

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM & IN-PERSON AT SBCCOG OFFICES
2355 CRENSHAW BLVD. SUITE 125, TORRANCE, CA 90501
(RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41no0X5crk4>)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Councilmember John Cruikshank of Rancho Palos Verdes called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. VERIFY QUORUM

In attendance were the following voting elected officials:

Cedric Hicks, Carson	David Lesser, Manhattan Beach
Drew Boyles, El Segundo	Victoria Lozzi, Palos Verdes Estates
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	John Cruikshank, Rancho Palos Verdes
Justin Massey, Hermosa Beach	Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale	Patrick Wilson Rolling Hills
Sonia Lopez, LA County D2	Debby Stegura, Rolling Hills Estates
Jennifer LaMarque Zivkovic, LA County D4	Jon Kaji, Torrance
Barry Waite, Lomita	

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

Bill Uphoff, Lomita
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills
Zein Obagi, Redondo Beach

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Becky Cheng, Assemblymember Muratsuchi Office	Ronson Chu, SBCCOG
David McNeil, Baldwin Hills Conservancy	Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG
Danial Hernandez, Baldwin Hills Conservancy	Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
Ryan Ferguson, Kaiser Permanente	Shawn Fujioka, SBCCOG
Erik Rodriguez, SCAG	Lara Gerges, SBCCOG
Barbara Taylor, Southern CA Edison	Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG
Holly Osborne, Redondo Beach resident	Karen Kanda, SBCCOG volunteer
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities	Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG	David Leger, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG	Marni Ruhland, 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. Therefore, this meeting is being held virtually as meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. *(attachment)* – **Approved**

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Chair Cruikshank switched the order of the presentations under agenda item VIII.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Brandee Keith, Sr. Public Affairs Specialist at South Coast South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) provided written public comment announcing that online applications are now being accepted for South Coast AQMD's 2023 Governing Board Summer Internship Program. She invited those in attendance to share with college or high school students who might be interested in the opportunity and shared the following link for application submittal: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/scaqmd>

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. January 26, 2023 minutes (attachment) – Approve

MOTION by Board Member Horvath, seconded by Board Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** the minutes. Approved without objection.

B. Amendment to Civic Well Contract for Civic Spark Fellow (attachment)

C. No Cost Data Usage Agreement with SCAG (attachment)

D. 2023 General Assembly Technical Support Costs (attachment)

E. South Bay Fiber Network Work Order #6 (attachment)

F. SBCCOG appointment to SBACC Board (attachment)

G. Addition to Financial Policy Procedures from Finance Committee (attachment)

Alternate Board Member Dieringer asked to pull item G. and inquired about the parameters for the items and asked to table this upon receipt of more concise language. Ms. Bacharach stated that the Financial Committee agreed to have this item agendaized for approval. Additionally, Ms. Bacharach noted the \$25,000 cap for contracts that exceed the budget, which would allow the Board to vote to move such items forward. Board Member Lozzi asked if the item could be adopted at a later date and Board Member Lesser asked if there is a Financial Policy that Ms. Bacharach could bring to the Steering Committee highlighting the aforementioned cap. The Agenda Item G. was tabled.

MOTION by Board Member Hicks, seconded by Board Member Tanaka, to **APPROVE** the Consent Calendar, B-F, except for Item G. Abstention from Board Member Wilson. Motion passes.

H. Monthly Reports – Receive and File

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](#))
SCAG Regional Council (Drew Boyles, [Mark Henderson](#), James Gazeley)

b. SCAG Energy and Environment Committee (Britt Huff)

South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle)

VIII. PRESENTATIONS – (all prepared presentations are available on the website @ www.southbaycities.org)

What is the Mission & Function of Conservancies and the Role of the BH UWC?

David McNeil, Executive Director of the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy made a presentation on how the agency focuses on protecting land in perpetuity and bringing resources to restore land. Mr. McNeil mentioned that this conservancy is one of the smallest in the state and that the Los Angeles River and Compton Creek generate a considerable amount of funds. Notable mentions during the presentation include the need for more affordable housing and zoning and plans to purchase oil fields as part of the One Big Park Vision. Mr. McNeil cited the lack of transportation access to open spaces in Los Angeles, and how investments, including the Regional Trail in the Second District and Milton Green Street for stormwater capture, are part of the \$85 million investment for improvements. Mr. McNeil emphasized that preservation and community outreach are priority issues within the South Bay districts and among its partners. Lastly, Mr. McNeil discussed reporting to the Legislature around the conservancy's plans for climate resiliency and leveraging funds from Measure W, in collaboration with LA County,

to conduct an inventory of available land and a Park Needs Assessment. The presentation is available on the website: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION_BHUWC_2023Overview.pdf

Mid-Year Budget & Report of Finance Committee

Marni Ruhland of the SBCCOG provided an overview of the finances and budget of the SBCCOG and cited the 6.65% increase in general funds and how large amounts of revenue are coming from the increased amount of grants and how the majority of expenditures are from contractual and professional services. Board Member Lozzi raised concern around spending funds prior to receiving those funds and Board Member Stegura asked about the SBCCOG fund reserve. Board Member Dieringer inquired about additional full-time staff and the request for a part time intern, with Deputy Director Fuentes stating the hiring has not occurred yet. Ms. Ruhland discussed additional anticipated revenue from LA County Homeless and Southern California Gas Company. Board Member Dieringer asked about the dues increase and it was shared that the dues increase would be discussed in April. Board Member Dieringer asked if existing staff could take on additional responsibilities and the need to hire more staff. Deputy Director Fuentes shared that the SBCCOG currently has 25-30 active contracts and there is a need for more staff. The presentation is also available on the website: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESENTATION_FY2022-23-Mid-Year-Budget.pdf

A. Mid-Year Budget (*attachment*) – Approve

MOTION by Board Member Tanaka, seconded by Board Member Horvath, to **APPROVE** the Mid-Year Budget. Abstention from Board Member Wilson. Motion passes.

IX. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATES

B. Finance Committee recommendation re: Dues Scenarios (*attachment*) – Approve

C. Intention to Raise Dues (*attachment*) – Approve

SBCCOG Deputy Director Fuentes provided an overview of the dues and Executive Director Bacharach mentioned that the Finance Committee also discussed that there might be a benefit to our members if the SBCCOG had a lobbyist to advocate for SBCCOG and our members and also possibly a grant writer available to the SBCCOG and our members. Board Member Waite shared that having a grant writer with the SBCCOG would make it easier for cities to apply and provide needed assistance. Board Member Lesser inquired about the unfunded opportunities and Board Member Obagi mentioned a need for more lobbying within the South Bay. Ms. Bacharach clarified that the SBCCOG does not have a lobbyist and mentioned that the Legislative Tracking document will begin tracking legislation starting again in March. It was stated that dues are connected to the General Fund and population by member city. The Finance Committee recommends option 3, as detailed in the attachment, to adjust the budget to the CPI and cap it at 5 percent. Ms. Bacharach noted that the Bylaws have provision to give 60-day notice of any increases in dues and that the item will be brought back in April to consider taking further action. Board Member Cruikshank highlighted how an investment of \$400,000 to the SBCCOG provides a return of \$4 million. Board Member Dieringer shared the need for a more in-depth approach to identifying a formula for dues that considers population. Board Member Wilson stated Rolling Hills does not support raising the dues and cited the cost of \$3.50 per resident which signifies a disparity in the cost per resident. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that with Option 3, the dues cost for Rolling Hills actually decreases and welcomed receiving an alternate recommendation from Rolling Hills. Board Member Lozzi suggested the Finance Committee reconsider the planner position and that this position would be a point of concern for Palos Verdes Estates and further stated that the CPI formula seems off. Chair Cruikshank clarified that the Board needs to consider increasing the dues and emphasized the regional approach is beneficial to all SBCCOG represented cities and county districts and recommended Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes Estates determine what works best for their respective cities. Chair Cruikshank offered to attend city council meetings, along with SBCCOG staff, to share the efficacy and benefit of the SBCCOG. Board Member Horvath shared the historical benefits of the SBCCOG and how the Finance Committee concluded the formula was acceptable. Mr. Horvath acknowledged that the SBCCOG dues increase will not fully close its financial gap, which is unsustainable for the SBCCOG, and how the budget needs to account for inflationary costs and increases in living expenses. Mr. Horvath further stated that retaining staff and attracting staff is becoming increasingly more challenging. Board Member Hicks invited those who have issues with the dues formula to attend the Finance Committee to provide inputs into the formula. Board Member Stegura agreed with Cedric and Option 3 and stated a blended approach may be necessary. Board Member Obagi noted that Redondo Beach's City Manager agreed that the recommended dues are agreeable. The presentation is available on the website: https://southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/13b_Finance-Committee-Recommendation.pdf

MOTION by Board Member Horvath, seconded by Board Member Hicks to **APPROVE** the intent to consider raising dues at the April 27 Board of Directors' Meeting. No abstentions. No objections. Motion passes.

D. General Assembly

Senior Project Manager David Leger provided an update regarding the planning and the theme of the General Assembly. Mr. Leger highlighted water, power and electricity reliability and discussed the sponsorship levels and invited Board members to provide recommendations for potential sponsors. Additionally, Mr. Leger mentioned this will be the first General Assembly with a Youth Panel. He encouraged Board Members to RSVP.

E. SBESC projects and programs

Deputy Director Fuentes shared that the SBCCOG submitted applications for Block Grants, with a focus on energy efficiency and noted that staff is working with cities to submit reports to LA County. She shared that the state has \$8.8 million of competitive funding available for cities for energy efficiency programs, like electric vehicle charging, and that the SBCCOG will assist cities in submitting grant applications.

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

1. March 10 Meet and Greet (*flyer attachment*)

G. Transportation Reports

1. Metro Report - Board member James Butts/Steve Lantz
 - a. Green Line extension EIR status update
2. Transportation Committee report –Chris Pimentel/Steve Lantz
 - a. Measure R South Bay Highway Program Metro Budget Request (*attachment*) – **Approve**

Transportation Director Steve Lantz highlighted Metro’s plan to improve services and ridership recovery and the Measure M three percent local contribution guidelines and how cities that have the Green Line running through it are expected to contribute three percent of the cost in the aggregate. Metro received feedback on this and decided to make revisions in the guidelines so that an agency that does not have a station is not required to do improvements and carry the 3% cost. Mr. Lantz noted that the Green Line Extension Draft EIR has been released and that the public comment period ends in March. Ms. Bacharach mentioned the SBCCOG will have a comment letter from the SBCCOG to Metro regarding the EIR ridership costs.

MOTION by Board Member Horvath, seconded by Board Member Tanaka to **APPROVE** Measure R South Bay Highway Program Metro Budget Request. No Abstentions. No objections. Motion passes.

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

Ms. Bacharach stated the tour is March 2 from 1 to 3 pm and invited Board Members to RSVP.

H. Local Travel Network

Ms. Bacharach shared that staff is working with El Segundo to come up with a demonstration on how the Local Travel Network will work and noted that the SBCCOG is applying for a grant through Caltrans to do more public outreach for the local travel network, including ride and drive events.

I. SCAG REAP

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

Ms. Bacharach shared that the projects from SCAG are on track. Funds for REAP 2.0 will not be available until the Fall.

J. Homeless Services

Senior Project Manager Ronson Chu mentioned the SBCCOG used some housing vouchers for those most vulnerable to the elements due to the recent cold and rainy weather and overloaded 2-11 homeless services, with a specific target toward seniors or those who are most vulnerable. Board Member Lesser noted the increasing amount of the unhoused living in vehicles and the accuracy of the volunteer count of the unhoused. Mr. Chu discussed the multiplier formula to calculate the unhoused population. Mr. Chu announced that the SBCCOG was awarded \$2.074 million for FY 23-24 to use grant funds for innovative programming. The SBCCOG identified potential opt-in programs that cities can participate in including a shared regional housing navigator, a shared homeless coordinator for seniors, time limited subsidies for rental assistance, short term motel stays, and tax default properties.

Ms. Bacharach shared that the City Selection Committee met and selected Beverly Hills Councilmember John Mirisch to represent the South Bay on the LA County Regional Housing Trust, a new organization in the county.

that the SBCCOG is now a part of Board Member Boyles noted that John Mirisch is aligned with the SBCCOG interests.

- K. SPA 8 Working Group – none
- L. Senior Services
- M. South Bay Fiber Network - SBCCOG was awarded a grant from the CPUC which will look at the needs and market of broadband services in the South Bay and help extend the SBFN. Consultant proposals to assist with this work are being reviewed and due to critical timing, the March Steering Committee will be asked to make the consultant selection.
- N. Other – Seats for 2 year terms on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and California Association of Councils of Governments are open for nominations. Selection will be at the April Board meeting.

Jeff Kiernan of the League of CA Cities discussed the upcoming South Bay Legislative Meet and Greet with RSVPs from LA County Supervisor Hahn and Assemblymember Muratsuchi, among others. Mr. Kiernan noted that the focus will be on AB 1708 and Proposition 47 that will come up in committee in March. [AB 1708 \(Muratsuchi\)](#) would reform Proposition 47 to increase accountability for serial theft and encourage responsive intervention programs that divert people away from both crime and prison.

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-83/>

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bacharach shared that at the subsequent Board Meetings, Board Members will need to come in person in order to vote and to ensure a quorum. Board Member Waite mentioned the LAEDC and the coalition of cities advocating for CEQA reform. Chair Cruikshank re-stated to the Board Members that the Steering Committee in March serves also as the Board of Directors Meeting, due to the Annual General Assembly.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Councilmember John Cruikshank adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm to Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Natalie Champion, SBCCOG Staff