concern regarding the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and through this bill, would require policies for Department of Defense (DOD) programs and activities to ensure that civilian casualties are avoided. **Aurelia Friedman** passed around a flyer for the Congressman's Veteran Townhall meeting:

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_Congressman%20Lieu%20Veteran%20Townhall%20Event%20Flyer.pdf

Ms. Friedman shared that the Congressman created the California Aerospace Caucus which provides educational opportunities and information on matters affecting the aerospace industry and the implications for California's economy. The caucus promotes outreach to the aerospace community, local stakeholders and constituents and works on legislative actions that support California's aerospace industry and workers. Lastly, Ms. Friedman pointed out how the Congressman wrote a letter to Metro urging them to complete the EIR for the Greenline extension to Torrance.

Clearwater Project Update – Sanitation District

Glenn Acosta shared that the Sanitation District is commencing the Clearwater Project early 2019, which is an infrastructure project that addresses aging sewage systems impacting the Southern part of Los Angeles County and the South Bay. A video was played which details the project and is accessible using the following link:

<https://clearwater.lacsd.org/video.asp?videoName=NEWClearwaterVideo8-6-18&format=mp4>

Mr. Acosta also provided a handout summarizing the Clearwater Project accessible using the following link:

http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/HANDOUT_Clearwater%20Project%20Overview.pdf

League of Cities Update

Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities cited the role of the Bureau of Cannabis Control, which regulates commercial cannabis licenses for retailers, distributors, microbusinesses, testing laboratories, and temporary cannabis events. He also mentioned SB 946 Safe Sidewalk Vending Act which requires cities and counties to maintain certain rules when interacting with street vendors.

Discussion and Public Comment – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am to Thursday, January 10, 2019.

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