

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff

Thursday, April 12, 2018

8:15 am – 9:45 am

Networking & Breakfast starting at 7:45 am

MEETING NOTES

SBCCOG Chair & Torrance Councilman Kurt Weideman called the meeting to order at 8:15 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Kurt Weideman, Torrance
Milton Herring, Torrance
Laura Emdee, Redondo Beach
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates

Representatives of Legislators

Brent Robinson, US Senator Kamala Harris
KW Tulloss, Congresswoman Barragan
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu
Sunghee Park, State Senator Allen
Daryl Sweeney, State Senator Bradford
Brandon Stansell, Assemblymember Burke
Cody Bridges, Assemblymember
Muratsuchi

City/County Staff

Eleanor Jones, Torrance
Heidi Wiersman, PVE
Yolanta Schwartz, Rolling Hills

Other Agencies

Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber/
Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts of LA
County
Javiera Cartegena, SCAG
Kevin Gilhooley, SCAG
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG

SBCCOG Program Update

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach highlighted activities that the SBCCOG has done since January. She discussed how the SBCCOG completed its second quarter working with LA County on regionally coordinated homeless services and that the SBCCOG is part of a committee that is planning a fair for April 18 that will provide services to the homeless in Redondo Beach. Ms. Bacharach shared that the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce is surveying their businesses on homeless issues and that the SBCCOG hopes to expand this approach to other chambers. Additionally, the SBCCOG is working with LA Gateway Chamber of Commerce to address homeless hotspots and property concerns and will be conducting landlord and first responders' workshops. The SBCCOG is also continuing to work with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) which has been able to provide permanent housing for 165 people since 2016.

Ms. Bacharach emphasized that the South Bay is concerned about SB 827, the density measure that Sen. Wiener is proposing. The SBCCOG met with Sen. Allen to express

concern of the one-size-fits-all approach, especially in suburban areas similar to the South Bay. She cited the South Bay Sustainable Strategy, which provides a way to enhance mobility by concentrating on neighborhoods and local travel and increasing housing by repurposing old retail, including strip malls. She also discussed regional broadband and that the SBCCOG will be meeting on April 26 with the Information Technology directors of all the cities in the South Bay to review a draft RFP for a regional broadband network. The RFP is informed by the survey of every city's current and potential broadband needs. After review by the IT Directors, the Board of Directors will be asked to authorize its release at their May meeting.

Regarding ExpressLanes, the SBCCOG is concerned that the funds from current ExpressLanes are planned to be used to build other ExpressLanes, which is contrary to the state law that requires the funds be used within the corridor of the specified ExpressLane. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that the funds could be used for more regional connections. She discussed the sales tax that passed in November 2016 and how the South Bay has not been able to spend any of its sub regional funds, until a funding agreement with Metro is signed. Hopefully this will happen within the next few months and will commence a process whereby the SBCCOG, with the cities, will develop a five-year plan of projects that will receive funding through Measure M. The SBCCOG met with cities yesterday to ask them for their respective project lists to include in the aforementioned plan.

The State Department of Fish and Game shared with the SBCCOG that it's the only place in the United States that is conducting regional coyote management. The SBCCOG is currently seeking funding opportunities to continue the work on this issue as a region. Ms. Bacharach noted a letter on the MS4 Permit that was distributed at the meeting and highlighted that the SBCCOG supports the State Auditor's recommendations. Additionally, she reviewed the new partnership between the SBCCOG and the Water Replenishment District and shared that at the April Board meeting a Sheriff from the Lawndale substation will discuss methods for addressing illegal fireworks in preparation for the July holiday. Lastly, Ms. Bacharach mentioned the SBCCOG General Assembly will be on Thursday, February 28, 2019 since so many cities are closed on Fridays. She also pointed out that the legislative matrix which was distributed shows the tracking of key legislation and the type of support/opposition provided by the SBCCOG.

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

Chair Weideman cited the city issues for further discussion including pension and housing reform, cannabis regulations and the specific question from the City of Carson Mayor Albert Robles: *"Why are communities like Carson that are being burdened by logistics not being treated fairly, taking into consideration that they are being highly impacted by goods moving in, out and through the city yet monies are being distributed only on a per capita basis?"*

Federal Offices

Joey Apodaca from Congressman Ted Lieu's Office discussed how they wrote a letter of support for the SB 1 funds to go to the Green Line Extension to Torrance. He mentioned the CA Aerospace Caucus formation and the addition of jobs and educational opportunities. Congressman Lieu also introduced the Music Modernization Act H.R. 4706,

which updates the music licensing system for the first time in almost two decades. Regarding cyber security defenses, the Congressman joined with Congressman Ted Yoho to introduce a bipartisan Hack Your State Department Act that will strengthen cyber defenses for the State Department by tapping ethical hackers to identify vulnerabilities in State Department networks and data systems. The Congressman issued a statement on the Trump Administration Plan to roll back emission standards for cars and has urged an investigation into EPA administrator Scott Pruitt regarding allegations about him receiving a condo for below market rate from lobbyists with interests before the EPA. Mr. Apodaca shared that the Congressman is co-leading a letter signed by a bipartisan group of 14 members of Congress to prohibit millions of taxpayer dollars from being appropriated to support the Drug Enforcement Administration's wasteful Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. In January, Congressman Lieu reintroduced legislation to curb civil asset forfeiture funds from being used by the DEA for cannabis eradication.

K.W. Tulloss of Congresswoman Nanette Barragan's Office discussed that the Congresswoman co-sponsored H.R. 526, 1267, 1519 and a resolution recognizing the first week of April as National Public Health Week. The Congresswoman's first bipartisan bill passed through Congress, which dealt with transportation security, since she sits on the Department of Homeland Security.

Brent Robinson U.S. Senator Kamala Harris mentioned that the Senator was in Long Beach last Friday to speak to the greater South Bay Area and Long Beach and the northern Orange County communities to provide them with her positions on issues, with a particular focus on immigration and her advocacy for a clean DREAM Act, especially with California having the largest population of immigrants in the country. Another priority for the Senator is the upcoming Census. The Senator expressed a concern around how communities are getting the word out, promoting the census and ensuring the process is fair. Mr. Robinson outlined the citizenship question on the census and how this might impact communities of color and immigrants throughout the state. He identified a concern that there may be a miscount because of people's fear of information being used against them. Mr. Robinson argued that such determinations are made because there are assurances that such information would not be shared with I.C.E particularly the information of DACA recipients. Mr. Robinson further discussed the OMNIBUS package and how the senator was influential in getting wildfires designated as a natural disaster within FEMA's guidelines, which will allow for California to qualify for certain types of disaster relief funding.

Chair Weideman emphasized how funding is being cut for census community outreach and expressed a concern around the impact to a city's ability to get the word out. Ms. Bacharach inquired about updates on offshore drilling regulations from the federal government. Mr. Apodaca stated that Congressman Lieu took part in a panel discussion in Malibu regarding this topic with the California Coastal Commission, and the regulations are still being determined. He also cited that there is a congressional research service report on offshore drilling. Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities stated

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi also has a bill that would make it cost prohibitive to drill off the coast.

Sunghee Park of Senator Benjamin Allen's Office outlined the Senator's priorities including protection of public lands and open spaces, an increase in election transparency and identifying ways to help cities invest in becoming more resilient. Senator Allen opposes SB 827 in its current form, since he believes that there should be local control over land use. Chair Weideman thanked Senator Allen's efforts on SB 827.

Daryl Sweeney of State Senator Steven Bradford's office distributed a 2018 legislation document and At Your Service pamphlet, which highlighted Senator Bradford's 2018 legislation. Mr. Sweeney also detailed a list of the bills that were signed by the Governor. He mentioned the Senator was appointed Chair of the Banking Committee and that on June 23, the Senator will be hosting a Housing Summit and Resource Fair at Southwest College, with a keynote from Senator Beall, whose \$4 billion housing bond will be on the November Ballot.

Brandon Stansell of Assemblymember Autumn Burke's Office mentioned AB 2741, which restricts prescriptions to address the problem of opioid addiction. It passed through committee. The Assemblymember is hosting a Know Your Rights Forum on April 19 at 6:30 pm at Lennox Middle School, with representatives from the CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles) who will be speaking on the issue of DACA and immigration.

Cody Bridges of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi's Office reported that the Assemblymember opposes SB 827 and that he has been working with Senator Allen, Governor Brown, Mayor Garcetti, Mayor Furey of Torrance and LA County Supervisor Hahn on the Green Line Extension and accelerating the timeline before the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The Assemblymember is also collaborating on the groundbreaking at the Torrance Transit Center that should occur sometime in the summer. Regarding oil drilling, Assemblymember Muratsuchi authored AB 1775 that prohibits any new leases on oil drilling sites within 3 miles of the coast, which recently passed the Natural Resources Committee of which the Assemblymember recently became chair. Additionally, education is a priority of Assemblymember Muratsuchi and as such, he has introduced AB 2808 to increase funding for all public schools in California. The Assemblymember will be hosting a Fighting Pollution Town Hall this evening at El Camino College and on July 7, he will also host a family surf day that seeks to draw attention to his effort to make surfing California's official state sport. Mr. Apodaca commented on how the Trump Administration may not have considered the legal ramifications of granting Florida exemption due to their coastal economy, which gives California grounds to stand on if this becomes a legal dispute in the future.

LA County

Mark Waronek of Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office shared that the supervisor is looking for opportunities to streamline the use of the ExpressLanes, similar to a pay-as-you-go process. He shared that the supervisor was in Sacramento

with Assemblymember Gipson on AB 1795 and AB 2762, providing disabled veterans an opportunity to increase their percentage of bid on projects throughout the state. In regards to the Green Line Extension, the supervisor is fast tracking this project since it is the main priority for Metro and Mayor Garcetti's office. Supervisor Hahn will be in Washington D.C. next week to meet with folks at The Pentagon regarding the Los Angeles Air Force Base and will be at an event with Torrance Chamber of Commerce April 25. The supervisor's Executive Assistant Tina Quebec's son participated in in the Paralympics and won the gold medal; he is also a Purple Heart recipient. Mr. Kiernan asked if there was an update on the parcel tax that may assist with funding stormwater cleanup in the county; Mark Waronek stated he would check with the public works deputy.

League of Cities Update

Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities discussed that Mayor Garcetti was with the other Big 11 Mayors, from the 11 most populous cities in California, lobbying the legislature on homelessness funding. There is a \$5-\$6 billion surplus to the state budget of which the Big 11 is requesting \$1.5-\$2 billion for addressing the homelessness crisis in California. SB 827 by Senator Wiener, the transit oriented development bill, was extensively amended on Monday. It allows for no parking requirements around subways, light rail and ferry terminals. The League is opposed to SB 827, which goes before the Senate Housing and Transportation Committee on Tuesday. The League will be there to speak against it and is looking for others to give their testimony as well. The League had a recent Legislative Briefing on Tuesday, where ADU (accessory dwelling units) were discussed. The League has taken a position on six ballot measures for the June and November ballot and offered to attend city council meetings to discuss them further, The League is supporting 68, 69 and 72 on the June ballot and emphasized a 'no' on the repeal of SB 1.

Discussion and Public Comment

Javiera Cartagena from Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) thanked those in attendance for coming to the open house for SCAG's new office on Wilshire and invited attendees to the General Assembly. She introduced her colleague, Mr. Kevin Gilhooley – Policy & Public Affairs & Regional Services - and mentioned SCAG's interests concerning CEQA modernization as it relates to housing and transit projects and support for SB 1. On the federal level, SCAG is interested in Goods Movement and getting federal monies for the regions two major ports. SCAG's Executive Director has been in Sacramento to testify in regards to the high speed rail project; the High Speed Rail Authority released a draft business plan for 2018, which would provide a \$423 million allotment for the renovation to LA Union Station and SCAG supports this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am to Thursday, July 12, 2018.

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