

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

**IN-PERSON AT THE NAKAOKA COMMUNITY CENTER
1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247**

NO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE SINCE THIS WAS AN IN-PERSON ONLY MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tanaka of Gardena called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

II. & III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach confirmed the posting of the agenda.

In attendance were the following voting elected officials:

Cedric Hicks, Carson	Nina Tarnay, Manhattan Beach
Ryan Baldino, El Segundo	Craig Quinn, Palos Verdes Estates
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	David Bradley, Rancho Palos Verdes
Alex Monteiro, Hawthorne	Zein Obagi, Redondo Beach
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale	Debby Stegura, Rolling Hills Estates
Irma Galicia, LA County D2	Jon Kaji, Torrance
Bill Uphoff, Lomita	

Other non-voting elected officials:

Mark Henderson, Gardena (alternate-nonvoting)	Cindy Segawa, Lomita
Tasha Cerda, Gardena	Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates (alternate – nonvoting)
Frank Talavera, Lawndale (alternate-nonvoting)	
Barry Waite, Lomita (alternate-nonvoting)	

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities	Desi Acosta, South Bay resident
Gus Meza, West Basin MWD	Denise, South Bay resident
Patricia Horton, Senator Schiff Office	Armando Razo, South Bay resident
Moises Jun Aglipay, Assemblymember Gipson Office	Alexandra Davis, South Bay resident
LaQuisha Bryant, Assemblymember McKinnor Office	Anthony, South Bay resident
Christian Horvath, City of Rolling Hills	Holly Osborne, South Bay resident
Andy Sywak, Metro	Emely Guerara, South Bay resident
Fernando Aguilar, South Bay resident	Rachel Wagner, SCAG
Clarrisa, South Bay resident	Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG
Doug Turner, South Bay resident	David Leger, SBCCOG
Keith Suarez, South Bay resident	Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Angela Stephanie, South Bay resident	Karen Kanda, SBCCOG volunteer
Miguel Martinez, South Bay resident	Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
	Ronson Chu, SBCCOG

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

V.COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Multiple community members addressed the Board regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities and their impacts on Gardena residents.

Mr. Aguilar discussed ICE protest activities and emphasized the need for solidarity, noting that Gardena residents care deeply about these issues and citing impacts at locations such as Home Depot that personally affect residents.

Mr. Army, identifying himself as a veteran, spoke on behalf of all immigrants and expressed concern about increasing racism in the country. He called for politicians to address these issues and emphasized his military service and advocating for solidarity.

Ms. Clarisa, representing Southeast LA, expressed solidarity with the South Bay and highlighted the need for city council action and what she characterized as complacency among elected officials regarding ICE raids. She emphasized that Gardena city council has influence in these matters and called for more proactive action from city officials.

Mr. Suarez, a Hawthorne resident, reported that 77.7 percent of ICE detainees have no criminal record and noted that citizens are requesting ICE agents to properly identify themselves. He raised safety concerns about ICE agents not identifying themselves without warrants and suggested that some ICE officials may be bounty hunters, emphasizing the need for community protection.

Additional public comments were received in Spanish. A community member and educator expressed concerns about masked individuals in communities, describing them as terrorizing residents. Speaking as a Gardena resident who serves the community as a teacher, he advocated for his students and noted that children are afraid to go out due to potential impacts from enforcement activities.

Ms. Denise, identifying herself as a daughter of immigrants, stated that civil rights are under attack and characterized the situation as involving racism and terrorism based on skin color. She emphasized that the Constitution belongs to all residents.

Mr. Ormando, a Gardena resident, acknowledged the emotional nature of the public testimony and reminded the Board of their position of power. He emphasized that community members are present to work with and for both immigrants and citizens in the community.

Ms. Davis, a Gardena resident, addressed ICE raids and their impacts on the community, specifically mentioning effects on day laborers and describing impacts to the Rodeo and reduced attendance. She questioned what actions Gardena has taken to protect families and prevent recurrence of these issues.

Briana Egan, Chair of South Bay Forward emailed a public comment expressing appreciation for the SBCCOG's ongoing commitment to regional planning and sustainability and emphasized the importance of continuing to prioritize inclusive community engagement, equitable infrastructure investments, and climate resilience in upcoming initiatives.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. May 22, 2025 minutes (attachments) – Approved**
 - B. FY25-26 Budget (attachment) – Approved**
 - C. Auditing Firm (attachment) – Approved**
 - D. Homeless Services Contract Extensions (attachments) – Approved**
 - E. Contract with West Basin Municipal Water District for FY25-26 (payment to the SBCCOG) (attachment) – Approved**
 - F. FY 25-26 Contract Amendment with Siembab Corporation (attachment) – Approved**
 - G. Chamber of Commerce Memberships (attachment) – Approved**
 - H. Legislative Matrix (attachment) – Approved**
 - 1. Support: SB 726
 - I. SBCCOG Monthly Reports – Received and Filed**
 - 1. City Attendance at SBCCOG Meetings (attachment)
 - 2. Client Aid Report (attachment)
 - 3. Media Report (attachment)
 - 4. Transportation Report (attachment)
- MOTION by Board Member Hicks, seconded by Board Member Waite, to APPROVE the Consent Calendar. No Abstentions. No Objections. MOTION Passes.**

VII. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATE

A. SBESC Projects and Programs (attachment)

SBCCOG Deputy Director Kim Fuentes presented updates on SBCCOG's community engagement and environmental programs. She reported that staff had participated in over 100 community events and would be attending upcoming National Night Out activities throughout the region. Ms. Fuentes highlighted the direct install program in Gardena, noting that equipment valued at \$185,000 would be installed as part of energy efficiency improvements for local businesses and residents. She provided updates on environmental compliance work, reporting that 191 greenhouse gas inventories had been completed since program inception, along with resiliency hub assessments for member cities. Ms. Fuentes indicated that a full report on these activities was accessible for Board member review. Ms. Bacharach mentioned the direct install and that Gardena is a test case and that it could expand to other cities. Ms. Fuentes' presentation is available online here: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/26100522/PRESENTATION_June-25-2025-Board-SBESC-Program-Updates.pdf

B. Homeless Services

SBCCOG Staff Ronson Chu presented updates on the SHARE program, reporting that the organization had been awarded \$1 million which will create a Peer Respite Group Home. The SBCCOG provided \$110,000 in matching funds for the application through Measure H.

He reported that the LACAHS board had approved the MOU and funding that will go to the SBCCOG for our subregion totaling \$11.1 million for homeless services programs. Ms. Bacharach noted that \$5.4 million of the total must be designated specifically for housing such as construction, master leasing and other direct new housing costs. He acknowledged challenges related to awarding those funds in the absence of a Housing Trust. Mr. Chu indicated that a future meeting will be planned to discuss guidelines and types of affordable housing that could be supported through the funding. Board Member Waite inquired about the implementation timeframe, and Mr. Chu confirmed that programs must have committed the funding by 2026.

The discussion included LACAHSAs eviction data and the relationship between eviction proceedings and homelessness outcomes. Mr. Chu emphasized that legal representation significantly prevents evictions for most individuals facing proceedings. Board Member Suarez asked for clarification that the funding applies to renters rather than foreclosure situations, and Board Member Waite questioned how to identify individuals at risk of eviction. Board Member Suarez inquired whether funds could assist in mediating disputes between landlords and tenants. Mr. Chu referenced the LACAHSAs MOU, budget memorandum, and Measure A contract documentation that will come to the Board for approval in July. Mr. Chus presentation is available online here: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/16191218/PRESENTATION_Homeless-Services-Updates.pdf

C. Senior Services

Board Member Waite inquired about the LA 2050 Senior Mobility Grant and requested clarification regarding the timeline for expending the awarded funds. He emphasized the importance of understanding grant deadlines to ensure proper planning and compliance with funding requirements. Mr. Chu acknowledged the request and committed to providing the necessary timeline information.

D. Transportation Reports

1. Transportation Committee report

Mr. Leger shared that the Committee did not meet in June.

2. Metro Report – Board member James Butts/Mike Bohlke

Metro Staff Mr. Sywak provided a report highlighting that Supervisor Hahn chaired her final meeting before Whittier Councilman Dutra assumed the Metro chairmanship. Mr. Sywak discussed a Metro Board item recommending the Dodgers organization play a larger role in supporting the Dodgers Express transit service. Chair Hahn made a motion to explore partnership opportunities with the Dodgers, including Dodgers-led marketing efforts, coordination with LADOT on expanding bus-only lanes, and improvements to signage and wayfinding to increase public transit use to Dodger Stadium. Additionally, Mr. Sywak discussed Metro's public safety concerns, particularly regarding ICE activity and increased graffiti and how Metro plans to enhance ambassador presence systemwide. Mr. Sywak clarified that station closures would only be used as a last-resort measure, given the disruptive nature of LAPDs request for Metro station closures during public demonstrations. Metro Chair Hahn emphasized the need for greater interagency collaboration and transparency when implementing such actions. Moreover, Mr. Sywak also outlined ongoing challenges facing the transit system, including labor shortages, cost escalation, payment delays, and long-term fiscal pressures, stemming from the expiration of COVID-relief funding, fare revenues remaining below pre-pandemic levels, and increased operational costs driven by inflation and supply chain disruptions. He noted that while the budget is balanced, staff have developed a cost-driver mitigation workplan to manage both short- and long-term financial risks. Lastly, Mr. Sywak extended an invitation to SBCCOG Board members for a tour of the LAX transit center and recommended participants travel by Metro. Ms. Bacharach noted that parking and rideshare access would remain unavailable at the LAX site until the People Mover becomes operational in 2026. Board Member Obagi inquired about the potential for future tours post-completion, and Mr. Sywak confirmed that tours could be arranged again once the People Mover is in service with LA World Airports.

3. Micromobility Programs and Projects

a. Local Travel Network

Ms. Bacharach reported that the SBCCOG began reviewing proposals from consultants in hopes of creating a pre-qualified pool of consultants to assist cities with the implementation of the Local Travel network. The SBCCOG received 7 proposals in response to the solicitation. She noted that the evaluation committee including Public Works and SBCCOG staff would identify the most suitable candidates for the project and recommend a bench in July.

b. E-Bike Safety Issues

Ms. Bacharach announced that SBCCOG had been notified it would receive a grant from the federal government for e-bike safety and ride and drive events for micromobility vehicles. She indicated that additional details would be shared as they became available.

E. REAP 2.0 Updates

1. Housing Trust Feasibility Study

Ms. Bacharach provided an update on housing trust formation, noting that the initiative is progressing and that the third meeting of the advisory committee was scheduled for July 17th. She indicated that the consultant would be available to speak with interested Board members regarding the housing trust development. She also reported on legislative language concerns, explaining that the current housing trust legislation for the South Bay does not include the word "moderate" and therefore cannot be used for programs to support moderate-level affordable housing. She noted that Senator Allen's staff had provided suggestions for amendments to address this issue but indicated that there was no existing bill available for him to utilize for the proposed changes during this legislative session. Ms. Bacharach informed the Board that another bill would need to be introduced next year to incorporate the proposed amendments and confirmed that an update on the housing trust formation would be provided at the July Board meeting by the consultant.

2. Commercial Redevelopment to Housing

Ms. Bacharach stated that the initiative was progressing and indicated that efforts would be focused on increasing engagement and advancing the next phase of work.

3. Mobility Hubs

Ms. Bacharach reported that proposal submissions were being received and were due by 4:00 p.m. the following day. She noted that, due to competing priorities and limited staff capacity, city staff would be unable to participate in the proposal evaluation process. Consequently, the SBCCOG staff would proceed with evaluating the proposals without participation from the cities in the proposal review.

F. Legislative Briefing – postponed to August 14 – in person or zoom?

Ms. Bacharach informed the Board of the decision to reschedule the Legislative Briefing to August 14. She requested input from the Board regarding the preferred meeting format and asked whether the briefing should be conducted as a hybrid meeting or held virtually only.

G. Destruction of Records (attachment) – Approve

While preparing for the office move, old records were found that can legally be destroyed. Therefore, Mr. Leger presented a request for the destruction of records consisting of Form 700s Statements of Economic Interest from 2001 to 2017 for appointees from various cities and for SBCCOG Executive staff. Mr. Leger confirmed that all records met the legally required retention periods and were scheduled for destruction by June 30, 2025. The Board was advised that the proposed destruction aligned with established records retention policies and was necessary so that they didn't have to be moved. This action ensures continued compliance and efficient records management.

MOTION by Board Member Waite, seconded by Board Member Tarnay, to **APPROVE** the Destruction of Records. No Abstentions. No Objections. **MOTION Passes.**

H. Office Move (*attachment*)

Ms. Bacharach, along with Ms. Fuentes and Mr. Leger, provided an update on the SBCCOG office relocation in preparation for the June 30, 2025 lease expiration. The new space at 357 Van Ness Way is expected to be ready for occupancy by July 1, with construction, IT setup, and move-in logistics being arranged. Existing furniture will be relocated, with additional pieces to be purchased as needed. Teleconferencing capabilities will be unavailable in July due to pending audio-visual upgrades, and staff is evaluating long-term internet and A/V solutions. The move is scheduled for June 28, with temporary storage plans in place if needed. The total estimated cost of the relocation is \$55,024.76, with \$19,975.24 remaining from the \$75,000 budget. The Board received and filed the update.

I. Election of Officers

1. Close nominations from the floor and hold election (*attachment*)

Chair Tanaka announced that two nominations had been received for the position of Second Vice Chair: Board Member Obagi of Redondo Beach and Board Member Jackson of Hermosa Beach. Ms. Bacharach read aloud a letter submitted by Mr. Jackson expressing his interest in serving. It was noted that all nominated candidates had confirmed their willingness to serve if elected. The Board was advised to accept any additional nominations from the floor, formally close nominations, and proceed with the election of officers for the 2025–2026 term. The officers elected are Board Member Suarez, as Chair; Board Member Uphoff as 1st Vice Chair and Board Member Ray Jackson as 2nd Vice Chair.

VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bacharach announced that Toyota would be hosting a community open house on Friday, July 11, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at their Hydrogen Headquarters located at 1630 186th Street in Gardena. The event is intended to showcase Toyota's investments in clean transportation, technology, and local job creation, while promoting sustainability. This family-friendly event will feature food, games, and interactive STEM activities. Board members and community partners were invited to attend and share the opportunity with their networks.

Board Member Obagi reported on his attendance at the June 12, 2025, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission meeting, where he shared updates regarding post-wildfire environmental conditions. He noted that arsenic was detected in both fire-impacted and non-fire zones, raising regional water quality concerns. Board Member Obagi also referenced the work of the Heal the Bay Foundation, which has been conducting post-fire water quality testing and monitoring beach sediment conditions. He emphasized the importance of continued environmental oversight and interagency collaboration to address potential health and ecological impacts.

Board Member Suarez delivered remarks in recognition of Board Member Tanaka's leadership and contributions during his term as SBCCOG Chair. She highlighted several major accomplishments under his tenure, including honoring South Bay cities at the 2nd South Bay Energy and Climate Recognition Program, with seven cities earning Gold recognition—most notably Gardena as the first to achieve this status. She noted that four cities were supported in successful Beacon Award applications for climate and sustainability progress. Under Chair Tanaka's leadership, SBCCOG launched a direct install energy efficiency program for

underserved businesses in Gardena, implemented a decarbonization program for underserved residents, initiated a Cool Roof feasibility study, and completed 2019–2020 GHG emissions inventories to support city Climate Action Plans. Participation in the SoCalREN incentive program expanded to ten South Bay cities and school districts, securing over \$1.1 million in incentives and achieving substantial annual gas and emissions savings. SBCCOG also completed a GHG review showing a 40.7% emissions reduction from 2005 levels. In transportation, Chair Tanaka oversaw the approval of major Measure R/M-funded projects for over \$85 million in funding for South Bay transportation initiatives. Additionally, the region celebrated the City of Redondo Beach reaching functional zero street homelessness, earning front-page recognition in the *Los Angeles Times*. Additionally, the SBCCOG received the Eureka! Award from the California Association of Councils of Governments for its homeless services programs.

IX.AGENCY REPORTS

NOTE: Oral reports will only be made to clarify or amplify written reports

- A.** League of California Cities & LA Division Legislative Committee (Britt Huff, Jeff Kiernan, Bea Dieringer) (*attachment*)
- B.** SCAG update (Erik Rodriguez) (*attachment*)
 - 1. Regional Council (Mark Henderson, Jim Gazeley, Drew Boyles)
 - 2. Community, Economic, and Human Development (Mark Henderson, Drew Boyles, Mark Waronek)
 - 3. Transportation (Bill Uphoff, Asam Sheikh)
- C.** Energy and Environment (Britt Huff) (*attachment*)
- D.** County Department of Public Health (Alicia Chang) (*attachment*)
- E.** Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Dean Francois/ Zein Obagi) (*attachment*)
- F.** South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (Barry Waite) (*attachment*) (
- G.** AQMD update (Brandee Keith) (*attachment*)
- H.** Metro Service Council (Don Szerlip) (*attachment*)
- I.** South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle) (*attachment*)
- J.** California Association of Councils of Governments – CALCOG (Britt Huff) (*attachment*)
- K.** Area G Emergency Management (Brandy Villanueva)
- L.** South Bay Aerospace Alliance (David Bradley/Rodney Tanaka)
- M.** Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (Katrina Manning)

X.ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tanaka adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm until the next Board Meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at the SBCCOG new office located at 357 Van Ness Way, Suite 90 in Torrance.

Respectfully Submitted:
Natalie Champion
SBCCOG Staff