

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021  
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM  
(RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=IRMJVVTAKC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRMJVVTAKC))**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Boyles called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**II. VERIFY QUORUM**

**In attendance were the following voting elected officials:**

Drew Boyles, El Segundo	Hildy Stern, Manhattan Beach
Art Kaskanian, Gardena	Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne	Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Stacey Armato, Hermosa Beach	Patrick Furey, Torrance
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale	Sonia Lopez, LA County D-2
Jim Gazeley, Lomita	Jennifer LaMarque, LA County D-4

**Also, in attendance were the following persons:**

Stephen Faichney, Beach Cities CAER	Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
Stephano Padilla, AQMD	Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Sarah Patterson, SCAG	David Leger, SBCCOG
Greg Farr, Caltrans	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Dr. Silvia Prieto, LA County Public Health	Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG
Nancy Rodriguez, LA County Public Health	Chandler Sheilds, SBCCOG
Charles Gale, MWD	Ronson Chu, SBCCOG
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG	Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG

**III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

Jacki Bacharach confirmed that the agenda was properly posted in the City of Torrance.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. August Board Meeting Minutes (attachments) – Approved**
- B. ICF Contract Extension and Additional Funds (attachment) – Approved**
- C. Green Business Assist Contract with El Segundo (attachment) – Approved**
- D. Purpose, Goals and Guidelines of Legislative Committee (attachment) – Approved and returned to Legislative Committee for more specificity of topic areas**
  - 1. SBCCOG Office Meeting Room Fees (attachment) – Approved**
- E. Actions of the Steering Committee – support AB 361 (attachment) – Approved**
- F. Legislative Matrix with bills of interest (attachment) – Received and filed**
- G. Dues and Assessment Outstanding – Received and filed**
  1. Outstanding: Gardena, Hawthorne, Manhattan Beach, LA County
  2. Partial assessment (\$1000): Rolling Hills
  3. No assessment: Lawndale
- H. Monthly Reports – Received and filed**
  1. South Bay Environmental Services Center Report (attachment)
  2. Transportation Report (attachment)
  3. City Attendance at SBCCOG meetings (attachment)
  4. Reports from Outside Agencies (attachments for each at end of the agenda)
    - a. League of California Cities & LA Division Legislative Committee (Bea Dieringer & Jeff Kiernan)

- b. South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle)
- c. SCAG Energy and Environment Committee (Britt Huff)
- d. Metro Service Council & Ridership Report (Don Szerlip)

Regarding the Consent Calendar, Ms. Bacharach shared that dues are included because SBCCOG has not received three members' (Hawthorne, Manhattan Beach, County of Los Angeles) dues and these members will lose their ability to vote if not paid by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, an updated legislative matrix has been added.

**MOTION** by Board Member Stacey Armato, seconded by Board Member Christian Horvath, to **APPROVE** the Consent Calendar. No objection. So ordered.

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Service Planning Area 8 Update**

Dr. Prieto provided updates on COVID-19 via the County's Public Health Department. Proof of vaccination requirements for employees and customers at indoor portions of bars, nightclubs, lounges, breweries, wineries, and distilleries are now in effect and mandate that individuals have at least one dose of the vaccine by October 7<sup>th</sup> and be fully vaccinated by November 4<sup>th</sup>. SPA 8 population is 60% vaccinated. They continue to gather data on COVID-19 variants (Delta, Lambda, Mu) in the County. Vaccine efficacy has varied between brands according to recent data released in September while CDC is recommending booster shots to eligible populations. Three flu clinics are available in SPA 8.

Question:

Board Member Bernadette Suarez – is the County considering population statistics with antibodies for reaching herd immunity?

Answer: No.

Presentation is linked here: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PRESENTATION\\_SPA-8-Update-to-SBCCOG-LA-County-DPH.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PRESENTATION_SPA-8-Update-to-SBCCOG-LA-County-DPH.pdf)

**B. Introduction to Beach Cities CAER (Community Awareness & Emergency Response)**

Mr. Faichney shared information about Beach Cities CAER, a local partnership that is comprised of local fire response and emergency planning agencies with industry representatives, public officials, schools, and community members. CAER has a subcommittee that develops educational tools for outreach. CAER originally existed as two groups (BCC and SBC) and merged in 2000. The website provides an Alert South Bay Regional Alert and Warning Notifications System that people can subscribe to.

Questions

Board Member Stacey Armato: Who provides funding for this organization? Who screens/reviews the information released?

Answer: Industry members provide funding, and the entire group screens/reviews the information released.

Board Member Olivia Valentine: what outreach does the organization perform?

Answer: They supply alert notifications to the service area and share information at group meetings. Due to the pandemic, they have not been able to perform as much outreach. They are currently working with partner agencies to spread information. Posting CAER's website on shared materials and sharing information on municipal websites would aid outreach efforts.

Board Member (Representative) Jennifer LaMarque: are meetings open to the public? Is the County's Office of Emergency Management involved in the organization? A: Not currently, they are hoping to open to the public once meetings can be held in-person. Yes, representatives from the County's Office of Emergency Management have participated in the partnership.

Presentation is linked here: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PRESENTATION\\_Beach-Cities-CAER-Rev.1.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PRESENTATION_Beach-Cities-CAER-Rev.1.pdf)

## **VIII. TRANSPORTATION REPORTS**

### **A. Metro Report**

Mr. Lantz reported the following items: new fare-less system initiative was discussed at Metro Board meeting; K-12 and college students to be allowed to ride for free (18-month program beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>). Initiative will cost Metro \$50 million (minus contributions from partners). Low-income program would be enacted in Phase 2, Metro will look for funding and it will cost \$400 million/year. Life program (low-income riders already have access) will expand with 3-month incentive program: if rider buys \$26/month (\$6/week) pass, rider can ride for free if signed up for life for the first three months. Fare collection enforcement to begin in January 2022. Priority will be finding long-term funding for these programs by tracking federal and state grant opportunities.

#### Questions

Board Member Art Kaskanian: Will federal agency help grants regarding fare-less issue?

Answer: It will be up to Congress. They will know more information in the next month. Funding from local municipalities and agencies for these programs is already in place, but more funding sources need to be identified.

Ms. Bacharach: Is the funding on behalf of the school districts or municipal operators mandatory?

Answer: Schools Districts (e.g. LAUSD) can help fund this type of program (not mandatory); some municipal operators are participating.

### **B. Transportation Committee Report**

Board Member Christian Horvath shared that Metro presented on the Fare-less System Initiative which provided a lot of background information on their outreach efforts to school districts and municipal transit operators. He also reported on a presentation at the Transportation Committee meeting about a connected data travel tool that SBCCOG municipalities might be interested in concept. Mr. Lantz added that traffic signal timing can be adjusted instantaneously due to fiber connectivity of SBFN.

Mr. Lantz also shared that no funding will be available from Measure R (this year) for new projects; funding will be available from Measure M. Project submissions are due by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Lantz and Ms. Bacharach also reviewed the proposed letter to Metro requesting a comprehensive analysis of ExpressLanes expansion on I-405.

1. **FY 22-23 Measure R & Measure M South Bay Metro Budget Request Process** (*attachment*) – **Approved**  
**MOTION** by Board Member Olivia Valentine, seconded by Board Member Christian Horvath, to **APPROVE** the Measure R & Measure M Metro Budget Request Process. No objection. So ordered.
2. **Letter to Metro re: I-405 ExpressLanes Evaluation** (*attachment*) – **Approved**  
**MOTION** by Board Member Olivia Valentine, seconded by Board Member Christian Horvath, to **APPROVE** the I-405 ExpressLanes Letter. No objection. So ordered.

## **IX. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### **A. County Redistricting Comment Letter** (*attachment*) – **Approved**

Ms. Bacharach shared that SBCCOG is not objecting to being a part of 2 County Supervisorial Districts.

**MOTION** by Board Member Patrick Furey, seconded by Board Member Art Kaskanian, to **APPROVE** the County Redistricting Comment Letter. No objection. Board Member (Representative) Jennifer LaMarque abstained. So ordered.

### **B. Newsletter Design, Printing and Layout Contractor (to be sent separately) – TABLED**

#### **C. Video Conference Equipment for the Office** (*attachment*) – **Approved**

Kim Fuentes shared that SBCCOG is recommending video conferencing equipment to be installed in boardroom for Board/Steering Committee meeting use as well as SBCCOG staff and other organizations.

**MOTION** by Board Member Christian Horvath, seconded by Board Member Olivia Valentine, to **APPROVE** the video conference equipment purchase recommendation. No objection. So ordered.

**D. Special Networking Event – November 10**

Ms. Bacharach and Chair Drew Boyles shared that this event will be a public/private function, which is tentatively scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> (5:30 – 7:30 pm). Two local professional sports organizations have confirmed that they plan to attend (as speakers). Space is being donated with no-host bar. Will be a Brown Act meeting with the entire SBCCOG Board invited.

Board Member (Representative) Jennifer LaMarque mentioned that beach volleyball should be considered for the event.

**E. General Assembly**

Ms. Bacharach shared that it will be hosted in March 2022. It will be a shorter event that would end at lunch. Originally scheduled for March 17, 2022, we are now considering alternative date: March 24, 2022. The General Assembly working title is “Back to the Future: Imagining the South Bay”. We are looking to market the special networking event along with the General Assembly to generate enhanced sponsorship leads/opportunities. Open to suggestions for content, sponsorships, etc.

**F. South Bay Fiber Network**

SBCCOG staff is setting up meetings with other ISP vendors that would bring fiber connectivity to local businesses and residents (working with Magellan Advisors and American Dark Fiber). SBCCOG staff is also working with Wilmington (Board Member Joe Buscaino’s office) to open a neighborhood center accessing fiber connectivity, available to the community for their use. SBCCOG staff is available to facilitate SBFN “shovel” presentations at member City Council meetings.

**G. Homeless Services**

Ms. Bacharach shared that SBCCOG recently hired Ronson Chu (who worked previously at LAHSA) to manage the SBCCOG’s homeless services work, including municipal projects (via Measure H Innovation funding). SGVCOG staff helped review innovation funding project proposals (in addition to Nancy Wilcox, who has come to all of the interviews).

Christian Horvath recently became co-chair of LA County Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homeless Services (6-month timeframe) and is learning more about homeless issues and LAHSA. The Commission is tasked with developing guidelines to improve LAHSA that help local communities and municipalities address homeless issues. The City of Los Angeles has chosen not to participate. COGs are meeting to discuss homeless issues; municipalities can share homeless issues and thoughts with Ronson Chu.

**H. Senior Services**

Mr. Chu shared that the next working group meeting is on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Westside Villages will be presenting on their senior program while the meeting will also discuss ADUs, legislation, and upcoming projects.

**I. SPA 8 Working Group**

Board Member Hildy Stern shared that committee met last week, discussed priorities and feedback from attendees. They are looking at increasing information coming from County Department of Health to explore resources available to municipalities. They want to identify areas of health worthy of exploring in detail (e.g. mental health, senior and homeless populations). The next meeting date has yet to be confirmed.

**J. Media Report (attachment) NEW**

Ms. Bacharach shared that SBCCOG staff will be creating a media report for the organization that will be on consent calendar each month. “Quality, Relevance, Sentiment” are industry standard metrics that will be used to report the organization’s media significance. Social media presence continues to grow while SBCCOG staff is exploring whether to open an Instagram account for the organization.

**K. Brown Act Status – continue virtual or in person or hybrid?**

Ms. Bacharach shared that the Governor signed AB 361, which allows for continuation of emergency order (i.e. virtual meetings can continue for a gathering of elected officials). CalCOG is working on addressing modernization of the Brown Act in the next session.

Chair Drew Boyles would like to wait a month before deciding whether to meet in person, therefore, next month's meeting will remain virtual (via Zoom).

**L. Other**

Board Member Stacy Armato shared that SBCCOG's Legislative Briefing is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 10:45am (virtual). Confirmed legislators that will speak include Ted Lieu, Maxine Waters, Steve Bradford, Sydney Kamlager, and Al Muratsuchi. She encouraged Board members to reach out to share concerns, questions for local legislators, priorities, topic suggestions, feedback for the meeting.

Kim Fuentes shared that CivicSpark fellows have started at the Environmental Services Center, working on energy efficiency and climate action planning programs with member municipalities. SBCCOG will be hosting a special meeting with public facility staff, facility managers, fleet managers regarding underserved as well as pollution-burdened communities eligible for SCE's electric vehicle charging and purchase programs (7 South Bay cities qualify). The SoCalGas partnership is ending this year. Since 2010, SBCCOG saved 165,000 therms and \$225,000 in incentives for member municipalities.

Ms. Bacharach shared that SBCCOG's new and updated website will launch later this month.

**X. AGENCY REPORTS**

**NOTE: Oral reports are only made to clarify or amplify written attachments. All reports that were submitted or handed out are available online here: <https://www.southbaycities.org/committees/board-directors/board-directors-meeting-75>**

- A. Air Quality Management District** (Joe Buscaino & Stephano Padilla) – no oral report
- B. SCAG Committee**
  - 1. SCAG Regional Council (Drew Boyles, Mark Henderson, James Gazeley) – no oral report
  - 2. Transportation Committee (James Gazeley, Christian Horvath) – no oral report
  - 3. Community, Economic, & Human Development (Mark Henderson, Drew Boyles, Frank Zerunyan & Mark Waronek) – no oral report
- C. KHHR (Hawthorne Airport) Communities Network Committee** (Olivia Valentine) – no oral report
- D. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission** (Bill Brand/Eric Alegria) – no oral report
- E. South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce** (Olivia Valentine) – no oral report
- F. South Bay Aerospace Alliance** (Olivia Valentine/Rodney Tanaka) – no oral report
- G. California Association of Councils of Government – CALCOG** (Britt Huff) – no oral report

**XI. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

October 28, 2021: South Bay Economic Forecast Conference, CSUDH – 3 to 5:30 pm.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Drew Boyles adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm to Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

David Leger, Assistant Board Secretary