

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Legislative Committee  
January 6, 2022  
Meeting Minutes  
(Held virtually via Zoom)

**COMMITTEE CHAIR ARMATO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:01 P.M.**

**I. Welcome / Self-Introductions**

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

|                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stacey Armato, Chair (Hermosa Beach) | Bernadette Suarez (Lawndale)  |
| Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)              | Bea Dieringer (Rolling Hills) |
| Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne)         | Luke Klipp (SD-4)             |

**Also in attendance:**

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG) | Ronson Chu (SBCCOG) |
| David Leger (SBCCOG)     |                     |

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

**III. Consent Calendar**

**A. December 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes (attachment) – APPROVED**

Committee Member Suarez asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the request to defer action on the gaming initiative was made by Mayor Cerda from Gardena.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Suarez, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar with the December 2, 2021, minutes amended as requested. No objection. So ordered.

**IV. Discussion on a potential South Bay Regional Housing Trust**

Ms. Bacharach briefly reviewed the information gathered since the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Committee meeting. Committee Chair Armato and SBCCOG staff met with RMG, a local developer who builds Section 8 housing with services on site. The group also met with SDS Capital who works with RMG to provide the funding for the projects. Subsequently, SBCCOG staff reached out to San Gabriel Valley COG staff to find out more about their housing trust model.

Ms. Bacharach then reviewed the four recommended actions which include:

1. Request BBK (SBCCOG legal counsel) look at the different housing and land trust models and develop a pros and cons document for SBCCOG Board consideration
2. Develop a list of questions that members would like answered in order to develop consensus on moving forward
3. Create a subcommittee and request City Manager and Finance Director participation along with SBCCOG Legal Counsel and members of the Legislative Committee to develop a recommendation which should include soliciting opinions from members that are not a part of this subcommittee.

4. Review recommendation at the February Legislative Committee and if there is agreement to moving forward, request that the SBCCOG legal counsel develop the steps and a timetable for establishing a South Bay Housing Trust Fund.

Committee Member Tanaka expressed his support for the staff recommendation and suggested Ms. Bacharach reach out to Gardena's City Manager and Finance Director for participation.

Committee Chair Armato highlighted the importance of #1 as the models being considered all have significant differences.

Ms. Bacharach asked that the Committee send her any questions that they would like asked as part of the subcommittee process.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of the staff recommendation by the SBCCOG Board. No objection. So ordered.

**V. Discussion on proposed CPUC decision revising Net Energy Metering Tariff and Subtariffs (Rulemaking 20-08-020) – RECOMMENDED SENDING LETTER OF OPPOSITION**

Ms. Bacharach noted that this issue being considered by the CPUC is very complex and that there are environmental groups on both sides of the issue. In summary, the issue at hand revolves around solar adopters and state policies incentivizing solar adoption, including net-energy metering which allows solar customers to sell back excess energy produced to utility companies. Utility companies also state that solar adopters also do not contribute to grid repairs and maintenance like their customers do. Ms. Bacharach likened the solar issue to road repairs and electric vehicle (EV) adoption. EV drivers do not contribute to road maintenance in the same way that gas vehicle drivers do as they do not pay gas taxes, which pay for significant portions of road maintenance budgets. Ms. Bacharach concluded by informing the Committee that she reached out to the Clean Power Alliance who shared that they are not taking a position on the issue at this time.

Committee Member Suarez commented that she did a lot of research trying to better understand the issue and shared similar conclusions. It appears something needs to change, but she was unsure if the CPUC rulemaking was the appropriate solution. She proposed the SBCCOG take an "oppose unless amended" position.

Committee Member Valentine shared that the state should continue encouraging solar adoption and noted how existing solar customers could be very resentful of these proposed changes. The solution to the issue should not be done on the backs of those who have adopted solar.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Suarez, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to **RECOMMEND** the SBCCOG send a letter opposing the CPUC rulemaking while supporting further discussion on the issue with all stakeholders. No objection. So ordered.

Ms. Bacharach reminded the Committee that their recommendation will be sent to the Steering Committee for final approval because the CPUC meeting takes place prior to the January SBCCOG Board meeting.

## **VI. Update on SBCCOG Proposals for legislation and advocacy**

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

Mr. Leger informed the Committee that Assemblymember Gipson has offered to introduce the two bills. Senator Allen's office has also offered support in the Senate and will be working with Assemblymember Gipson's staff.

### **B. Discussion on California ballot initiative 21-0032A1 "Apps Initiative" that would limit local restrictions on housing development**

Ms. Bacharach explained that this initiative was essentially introduced in response to the Our Neighborhood Voices initiative that would enshrine local control over housing development. There is language in this proposed initiative that states that should it receive more votes than the Our Neighborhood Voices initiative, the proposed "Apps Initiative" would make Our Neighborhood Voices null and void.

Committee Chair Armato shared that Mayor Brand was confident that the Apps Initiative would not receive enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Committee Member Tanaka noted that the SBCCOG should get out ahead of this new proposal and oppose it.

**MOTION** by Committee Member Tanaka, seconded by Committee Member Valentine, to **RECOMMEND OPPOSITION to the Apps Initiative.** No objection. So ordered.

### **C. Draft January Legislative Briefing Agenda and Questions for Legislators**

Ms. Bacharach explained that due to legislative sessions beginning, it has been difficult to get legislator participation in the upcoming Legislative Briefing and it looks to be just staff in attendance.

Committee Chair Armato asked if the Q&A portion should be removed given there is no legislator participation or if the questions should be provided in advance to the staff.

Committee Members agreed that questions should be provided to the offices in advance so staff can prepare responses in time for the meeting. The Committee went on to discuss potential questions including efforts to address homeless prevention efforts, conservatorship reform, COVID-19 supply issues, and impacts of criminal justice reforms.

Committee Chair Armato asked staff to prepare a refined list of questions based on Committee feedback which can be sent out to the legislative offices in advance of the briefing.

## **VII. Announcements / Adjournment**

Committee Member Dieringer noted that this Committee meeting occasionally conflicts with CalCities-LA Division meetings and asked for consideration of a different meeting day that would avoid that conflict. Staff will send out a poll to solicit feedback on alternative options.

Committee Chair Armato adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m. to January 6, 2022, at 5:00 p. m.