

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM & IN-PERSON AT THE SBCCOG OFFICE
2355 CRENSHAW BLVD. SUITE 125, TORRANCE, CA 90501
(RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE: <https://youtu.be/UNFqQvrikC8>)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair John Cruikshank of Rancho Palos Verdes called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

II. VERIFY QUORUM

In attendance were the following voting elected officials

Cedrick Hicks, Carson
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena
Alex Monteiro, Hawthorne
Ray Jackson, Hermosa Beach
Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado, LA County D2
Jennifer LaMarque Zivkovic, LA County D4
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale

David Lesser, Manhattan Beach
John Cruikshank, Rancho Palos Verdes
Patrick Wilson, Rolling Hills
Debby Stegura, Rolling Hills Estates

Also in attendance were the following non-voting elected officials:

Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Jeff Kiernan, CalCities
Mark Dierking, Metro
Mike Bohlke, Metro Deputy to Mayor Butts
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Stephen Sawyer, Charter Communications/Spectrum
Ronson Chu, SBCCOG
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Lara Gerges, SBCCOG

Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG
Marni Ruhland, SBCCOG
Karen Kanda, SBCCOG volunteer
Chelsea Schreiber, South Bay resident
Colleen Villegas, South Bay resident
Ray Hollar, Lawndale resident
Niki Negrete-Mitchell, South Bay resident
Robyn Ramsey

III.CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA BY TORRANCE CITY CLERK

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach requested that the Caltrans presentation proceed before the public comment and consent calendar portion of the agenda.

V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Redondo Beach resident Holly Osborne provided public comment; her full comment is here:
<https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Public-Comment- Holly-Osborne-BOD-5.25.23.pdf>

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. April 27, 2023 minutes (*attachment*) – Approve

- B. Resolution 2023-1 Designating the SBCCOG Treasurer (*attachment*) – Approve
- C. Agreement with CivicWell for Civic Spark Fellows (*attachment*) – Approve
- D. I.T. Sonic Wall Security Licenses for SBCCOG (*attachments*) – Approve
- E. Revised Financial Policies and Procedures (*attachment*) – Approve
- F. Trademarking the Rolling Turtle (*attachment*) – Approve
- G. Legislative Matrix (*attachment*) – Approve
- H. Reimbursement to City of Torrance for Fencing (*attachment*) – Approve
Please note that this item did not go to the Steering Committee

MOTION by Board Member Obagi, seconded by Board Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** the consent calendar with the following amendments:

VI.A. April 27, 2023 minutes: Board Member Bea Dieringer of Rolling Hills requested to add the following language to be reflected in the minutes: “Board Member Dieringer stated that she misunderstood the two-part nature of the motion and was opposed to the dues increase portion and voted against the motion.”

VI.E. Revised Finance Policies and Procedures: Board Member Dieringer requested to add the following language: “The Executive Director will designate an Administrative Officer to assist the Treasurer in the performance of his or her duties.”

Abstention from Board Member Wilson, No Objections. **MOTION** Passes.

Monthly Reports – Receive and File

NOTE: All reports that were submitted or handed out are available online here:
<https://southbaycities.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-86/>

- 1. Transportation Report (*attachment*)
- 2. City Attendance at SBCCOG meetings (*attachment*)
- 3. Media Report (*attachment*)
- 4. Reports from Outside Agencies (*attachments for each at end of the agenda*)
 - a. League of California Cities & LA Division Legislative Committee (Britt Huff, Bea Dieringer & Jeff Kiernan)
 - b. SCAG Update (Erik Rodriguez)
 - i. SCAG Energy and Environment Committee (Britt Huff)
 - ii. Community, Economic, & Human Development (Mark Henderson, Drew Boyles, Frank Zerunyan & Mark Waronek)
- 5. South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle)
- 6. AQMD Update (Brandee Keith, Sr. Public Affairs Specialist, AQMD)
- 7. Metro Service Council (Don Szerlip)

VII. PRESENTATIONS – (all prepared presentations are posted @ <https://southbaycities.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-86/>)

1. Caltrans District 7 Director Gloria Roberts

Gloria Roberts provided an overview on Caltrans and current major projects/funding programs including: the Solutions for Congested Corridor Program which has provided funding to the Inglewood Transit Connector and the Metro CORE project on the Green Line; the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program that has funded SBCCOG’s Local Travel Network refinement in partnership with Inglewood; and Caltrans’ focus on mobility hubs. She emphasized that safety is a matter of equity and the importance of ensuring transportation networks fit and serve the community and provides access to all modes of travel for mobility. Additionally, Ms. Roberts cited that climate action is critical for California, especially as the the 4th largest economy in the world. As the population increases in LA County, Ms. Roberts noted that building infrastructure alone will not improve congestion, and that consideration for restoration is a key component within climate action investments to preserve and sustain existing infrastructure. Additionally, the organization centers an economic prosperity focus as it pertains to investments from federal and state

funding and informs how Caltrans works with agencies like the SBCCOG. Ms. Roberts shared about the Clean CA Program with \$1.3 billion designated to beautify public spaces and invited cities to apply. She discussed the Middle Mile Broadband Network, which is part of Caltrans equity program to extend reliable access to the internet, including 14 miles of fiber network slated to be installed in the South Bay for use of various forms of transportation.

Ms. Robert detailed the Vincent Thomas Bridge Deck Replacement Project and the extension of the public comments period to July 10th. To ensure community engagement throughout the life of the project, she mentioned plans to form an advisory committee to uplift public stakeholder inputs into the planning and construction process. Of special note is the goal to keep lanes open on the bridge. Chair Cruikshank encouraged Caltrans to communicate that the full lane closure will be only during certain times. Rolling Hills Board Member Patrick Wilson asked about mitigating the number of trucks and additional car traffic off the bridge and asked to be considered for the advisory committee. Ms. Roberts reported that the bridge is 60 years old and remarked that the current proposed plan is the most economical for the deck replacement. LA County District 4 Board Member Jennifer La Marque asked about the timeline for finalizing the Advisory Committee with Ms. Roberts stating that the agency is moving forward quickly to finalize the 20-25 Advisory Committee. The presentation is here using the following link:

https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION-HANDOUT_SBCCOG-May-25-Caltrans-Projects.pdf

2. Vincent Thomas Bridge Rehab Discussion (at request of Councilmember McOsker)

(comment letter from SBCCOG attached) – Approve

MOTION by Board Member Obagi, seconded by Board Member Wilson, to **APPROVE** the Vincent Thomas Bridge Rehab comment letter. No abstentions, No objections. Motion passes.

3. Work Program - Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

Ms. Bacharach discussed the 5 major areas of success of the organization in 2022-2023 including leveraging outside funding, expanding the South Bay Fiber Network, Local Travel Network Project, the South Bay Housing Trust, and Agency Recognition Program and Equipment Inventory. She reported that most of the revenues stem from contracts and grants. Ms. Bacharach shared staff changes including the pending departures of Steve Lantz, Laurie Jacobs, Ghia Horton, and Shawn Fujioka and emphasized the importance of hiring and growing the expertise of the SBCCOG and updating policies and procedures. She highlighted continuing major programs such as rail development for the Green line and the ADU project to determine if those dwellings are being used for its intended purposes and if they are a viable way to address housing issues. Moreover, Ms. Bacharach highlighted collaborations with cities, partners, and funders and emphasized how it is key to the organization's continued success. Manhattan Beach Board Member David Lesser thanked Steve Lantz for his contributions to the SBCCOG and the region. The presentation is here using the following link: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION_2023-24-Work-Program-FINAL.pdf

2023-2024 Draft Budget Review – Lara Gerges, Marni Ruhland, SBCCOG

SBCCOG Administrative Officer Lara Gerges reviewed the proposed budget and highlighted that the reserve was fully funded. She touched on the fact the SBCCOG continues to be heavily grant funded, while noting new sources of funding including Local Solutions Funding, SoCalGas Company, West Basin MWD, Reap 2.0 and Local Agency Technical Assistance. Rolling Hills Estates Board Member Debby Stegura asked about the SBCCOG reserve policy, with Deputy Director Kim Fuentes noting \$405,000 in reserve balance and that the figure was based on cost estimates to close down the organization should it be necessary to do so. Rolling Hills Board Member Bea Dieringer requested a chart delineating the transitional costs of current contractors becoming employees and asked about plans to ensure there is no additional cost. Ms. Bacharach noted that the positions with the full ranges in the agenda packet and Chair Cruikshank emphasized that the Board made the decision for the transition to be in compliance with state law. The presentation is available using the following link:

https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION_SBCCOG-FY2023-2024-Draft-Proposed-Budget-Overview.pdf

VIII. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Nominating Committee report – Open Nominations from the Floor (*attachment*)

Chair Cruikshank shared that the Nominating Committee interviewed several Board Members including Board Members Chris Pimentel, Bernadette Suarez, and Bill Uphoff. It was a difficult decision, but the Committee voted to recommend El Segundo Board Member Chris Pimentel as the 2nd Vice Chair. Lawndale Board Member Bernadette Suarez discussed the importance of allowing SBCCOG cities to rotate within the chair positions given the diverse region and noted her years of service as part of the SBCCOG Board. Redondo Beach Board Member Zein Obagi nominated Board Member Suarez to be considered for 2nd Vice Chair, to which Hawthorne Board Member Alexandre Monteiro agreed. The Board officially opened nominations.

B. SBESC projects and programs

Deputy Director Kim Fuentes communicated that she attended the AQMD meeting and noted that the federal government is looking to reduce the particulate matter levels for cities even more. The SBESC report is available using the following link: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/16_05.2023-Staff-Updates.pdf

C. Transportation Reports

1. Metro Report – Board member James Butts/Steve Lantz

Mr. Lantz reported Metro approved a \$9B budget for FY23-24 which includes an increase in staffing; approved operating improvements implementing NextGen improvements; low income fare programs; and additional cleaning and security programs. Metro will be rehabilitating structural elements of the Green Line throughout the year. The Metro Board also approved the use of South Bay Measure M SEP funds towards the Inglewood Transit Connector project. Ms. Bacharach asked Mr. Lantz is Metro provided any indication on the \$22M in SEP funds previously allocated to the Crenshaw lines cost-overruns. He said that they did not address it. Ms. Bacharach added that Metro indicated they would not be returning the funds and that Metro will be trying to get LA City to pay their share.

a. Green Line extension EIR status update – no update provided

2. Crenshaw Operating Plan Option (*attachment*) – tabled

3. Transportation Committee report – Chris Pimentel/Steve Lantz

D. Local Travel Network – no update

E. SCAG REAP

1. Commercial Redevelopment to Housing study – no update

2. Housing Education Forums (*attachments*) – no update

3. REAP 2.0 – no update

F. South Bay Fiber Network (7:50 pm) – no update

G. Homeless Services

SBCCOG Staff member Ronson Chu reported on the May 10 meeting with City Managers and staff that focused on the SBCCOG taking on a more direct service role for providing client aid, housing locators, subsidies and motel stays to the unhoused. Mr. Chu also noted that the next meeting will focus on the Blue Ribbon Commission Report. He emphasized that family systems are at capacity and the SBCCOG is helping the case managers to assist families with enrollment to receive benefits as a way of providing local solutions for houselessness programming.

H. SPA 8 Working Group

I. Senior Services

Rolling Hills Estates Board Member Britt Huff mentioned Supervisor Hahn's LA Found Program www.lafound.lacounty.gov, which provides lifesaving tracking bracelets for those with dementia and noted the program had distributed over 1,080 trackers. Ms Huff also mentioned presentation by Dr. Alicia Chang from LA County DHS which highlighted that seniors still are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the recommendations that seniors obtain the bivalent boosters.

IX. 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://southbaycities.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-86/>

- A. County Department of Public Health information flyers (Lindsey Lastra)
- B. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Dean Francois/Eric Alegria)
- C. California Association of Councils of Governments - CALCOG (Britt Huff)
- D. South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (Eric Alegria)
- E. South Bay Aerospace Alliance (Bill Uphoff/Rodney Tanaka)
- F. Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (Katrina Manning)

X. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hawthorne Board Member Alex Monteiro shared that the city's pallet shelter program was full and thanked the SBCCOG for its help getting it open. He also announced the city working on a road project to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and roadway operations that was funded through the SBCCOG's Measure R program. Rolling Hills Board Member Dieringer shared her appreciation of the SBCCOG and invited members to the August 3rd Installation Program for the CalCities. Jeff Kiernan of the CalCities noted that AB 817, AB 1379 and AB 1708 are now 2-year bills and shared his report which accessible using the following link: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/19_League-Updates-for-SBCCOG-5.23-by-JKIERNAN.pdf. Hermosa Beach Board Member Jackson, Redondo Beach Board Member Obagi and Rolling Hills Estates Board Member Huff invited Board members to each of their cities' Memorial Day celebrations and ceremonies. LA County District 4 Board Member Jennifer LaMarque Zivkovic highlighted LA Fleet Week, and LA County District 2 Board Member Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado discussed the district's upcoming Juneteenth event and CicLAvia.

XI. CLOSED SESSION – EXECUTIVE SESSION re: Personnel

No reportable action was taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cruikshank adjourned the meeting in the memory of Former SBCCOG Chair and Lomita Mayor and Councilmember Ken Blackwood at 8:06 pm to Closed Session and the next board meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Natalie Champion, SBCCOG Staff