

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Legislative Committee
March 9, 2022
Meeting Minutes
(Held virtually via Zoom)

COMMITTEE CHAIR ARMATO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:02 P.M.

I. Welcome / Self-Introductions

In attendance were the following voting SBCCOG Board Members:

Stacey Armato, Chair (Hermosa Beach)	Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)
Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)	Bernadette Suarez (Lawndale)

Also in attendance:

Maria Majcherek (Hawthorne)	David Leger (SBCCOG)
Jeff Kiernan (CalCities)	Ronson Chu (SBCCOG)
Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)	

II. Public Comment – no public comments received.

III. February 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes (attachment) – APPROVED

MOTION by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **APPROVE** the February 2022 minutes. No objection. So ordered.

IV. Update on South Bay Regional Housing Trust & Subcommittee Formation

Ms. Bacharach reported that SBCCOG staff and legal counsel prepared an overview document which covers the different types of regional housing trust models and included a pros/cons list. The item was handed out and is available online here: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/HANDOUT_03.2022-Housing-Trust-Fund-memo-overview-pros-cons-2.pdf

Ms. Bacharach went on to explain that a few city managers and community development directors provided feedback on the memo which included that participation should be voluntary and asked what fees/costs/assessments would be asked of participants. She also noted that she felt it was imperative to determine if cities are even interested in moving forward with the idea.

Chair Armato shared that she was concerned that cities are not fully understanding what the housing trust fund would provide to them, including access to funds to facilitate affordable housing, primarily funded through county/state/federal dollars. She added that she was recently at a meeting with Sen. Allen and Asm. Muratsuchi and asked if they would consider making a state budget request of \$50M to seed a South Bay regional housing trust. She shared that they were receptive to the idea but also wanted to see how many cities would be interested in participating. They also requested more information on how the San Gabriel Valley trust operates. Chair Armato concluded that the conversation went well, and prospects seemed high for a successful request, but time is working against efforts as important legislative/budgetary deadlines are approaching.

Committee Member Valentine noted that the pros/cons list is very helpful and that sharing the info with the possibility to receive \$50M in state funding might entice more participation. She also suggested that letters of interest might be a way to determine approximately how many cities might consider joining.

Committee Member Suarez asked for clarification on a letter of interest vs. commitment; how much more information is needed to be researched; and what the deadline for interest is to start the process. Ms. Bacharach explained that the letter of interest would essentially say the city supports moving forward with consideration, without a commitment to participate in the regional housing trust if it were to be created. Chair Armato added that other things that might need to be researched include the need for formation legislation compared to using existing JPA authority to form a housing trust; and what grants could cover towards administration, which could reduce city membership costs. Cities need to at least express interest in moving forward.

Chair Armato requested a short call with SBCCOG staff the following week to discuss next steps.

V. Update on SBCCOG Proposals for Legislation and Advocacy

A. SBCCOG legislative proposals for micromobility device rebates and NEV plan

1. City support letters and opportunities to provide testimony

Mr. Leger reminded the Committee that Asm. Muratsuchi is carrying the SBCCOG's Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Plan bill (AB 2432) which would allow cities to adopt plans that would allow the usage of "NEV" in signage/road markings in support of the Local Travel Network. Asm. Gipson is sponsoring AB 2074, the SBCCOG's micromobility rebate bill that would reduce costs for slow speed electric vehicles that would utilize the Local Travel Network.

Ms. Bacharach added that Asm. Gipson has been contacted by a private scooter company that is considering support for the bill. Assembly Transportation Committee consultants are recommending an income requirement, similar to the e-bike rebate program currently being developed through CARB. SBCCOG staff will be meeting with the consultant tomorrow to further discuss the income qualification amendment.

B. Legislative Matrix – RECOMMENDED BOARD APPROVAL

1. Federal Bill: "Housing for All Act of 2022" – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT
2. AB 1599: Prop 47 Repeal – SUPPORT

Mr. Kiernan shared that this bill was pulled and is likely not going to be moving.

3. AB 1944: Brown Act Modifications – SUPPORT

4. Ballot Measure: "The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act"

This ballot measure would restrict cities several aspects of local government taxes and fee structures, such as requiring sunset dates for taxes and subjects new city fees charged for a product/service to a new "actual cost" test.

Committee Member Suarez shared she has seen conflicting information about the ballot measure and would not recommend an oppose position at this time. She explained that the issue could be seen from both sides, noting that it could restrict cities' abilities, but could also provide additional taxpayer protection when there are already significant tax burdens.

Ms. Bacharach added that any Committee recommendations would go before the SBCCOG Board in April because there is no March meeting. If any bills were time critical, a revision to the Steering Committee agenda would have to go out. Mr. Kiernan noted that these policy committee bills would likely not be heard until late March, so there is likely no urgency to any of them.

MOTION by Committee Member Valentine, seconded by Committee Member Suarez, to **RECOMMEND BOARD SUPPORT** for AB 1599 and AB 1944 and **SUPPORT IN CONCEPT** for the “Housing for All Act of 2022”. No objection. So ordered.

VI. Announcements / Adjournment

Ms. Bacharach shared that the SBACC and CalCities have asked the SBCCOG to consider cancelling its April 14th Legislative Briefing and instead hold the joint Legislative Meet and Greet. If there is no objection from the Committee, the request will go to the Steering Committee for decision on Monday.

The Committee also discussed a return to in-person meetings. There is confusion around if/when Governor Newsom will be lifting the state of emergency that is waiving particular Brown Act requirements for virtual meetings. Chair Armato is happy to continue virtual meetings, and this was supported by Committee Member Suarez as well. Committee Member Valentine noted that although she prefers in-person, she will continue to do virtual meetings. Committee Member Tanaka added that he is okay with either option. The meetings will continue virtually for the time-being.

Committee Chair Armato adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m. to April 13, 2022, at 5:00 p. m.