

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM & IN-PERSON AT SBCCOG OFFICES**  
**2355 CRENSHAW BLVD. SUITE 125, TORRANCE, CA 90501**  
**(RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE: [https://youtu.be/Mdp6dRyo\\_gI](https://youtu.be/Mdp6dRyo_gI))**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Councilmember John Cruikshank of Rancho Palos Verdes called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**II. VERIFY QUORUM**

**In attendance were the following voting elected officials:**

Cedric Hicks, Carson	Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado, LA County D-2
Drew Boyles, El Segundo	David Lesser, Manhattan Beach
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	Victoria Lozzi, Palos Verdes Estates
Alexandre Monteiro, Hawthorne	John Cruikshank, Rancho Palos Verdes
Justin Massey, Hermosa Beach	Zein Obagi, Redondo Beach
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale	Debby Stegura, Rolling Hills Estates
Tim McOsker, Los Angeles	George Chen, Torrance

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

Mark Henderson, Gardena  
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates  
Asam Sheikh, Torrance

**Also, in attendance were the following persons:**

Sergio Carrillo, Los Angeles D-15	Dakota Townson, SBCCOG
Jessalyn Waldron, LA County D-2	Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Elaine Jeng, Rolling Hills	Lara Gerges, SBCCOG
Linda Hunter, Rincon Consultants	Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG
Stephen Sawyer, Charter	Wally Siembab, SBCCOG
Sara Patterson, SCAG	David Leger, SBCCOG
Mark Dierking, Metro	Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG
Brandy Villanueva, Area G DMAC	Ronson Chu, SBCCOG
Jeff Kiernan, CalCities	Jonathan Pacheco Bell, SBCCOG
Lindsey Lastra, LA County Dept of Public Health	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG	Holly Osborne, Redondo Beach resident
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG	

**III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

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

**IV. BROWN ACT DECLARATION**

Pursuant to AB 361, the Board of Directors finds that a statewide state of emergency remains in force and State and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing

**MOTION** by Board Member Massey, seconded by Board Member Boyles, to **APPROVE** the Brown Act Declaration.  
No objection. Motion passes.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None**

**VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Holly Osborne, a resident of Redondo Beach, provided a public comment regarding the Green Line and stated that she found mistakes in figures within the environmental impact report. She requested a simpler way to review the report to make edits as necessary. SBCCOG Transportation Director Steve Lantz recommended contacting Mark Dierking of Metro to review her recommended edits.

## **VII. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A.** November 17, 2022 minutes (*attachment*) – **Approved**

**MOTION** by Board Member Hicks, seconded by Board Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** the minutes with several members acknowledging that they were not present. Approved without objection.

- B.** Contract with Water Replenishment District (\$72,000 for the SBCCOG) (*attachment*) – Approved

- C.** Silvernest Partnership Renewal (\$2500 from the SBCCOG) (*attachment*) – Approve d

- D.** Contract Extension with Black and Veatch (*attachment*) – Approved

**NOTE:** *Items E & F were received after the Steering Committee meeting*

- E.** Contract Modification with ICF (\$25,000 to the SBCCOG & extension to 8/24) (*attachment*) – Approved

- F.** Clean Power Alliance Room Usage Agreement (*attachment*) – Approved

- G.** Actions of Steering Committee since last Board meeting (*attachment*) – Received and filed

- H.** Monthly Reports – Received and Filed

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 Regional Council (Drew Boyles, Mark Henderson, James Gazeley)

- c. AQMD update (Brandee Keith, Sr. Public Affairs Specialist, AQMD)

- d. County Department of Public Health information flyers (Lindsey Lastra)

- e. SCAG Energy & Environment Committee (Britt Huff)

**MOTION** by Board Member Hicks, seconded by Board Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** Consent Calendar Items. B-H. No objections. No abstentions. Motion passes.

## **VIII. PRESENTATIONS** – available on the website: <https://southbaycities.org/event/board-of-directors-meeting-82/>

- A. Welcome to Newly Elected South Bay City Councilmembers & Brief Orientation** (6:15 pm)

Chair Cruikshank asked board members to introduce themselves and share about their interests. Mayor George Chen shared he has been in the office for 6 months and introduced Councilperson Asam Sheikh, newly elected to the Torrance City Council. Hawthorne Councilperson Alexandre Monteiro shared he was recently re-elected for 5 years and serves as the delegate for the SBCCOG and appreciates the work being done at the SBCCOG. El Segundo Mayor Drew Boyles stated he loves the SBCCOG and Carson Councilperson Cedric Hicks mentioned he has been with the SBCCOG since 2016 and has been on the Carson City Council for 8 years and serves as the SBCCOG 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Gardena Councilperson Rodney Tanaka highlighted that there is so much knowledge at the SBCCOG and noted his role as the SBCCOG 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair. Gardena Councilperson Mark Henderson noted that he serves on the SCAG Regional Council. Rolling Hills Estates Mayor Britt Huff shared she was recently re-elected for her 3<sup>rd</sup> term and has been a member of the SBCCOG since 2013 and introduced the current delegate for her city, Councilperson Debbie Stegura who was elected in 2020. She is interested in how the SBCCOG leverages the collective power of the South Bay cities. Manhattan Beach Councilperson David Lesser discussed his tenure from 2011 to 2019 and emphasized that the South Bay is stronger when working collaboratively through the SBCCOG, especially in attaining grants and advocating for investments in South Bay infrastructure and highlighted his interests in housing and environmental efficacy. HermosaBeach Councilperson Justin Massey is replacing former Councilperson Stacey Armato on the SBCCOG board and noted the diversity of communities represented within the SBCCOG, which enriches the experience and challenges regionally. Los Angeles Councilmember Tim McOsker of the 15<sup>th</sup> district mentioned an interest in working together, especially around homelessness. Councilperson Victoria Lozzi of Palos Verdes Estates discussed that this is her second term and her background is in finance. Lawndale Councilperson Bernadette Suarez shared that the SBCCOG allows for collaboration, sharing of expertise and generates results. Redondo Beach Councilperson Zein Obaji noted he is excited to work with the SBCCOG. Board Member Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado stated he works for Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and he appreciates how cities work together through the SBCCOG. Ms. Bacharach introduced the SBCCOG staff and invited other meeting attendees to introduce themselves. Board Member Boyles shared takeaways from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, notably the Live 9-1-1 and policing technology and encouraged Board Members to attend in the future.

## **B. Quarterly Update from Department of Public Health**

Lindsey Lastra, senior public health analyst, L.A. Department of Public Health (DPH) Service Planning Area 8, provided a quarterly update on wellness related topics. **Regarding COVID-19, she shared that** the numbers of documented positive cases are decreasing. However, since many are now testing at home, this doesn't necessarily reflect the true number of positive cases. DPH reminds the public to take the following steps to minimize the impact of new COVID strains including masking indoors in public spaces and for at least 10 days upon returning to work and school, or after high-risk activities, such as travel; testing before gatherings; staying home when sick and staying up to date on the bivalent boosters for COVID and the seasonal flu vaccine. Ms. Lastra discussed that DPH is working to re-establish support lost during the pandemic for schools with community engagement efforts to educate about public health initiatives. Examples include fentanyl presentations/outreach, school mandated vaccine support, an oral health initiative, and AmeriCorps member recruitment. DPH is hiring 10 AmeriCorp members to be part of its community engagement team. Those interested should visit [www.hsp-inc.com/ameriicorps/](http://www.hsp-inc.com/ameriicorps/). Ms. Lastra also discussed the **Curtis Tucker Center for Community Wellness (CCW)** and how the center hosts free produce distributions every fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

## **C. Quarterly Update from Area G**

Brandy Villanueva, Area G disaster management area coordinator, provided a quarterly update. Area G serves 14 South Bay cities, which include El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates and Torrance. Villanueva works with city managers and emergency managers to ensure emergency management plans are in place. She also oversees Alert SouthBay, a program that provides timely, accurate, emergency alert and warning notifications to residents through an integrated, standardized, cross-jurisdictional notification platform. L.A County recently launched a new evacuation system called Zonehaven. Villanueva is working with the county to launch the system on the hill to aid with potential wildfire evacuations.

## **IX. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### **A. General Assembly**

Ms. Bacharach explained that the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly will take place Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's theme is "The South Bay: Leading the Way in Resilience and Adaptability." U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy for the Office of Electricity Gene Rodrigues will keynote the event. Ms. Bacharach shared that the SBCCOG is looking for more sponsorship and to contact Rosemary Lackow at [rosemary@southbaycities.org](mailto:rosemary@southbaycities.org). Chair Cruikshank requested Jacki to send a template letter for sponsorship to the Board Members so they could share with prospective sponsors. Ms. Bacharach also requested Board members register to attend using the following link: <https://southbaycities.org/event/23rd-annual-general-assembly/>.

### **B. Local Travel Network**

Ms. Bacharach mentioned that the SBCCOG is reviewing applications for Measure M funds and working with the City of El Segundo to fast track the LTN. She cited that micro-mobility is not part of the state discussion currently. She will meet with the Strategic Growth Council, arranged by the CA Transportation Commission to discuss density and linking it to a micro-mobility strategy.

### **C. SCAG REAP**

1. ADU study
2. Commercial Redevelopment to Housing study
3. Housing Education Forums (*attachment*)
4. REAP 2.0

Jonathan Pacheco Bell discussed REAP (regional early action planning grants) and discussed that REAP 1.0 is focused on planning projects for ADU (accessory dwelling units). He shared that the ADU survey is almost complete, and that outreach included door to door contacts, with 817 recipients and a response rate of 11.4 percent, double the statewide survey done by UC Berkeley. Additionally, he discussed notable preliminary findings, including how family and friends are primary tenants living in ADU, the considerable amount of market-rate ADU inventory, the desire for best practice guides, and an interest in learning about micro-mobility and housing policy comparisons across various cities. The ADU survey will be complete in early February, with the ADU acceleration portion of the grant forecasted to be completed in June 2023. Jonathan explained that the SBCCOG is hosting a virtual housing education forum to provide government leaders, planners and staff in South Bay cities and Los Angeles County the opportunity to learn about housing laws, sustainability, and design, among other related topics. The second session will be featuring a guest speaker from the HCD, Thursday, February 2, 2023 from noon to 1 p.m. He advised attendees to RSVP and

contact him if they have questions. Regarding REAP 2.0, the focus is on implementation, with potential for additional grant funding through a Metro partnership. The grant proposal with Metro focuses on education support, a feasibility study for dis-advantaged communities to incorporate micro-mobility, and the state of micro-mobility in the South Bay. Direct funding to SBCCOG is for 2 projects: the South Bay Regional Housing Trust formation analysis and Commercial Redevelopment, with deadlines in March.

**D. Legislative Issues – State Budget Request (attachment)**

Ms. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG sent \$2 million request to South Bay legislators so that funds from the State budget could be used for programs to advance sustainability in the South Bay to meet State goals. These include more projects around renewable energy and storage, microgrids, and digital applications in neighborhoods. Meetings are being arranged with Senator Ben Allen and other legislators to determine the best approach. In collaboration with the League of Cal Cities, the SBCCOG is tentatively planning a meeting with legislators on March 10 at Cal State University Dominguez Hills from 8 am to 10 am. Jeff Kiernan of the League of CA Cities shared a handout regarding the League’s budget ask available using the following link: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HANDOUT\\_League-CA-Cities-2023-24-State-Budget-Requests.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HANDOUT_League-CA-Cities-2023-24-State-Budget-Requests.pdf). Lastly, Jeff mentioned the League may introduce legislation amending the Brown Act to allow bodies to meet virtually, prior to the February 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. Jeff Kiernan shared that Project Home Key must be sustained through cities and that the League is looking to review the gaps in funding

**E. Finance Committee**

Ms. Bacharach invited Board members to serve on the Finance Committee, which is planning to have three meetings, starting February 1 at 5 pm with topics focused on dues, project funding and recommendations to the Board.

**F. Homeless Services**

Ronson Chu shared a presentation on the Emergency Winter Shelter, with the SBCCOG helping 37 residents in need during the Winter storms> He also shared other notable updates accessible via his presentation using the following link: [https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION\\_Homeless-Services-Report\\_Board-Ronson-Slides-1.26.23-.pdf](https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION_Homeless-Services-Report_Board-Ronson-Slides-1.26.23-.pdf) Furthermore, Mr. Chu emphasized that many tenants are at risk of becoming homeless due to the impending end to the eviction moratorium. Mr. Chu shared the following resources available to tenants and landlords:

- Housing Rights Center Tenant Protections – Housing Rights Hotline: 1-800-477-5977
- Stay Housed LA – StayHousedLA.org; 1-888-694-0040 (provides free or low-cost legal aid and community support)
- Free Tenant Power Toolkit – TenantPowerToolkit.org (online guide to complete an answer to respond to an eviction)
- LA County Self Help Center – SelfHelp.lacourt.org (virtual appointments to complete an answer and other forms with Los Angeles Superior Court)

**G. Transportation Reports**

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

Steve Lantz discussed the SBCCOG Measure R budget requests sent to Metro and emphasized that Metro is grappling with the homelessness crisis, particularly at stations and at the end of the lines. Metro is considering a few possible solutions including routing the unhoused to cities for assistance and identifying what a more encompassing role for Metro could be for assisting houseless riders. Additionally, Mr. Lantz discussed Metro’s proposed amendment to its Customer Code of Conduct to consider legal and civil ramifications for addressing unhoused riders.

2. Transportation Committee report – Chris Pimentel/Steve Lantz

Regarding the Transportation Committee meeting, Mr. Lantz stated he updated the deadlines for Measure M and R to notify cities what is needed, and that the majority of the meeting focused on the state of good repair issue and that at 25 years old there is a need for major retrofit updates to the transit lines. Metro staff explained the approach to renewing and providing updates to the lines to maximize efficacy. Jacki mentioned the Draft EIR for the Metro Green Line and the plans to discuss at the next Board Meeting. Mark Dierking of Metro added that the EIR process included community inputs, CEQA analysis, traffic studies and construction schedules.

3. Green Line Bus Tour and Public Hearing Notice (*flyers attached*)

In preparation for this Board discussion, Ms. Bacharach invited elected officials to RSVP to a Green Light Bus Tour hosted by the SBCCOG on March 2, from 1 to 5 p.m. She emphasized that elected officials would receive priority and then commissioners, staff and members of the public.

## 1. SBESC projects and programs

### a. South Bay Environmental Services Center Report (*attachment*)

SBCCOG Deputy Director Kim Fuentes stated that the outreach team has certified 55 businesses in El Segundo, Hawthorne and Torrance this year. She highlighted the Edison Charge Ready Program and how the chargers will not be installed until 2025 due to the expense of upgrading the panels and therefore, there may be delays to participating South Bay cities. Ms. Fuentes cited that the CPUC has required the utilities to allow third party providers to conduct energy efficiency, which is causing controversy as they may be duplicative to the SoCal REN program and incurring a cost for a service that is free to cities. She asked cities to contact her if such providers are reaching out. Lastly, Ms. Fuentes discussed the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program and participating cities receiving funding via formula and stated that this is an opportunity for cities to work with the SBCCOG and SoCal REN for possible collaboration. Lastly, she mentioned the Civil Spark Fellow that will be assisting cities with their Green House Gas Emission inventory and reviewing the data on transportation.

## 2. South Bay Fiber Network

The SBCCOG has posted a request for proposal (RFP) for technical consulting for a needs/marketing assessment and design engineering plan in support of its "Digital Equity Project." By December of 2023 the SBCCOG aims to have a "shovel-ready," phase two plan prepared for South Bay agencies to further expand the South Bay Fiber Network to underserved communities with high-speed, low-cost internet connectivity. Targeted areas include Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, and the West Athens-Westmont area of unincorporated Los Angeles County. Visit <https://southbaycities.org/request-for-proposals-rfp-lata-tech-assistance/> to learn more and submit a proposal.

## 3. Other

Ms. Bacharach noted that the SBCCOG is now a member of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and invited Board Members to possibly consider representing the SBCCOG or a member of city Public Works staff. Only 4 cities and the county in the SBCCOG are part of this conservancy – El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne and Inglewood plus the county.

Jeff Kiernan stated that the local responsibility maps will be coming out in the Spring for redistricting maps and will notify cities around public comment opportunities.

## X. 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-82/>

### A. SCAG

- i. Community, Economic, & Human Development (Mark Henderson, Drew Boyles, Frank Zerunyan & Mark Waronek)
- ii. Transportation (James Gazeley)

### B. Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Bill Brand/Eric Alegria)

### C. Metro Service Council (Don Szerlip)

### D. California Association of Councils of Governments - CALCOG (Britt Huff)

### E. South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (VACANT)

### F. South Bay Aerospace Alliance (Bill Uphoff/Rodney Tanaka)

### G. KHHR (Hawthorne Airport) Committee re: Community Impacts (VACANT)

### H. South Bay Workforce Investment Board

## XI. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Councilmember John Cruikshank adjourned the meeting in memory of Former SBCCOG Chair and El Segundo Mayor and Councilmember Sandra Jacobs at 8:07 pm to Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Natalie Champion, SBCCOG Staff