

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Legislative Committee  
September 2, 2021  
Meeting Minutes  
(Held virtually via Zoom)

**COMMITTEE CHAIR ARMATO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.**

**I. Welcome / Self-Introductions**

**In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:**

Stacey Armato, Chair (Hermosa Beach)	Christian Horvath (Redondo Beach)
Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)	Bea Dieringer (Rolling Hills)
Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)	

**Non-voting elected officials also in attendance:**

Zein Obagi (Redondo Beach)

**Also in attendance:**

Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)	Charles Gale (MWD)
David Leger (SBCCOG)	

**II. Public Comment** – no public comments received.

**III. Selection of Vice Chair**

Committee Members selected Zein Obagi to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee.

**IV. Committee Charter / Purpose and Goals Discussion** (*attachment*) – **APPROVED**

Mr. Leger and Ms. Bacharach reviewed the proposed Committee purpose and goals, which are required by SBCCOG by-laws.

Committee Member Valentine suggested that senior issues be added to the list of potential issue areas. She went on to ask how the Committee finds out about legislative items. Ms. Bacharach explained that they will come from the members of the Committee, cities, partner agencies such as CalCities, and other stakeholders.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member Horvath, to **APPROVE** the Committee Charter and Purpose and Goals as amended to include senior issues. No objection. So ordered.

**V. Guidelines for Taking Positions** (*attachment*) – **APPROVED**

Mr. Leger and Ms. Bacharach reviewed the proposed guidelines and process by which the SBCCOG would take positions on legislation. They took time to review special circumstances that would warrant the shortened process.

Committee Member Dieringer recommended adding public safety, senior issues, and perhaps a catch-all category so that if an issue doesn't fall squarely within a listed subject, the Committee would not be

prohibited from taking a position. She also suggested that the verbiage be loosened slightly to read “should” instead of “must”, as that will provide the Committee some flexibility. Lastly, she shared that she felt the Board should be contacted and make a decision on positions in every situation possible.

Ms. Bacharach explained that the legislative process is never perfectly clean and last-minute or emergency issues may arise that require non-standard processes at the SBCCOG, such as Committee approval of a position. However, in most cases, the Board will be voting on legislative positions. She also shared that due to the small staff at the SBCCOG, it becomes very tedious to monitor a very long legislative matrix, and that having multiple issue areas could be difficult to manage and do well.

Committee Member Horvath recommended including an item such as “Other issues of interest to the SBCCOG” to serve as a catch-all category.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Dieringer, seconded by Committee Member Horvath, to **APPROVE** the guidelines as amended to include senior issues, public safety issues, and an “other issues” category. No objection. So ordered.

## **VI. Updates on Metro Projects, Programs, and Initiatives**

### **A. Active Legislation (attachment) – APPROVED**

**MOTION** by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Horvath, to **APPROVE** the legislative matrix. No objection. So ordered.

### **B. 2-Year Bills List (attachment) – APPROVED**

Committee Chair Armato shared that SB 679 (Kamlager) is back as an active bill and is trying to get passed by the Legislature. Major concerns still exist, particularly around the makeup of the Board of the new government body that would be created. Similar to other regional boards like Metro, there could be a significant lack of small city representation on the governing board, as well as the potential tax on home sales that could be approved by that body. There could be situations where a city is paying taxes into the trust fund but doesn’t get access to the funding due to their average income levels in the community.

Ms. Bacharach noted that this is a situation where the Chair would probably be asked to sign a letter directly without Board approval because the legislative session ends prior to the next SBCCOG Board Meeting.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **SEND** a letter reiterating the SBCCOG’s monitor position but sharing concerns about the process by which the bill is moving forward. No objection. So ordered.

### **C. New Laws (attachment) – RECEIVED AND FILED**

Motion by Committee Member Dieringer, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to **RECEIVE AND FILE**. No objection. So ordered.

## **VII. 2022 Legislative Session**

- A.** Consider working with LA County (SD-2) on state subsidies for micromobility vehicles
- B.** Legislation in support of Local Travel Network implementation
- C.** Legislation on SBCCOG housing proposals

Committee Member Dieringer shared that she feels the organization should get behind the constitutional amendment that would cement local control over housing/zoning.

Committee Chair Armato noted that she would like to form a regional housing trust that is funded through the State Budget and is championed by one the SBCCOG's legislators.

Committee Member Dieringer also added that it may be time to renew discussions about redevelopment and state subsidies for affordable housing. She also recommended working to mitigate impacts of SB9 and SB10 such as prohibiting foreign investors or conglomerates from buying up properties and making it easier for individuals to get loans and buy properties so it is not just those with cash to burn that are purchasing.

Committee Member Horvath echoed Committee Member Dieringer's suggestion to mitigate SB9/10 impacts. Senator Allen seems open to amendments and now would be a good time to begin talking to him.

#### **VIII. October Legislative Briefing**

Committee Chair Armato shared that some Board Members have expressed concern that during the briefings, there is little dialogue between cities and the elected officials and that they are mostly talking to the cities instead of listening. Ms. Bacharach shared that this Committee could do some of the advance work and draft questions. Committee Chair Armato asked that Ms. Bacharach work with the city managers to collect issues and questions so that they can be reviewed at the next Legislative Committee meeting.

#### **IX. Announcements / Adjournment**

Committee Chair Armato adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m. to October 7, 2021 at 4:00 p. m.