

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Legislative Committee
February 3, 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)	Bill Uphoff (Lomita)
Chris Pimentel (El Segundo)	Bea Dieringer (Rolling Hills)
Rodney Tanaka (Gardena)	Frank Zerunyan (Rolling Hills Estates)
Bernadette Suarez (Lawndale)	

Other non-voting elected officials in attendance were:

Tasha Cerda (Gardena)

Also in attendance:

Clint Osorio (Gardena)	Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)
Charles Gale (MWD)	David Leger (SBCCOG)
Jeff Kiernan (CalCities)	Ronson Chu (SBCCOG)

II. Public Comment – no public comments received.

III. Consent Calendar

A. January 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes (attachment) – APPROVED

MOTION by Committee Member Uphoff, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar. No objection. So ordered.

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

Ms. Bacharach reported that City Managers Bruce Moe, Suja Lowenthal, and Ara Mihranian volunteered to participate in the subcommittee. The subcommittee will first meet on February 7th at 1pm to begin the conversation. Ms. Bacharach asked that the Committee send any questions that they want discussed to her prior to the meeting.

V. SB 9 Legal Action by Cities

Ms. Bacharach briefly discussed the legal action taken by several cities, including some in the South Bay, aimed at fighting SB 9.

Ms. Bacharach asked the Committee if any members had heard about the “Our Neighborhood Voices” Initiative ceasing the signature collection process. No members had heard that, but Committee Chair Armato noted that she sent a message to Mayor Brand to inquire. Mayor Brand informed her that the signature gathering process is continuing to move forward.

VI. Ballot proposition: California Sports Wagering Regulation and Unlawful Gambling Enforcement Act – RECOMMENDED OPPOSITION

Committee Member Suarez reported that the Gateway Cities COG recently voted to oppose the initiative. Despite legalized in-person sports wagering, roulette, and dice games, if passed, the initiative would negatively impact South Bay cities including Inglewood and Gardena by restricting sports wagering to federally recognized Indian tribes on Indian lands in the state or licensed racing associations. Committee Member Suarez made a motion to oppose the ballot proposition, which was seconded by Committee Member Tanaka. Committee Member Tanaka then noted that Gardena Mayor Cerda was trying to join the meeting and asked that the Committee hold off on the vote until she has had an opportunity to comment.

Mayor Cerda recommended the Committee hold off on taking a position as there are other initiatives still circulating and that the California Supreme Court is currently looking at the eligibility of this initiative being on the ballot. Committee Chair Armato asked Mayor Cerda why she was concerned that opposing this initiative would preclude the SBCCOG from supporting one that is favorable to cities. Mayor Cerda reiterated that she felt the action was premature.

Committee Member Suarez shared her concern that if the other initiatives fail to qualify, opponents of this initiative would have lost valuable time in opposing an initiative that is already qualified for the ballot. She went on to ask Mayor Cerda how far along in the signature gathering process the city-backed initiative was. Mayor Cerda noted that she does not have a specific signature count, but that the initiative is expected to qualify.

Committee Member Uphoff noted that he would recommend waiting until more is known about the other initiatives.

Committee Chair Armato noted that there was a motion on the floor.

MOTION by Committee Member Suarez, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to **RECOMMEND BOARD OPPOSITION** to the ballot proposition (19-0029A1). No objection. Abstention by Committee Member Tanaka. Motion passes. So ordered.

Committee Chair Armato thanked Mayor Cerda for her time and leadership on this issue and recommended she keep the Committee up to date on the city-backed initiative's status.

VII. 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 had originally offered to introduce the two bills, however, was only able to move forward with the rebate bill this session. The NEV plan bill language had been drafted, but a new sponsor must be identified. SBCCOG staff will be reaching out to Assemblymember Muratsuchi to request his sponsorship.

B. CPUC Net-Metering Proposed Rulemaking

Ms. Bacharach explained that the CPUC had removed this item from the agenda at its last meeting. It was originally understood that the item would not be coming back in the near term. However, Ms. Bacharach heard that it may be temporary and that the item may in fact be heard by the CPUC. She recommended that cities remain engaged and continue to monitor the issue.

C. Legislative Matrix – RECOMMENDED BOARD APPROVAL

1. Federal Bill: “EVs for All” – SUPPORT

2. SB 342: SCAQMD Board Membership – OPPOSE

Mr. Leger briefly reviewed the two proposed bills for consideration and the recommended positions.

Committee Member Dieringer expressed her concern with supporting the EVs for All bill without it being formally introduced and knowing exactly what it did. Ms. Bacharach explained that the bill would authorize funding to support EV car sharing programs at public housing sites nationwide. The Rancho San Pedro community currently has an EV car sharing program.

MOTION by Committee Member Uphoff, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to **RECOMMEND BOARD SUPPORT** for the EVs for All Act. No objection. So ordered.

MOTION by Committee Member Dieringer, seconded by Committee Member Tanaka, to **RECOMMEND BOARD OPPOSITION** to SB 342. No objection. So ordered.

VIII. Meeting Date Change

Mr. Leger reviewed the results of the meeting date poll. The Committee decided to move forward with a change in meeting dates. Beginning in March, the Committee will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5pm.

IX. Announcements / Adjournment

Ms. Bacharach shared that Mr. Chu wanted to inform the Committee of an ongoing issue with housing vouchers provided to the County through the American Rescue Plan. He explained that the emergency housing vouchers were offered as a pandemic recovery tool, but too many are not being used. He went on to explain some of the issues including the lengthy approval process; short windows to identify an apartment; credit score requirements; landlords' unfriendliness to Section 8 vouchers; and compliance issues.

Mr. Chu went on to note that the County has started to incentivize landlords by offering to provide funding to pay for upgrade costs to bring units into compliance with the voucher requirements as part of the inspection process. Ms. Bacharach added that this issue has been brought to the attention of Supervisors Hahn and Mitchell as well. She asked the Committee if there was anything that they thought the SBCCOG should be doing to address the issue.

Committee Member Dieringer noted the County may want to consider other legal protections such as hold-harmless agreements in exchange for accepting the vouchers. There appears to be a lot of risk to the landlord that they may not want to take on.

Committee Chair Armato added that although some voucher recipients may be a risk, that overall, Section 8 recipients are among the best tenants due to the long wait-periods to be accepted. There may be need for an educational effort.

Committee Member Suarez shared that she used to work in property management and that in addition to the frustrations surrounding the inspection process, many landlords need on-time and consistent payments in order to meet mortgage responsibilities.

Committee Chair Armato recommended that SBCCOG staff prepare a FAQ sheet on Section 8 and start

spreading the word.

Mr. Kiernan announced that CalCities had sent out an action alert on the California Business Roundtable ballot measure that would restrict revenues for city finances. The CalCities Board opposed the measure and is currently asking cities and partners to do the same.

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