

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM & IN-PERSON AT THE SBCCOG OFFICE
2355 CRENSHAW BLVD. SUITE 125, TORRANCE, CA 90501
RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE:
<https://youtu.be/KvNuOXutlGg?si=Dfci3lGKdwQ5cfC2>**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rodney Tanaka of Gardena called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:01 pm

II. & III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach confirmed posting of the agenda.

MOTION by Board Member Stegura, seconded by Board Member Monteiro, to **APPROVE** Board Member Faulk's virtual attendance as a voting member. Roll Call Vote. No Abstentions. No Objections. **MOTION** Passes.

In attendance were the following voting elected officials:

Rodney Tanaka, Gardena	Jennifer Zivkovic, LA County D-4
Alexandre Monteiro, Hawthorne	Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale
Ray Jackson, Hermosa Beach	Barry Waite, Lomita
David Lesser, Manhattan Beach	Craig Quinn, Palos Verdes Estates
Dionne Faulk, Inglewood (AB 2449 virtual attending)	Debby Stegura, Rolling Hills Estates
Jessalyn Waldron, LA County D-2 (virtual, non-voting)	Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills

Other Elected Officials in Attendance

Tasha Cerda, Gardena

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Alex Sandoval, Start Up	Stephen Sawyer, Charter Communications
Andy Sywak, Metro	Addy Ajijolaiya, SBCCOG
Erik Rodriguez, SCAG	Anne Tsai, SBCCOG
Gillian Tiede, LA County Public Works	Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG
Holly Osborne, South Bay Resident	David Leger, SBCCOG
McKenzie Neely-Wright, AT&T	Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Mike Bohlke, Metro	Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Mitch Taylor, Arcadis	Ronson Chu, SBCCOG
Pamela Manning, Transtech Engineers	Wally Siembab, SBCCOG
Scott Donohue, LA County Public Works	

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach shared changes to the agenda, including the addition of a Letter for Measure A

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

Erik Rodriguez from SCAG shared that Los Angeles County has invited SCAG to participate in two task forces led by the County Department of Planning to support recovery efforts from the Eaton and Palisades fires. These task forces will assist with rebuilding and recovery initiatives for affected residents and businesses. SCAG will provide ongoing updates regarding task force activities. Mr. Rodriguez also shared that resources are available to support community recovery and preparedness efforts across Southern California. He cited the SCAG “[Regional Climate Adaptation Framework](#)” which helps local jurisdictions in Southern California plan and implement strategies to adapt to climate change impacts, including wildfires. It provides tools, data, and best practices for building resilience in infrastructure, housing, and natural systems. The framework supports collaboration between regional and local entities to address climate vulnerabilities and integrate adaptation measures into local planning efforts. SCAG will be releasing new resilience tools in 2025, including a new wildfire risk screening tool layer as part of an update to the [Housing, Environment, and Land Use Parcel Tool](#) (HELPR) and a new “Resilience Toolkit” with information on planning for resilience. SCAG’s Joint Policy Committee meeting on Feb. 5 will center on a discussion on recovery and resilience lessons for the region, including SCAG’s involvement with the L.A. County recovery task forces. The agenda for the meeting will be [published online](#) 72 hours before the meeting. Ms. Bacharach mentioned that SCAG’s COO lost his home during the fires and sent her regards to the SCAG Executives.

VI.CONSENT CALENDAR

A. November 21, 2024 minutes (attachments) – Approved

B. Contract with Dudek Consulting for Project Management (attachments) – Approved

C. Independent Auditors’ Report & Basic Financial Statements For the Year Ended June 30, 2024 (attachment) -Received and Filed

Full report available here: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/06122841/2024_South-Bay-Cities-Council-of-Governments_FINAL-SECURED.pdf

D. Actions of Steering Committee since last Board meeting (attachment) – Received and Filed

E. 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 Suarez, seconded by Board Member Monteiro, to **APPROVE** the Consent Calendar via a Roll Call Vote. No Abstention. No Objections. **MOTION Passes.**

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. LA County Fire Emergency Medical Services Innovations

Dr. Clayton Kazan, MD, Medical Director of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and a fourth-generation South Bay resident, presented a comprehensive update on EMS innovations, highlighting that with over 80% of calls being medical, EMS operates as a mobile health organization staffed by three attending physicians and a team of nurses, all equipped to handle highly complex responses in collaboration with hospital emergency teams. He outlined several key initiatives including the incorporation of High Performance CPR using mechanical devices that have improved survival rates for cardiac arrest patients—especially those transitioning to

heart-lung bypass in catheterization labs—and the launch of the Fire Department Pharmacy, now secured with Pyxis Medstation machines and on-staff pharmacists, overcoming previous drug security issues. Additionally, Dr. Kazan discussed the Advanced Provider Response Unit, which provides advanced field treatment to safely discharge patients and reduce unnecessary ER visits, and the Triage to Alternate Destination Program that directs approximately 1,200 patients to psychiatric urgent care centers instead of congested emergency departments. He also introduced a prehospital blood transfusion program for trauma patients, scheduled to launch in April 2025 in cities including Inglewood, Hawthorne, and Carson, and mentioned an ongoing pilot using the Lucas device for refractory cardiac arrest, aiming to standardize its use across the South Bay despite the program's resource intensity. For further information, Dr. Kazan can be contacted at Clayton.Kazan@fire.lacounty.gov.

The presentation is available using the following link: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/23202431/PRESENTATION_EMS-Innovation.pdf

B. Harbor-UCLA Renovations

Scott Donohue, Community Outreach Coordinator for Los Angeles County Public Works, provided an overview of a \$1.7 billion investment in healthcare in the South Bay aimed at enhancing access and equity for underserved communities, marking the county's largest capital improvement project to date. The initiative focuses on re-establishing Harbor-UCLA as a center of excellence in healthcare, urban health promotion, prevention, workforce development, academic research, teaching, and economic development. The project will replace the existing WWII-era facility—currently the only Level 1 Trauma Center serving over 3 million people in the southwestern portion of the county—through a comprehensive replacement program spanning 72 acres, including unincorporated areas. Six new buildings are planned, including a nine-story, 560,000-square-foot hospital integrated with the current surgery and emergency center, a 374,000-square-foot clinic consolidating outpatient services, a 129,000-square-foot lab that will also house LA County Sheriff's Department substations, and a seven-story parking structure, all in compliance with Senate Bill 1953 for seismic safety. Board members were invited to tour the facility, and questions were raised regarding the lab's testing capabilities.

The presentation is accessible using the following link: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/23152752/PRESENTATION_COG-Board-Meeting-January-23-Final.pdf

VIII. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATE

Projects and Programs *(attachment)*

SBCCOG Deputy Director Kim Fuentes reported on the progress of energy programs in Los Angeles County. The county is currently implementing its government programs and preparing to launch new initiatives for 2025. The SBCCOG plans to meet with city staff to discuss these programs further. Ms. Fuentes shared that Gardena requested that a platinum-level be added at the top tier for the Energy and Climate recognition program for implementing energy and climate action plan projects. Additionally, she mentioned that meetings with facility managers are scheduled for February to introduce new energy programs.

Housing Trust Feasibility Study Next Steps *(attachment)*

Ms. Bacharach shared that SCAG has provided funding for a feasibility study and noted that the SBCCOG has selected consulting firm, CivicHome, to assist in providing the information needed to evaluate the feasibility of a South Bay trust. She noted in the agenda the scope of work calls for an advisory committee with meetings planned for March, May, July, and August. The committee should include 3-5 city managers, elected officials from various cities, developers,

and legal counsel as needed. She also shared the names of those who have already volunteered, including Board Members Uphoff and Chair Tanaka. The Board also recommended former Hermosa Beach Councilwoman Stacy Armato since she was very interested in the Housing Trust. Ms. Bacharach shared that the Committee would provide reports to the wider SBCCOG Board of Directors and noted that the new Measure A funding will assist with the Trust. Board Member Stegura requested the meeting dates to determine her involvement.

Measure A Homeless Services Funding Recommendations

SBCCOG Staff Ronson Chu provided an update on client aid funds, noting that at the January LACAHSa meeting, Beverly Hills Councilmember John Mirisch was re-elected and shared the need to fill key positions within LACAHSa including the CFO, HR Director and Chief of Staff. Mr. Chu also noted that LACAHSa has received a startup loan from the County to support operations until Measure A funding is disbursed. Mr. Chu reviewed preliminary numbers for Measure A Services Funding for local solutions that would increase the South Bay allocation from \$2.2 million annually to \$3,090,105 if Scenario 4 is chosen. He explained the differences among various scenarios listed in the letter accessible here: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/23152430/HANDOUT_01.24.2025-SBCCOG-ECRHA-Letter.pdf Ms. Bacharach mentioned that LA County would discuss the impacts. Mr. Chu further summarized that the San Gabriel Valley COG and Gateway COG both agree with Scenario 4. Mr. Chu shared that only \$12-\$14 million or 3% of total Measure A funding would be allotted to 73 of the 88 cities in LA County. However, Mr. Chu shared that the SBCCOG was able to identify an additional \$87 million from LAHSa's budget that could be reallocated to the regions, which is summarized in the aforementioned letter. Board Member Lesser asked about the SBCCOG leverage with LACAHSa and the accuracy of previous homeless counts. The SBCCOG Board authorized sending a letter on behalf of member cities expressing concerns about the county's recent Measure A funding recommendations and calling for a renewed county-cities partnership to address homelessness by modifying funding allocations to ensure sufficient resources for cities, improving the dispersion of funds from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and enhancing data and accountability for a more accurate homeless count.

MOTION by Board Member Waite, seconded by Board Member Suarez, to **APPROVE** the letter via a Roll Call Vote. Board Member Zivkovic abstained. No Objections. **MOTION Passes.**

Office Space (attachment) – Approved

Ms. Bacharach reported that the air conditioning noise has improved, and SBCCOG staff David Leger updated the Board on a letter to the Steering Committee regarding the office lease end date and the need to address increased staffing and space capacity at the current office. Mr. Leger discussed options for new or improved office spaces, including using an extra board room (Suite 170) in the existing facility and refurbishments to add more offices, as well as another option located off Van Ness and Del Amo, offering 6,700 sq. feet versus the current combined 5,900 sq. feet of suites 125 and 170, with cost differences and discounts noted. Board members raised questions regarding the size of board rooms, restroom accessibility, and decision-making for the location, with Ms. Fuentes confirming customization is possible at both sites. Mr. Leger reminded the Board that the South Bay Fiber Network is connected to the current office location and mentioned that Measure M funds could be an option—though potentially costing \$300,000—to relocate to the Van Ness site, noting that the current fiber network owner is selling, which could impact decisions. Chair Tanaka and Board Member Waite, after touring the Van Ness space, asked the Board to consider staff impacts and meeting logistics, highlighting the site's customizable construction, ample parking, and good lighting, while Board Member Lesser noted the favorable layout of the previous SBCCOG Board room compared to the current board room. Board Member Dieringer voiced concerns about cost estimations for the move and how much is in the current budget, with Mr. Leger indicating a budget of \$75,000 although the actual cost for

the last office move was approximately \$50,000. Further discussion noted that the SBCCOG could save over \$200,000 over five years compared to the current lease. Board Member Monteiro suggested negotiating for a few free months. Mr. Leger shared a video showing the office space on Van Ness: [Office space.mp4](#)

MOTION by Board Member Jackson, seconded by Board Member Quinn, to **APPROVE** the SBCCOG office move to 357 Van Ness Way in Torrance, pending a final understanding of pricing and space options, with the current lease expiring on June 30, 2025. No Abstentions. No Objections. **MOTION Passes.**

Homeless Services and Senior Services

Mr. Chu shared that the Homeless Count was postponed to February 20th and that the Senior Services Working Group meeting will be on the 28th with a focus on the Torrance Senior Program and Survey.

South Bay Fiber Network

American Dark Fiber has not been aggressively marketing the network. The new owner plans to do so. Jacki mentioned that during the February meeting there will be more discussion. SBCCOG approval to sell is currently being reviewed by SBCCOG legal counsel. Wally Siembab and Jake Romoff have been going to LAEDC meetings concerning Digital Equity and the SBCCOG will have a panel at the LAEDC 88 city summit in Torrance on March 19. Invitations will be sent when they are available.

Transportation Reports

1. Transportation Committee report

Mr. Leger reported the lack of a quorum at this month's Transportation Committee meeting so no formal actions were taken. They did discuss several key recommendations, including proposed changes to Measure R Highway funding allocations and updates from the Infrastructure Working Group. They also reviewed potential modifications to Measure M programs, including a new methodology for allocating regional funding to smaller cities. These items will be brought forward for formal action when a quorum is achieved at the next meeting.

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

Andy Sywak discussed the Metro Board meeting where staff reported on ongoing COVID-19 precautions, including mask distribution to passengers and free transit passes for those impacted by the recent fires. Mr. Sywak noted that the Metro board received encouraging ridership updates, with weekend ridership now exceeding pre-COVID levels. Regarding the C Line extension project, Mr. Sywak shared that a survey is being conducted, along with traffic studies and drone monitoring of the right of way on the C Line extension. Ms. Bacharach noted that the Transportation Committee will hear detailed information to address inquiries about the I-105 Express Lanes project their next meeting.

3. Micromobility Programs and Projects

A. Local Travel Network – Staff reported on Local Travel Network developments, including a meeting with the cities of Gardena and Lawndale. It was noted that Lawndale is submitting an Measure M application and the SBCCOG has applied for a CalTrans Grant to support parking infrastructure for micro mobility options.

B. E-Bike Safety Issues – No updates were provided.

C. Legislative Briefing – Ms. Bacharach shared there would be no January Legislative Briefing and encouraged attendance at the February 28th Legislative Meet and Greet.

- D. General Assembly** – Ms. Bacharach discussed the upcoming General Assembly and noted the event flyer. She requested RSVPs from Board members and highlighted the lunch fee. She provided details about a potential keynote speaker and associated speaking fee. Board Member Lesser inquired about projected attendance and expressed concerns about charging for lunch, also questioning the potential draw of the GA speaker. Ms. Bacharach elaborated on the event's theme, the SBCCOG's past accomplishments and the next 30 Years and how additional speakers are being invited. Ms. Bacharach shared that the General Assembly would feature a Youth Panel as part of the program.
- E. Other** – Ms. Bacharach reported on openings for the SCAG Regional Council, Metro Service Council and the South Bay Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Bacharach also reminded the Board of the Form 700 filings and LA County's new system. Ms. Bacharach also recognized Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda in attendance who shared that she is going for the position on the AQMD Board as the Westside Cities representative which covers the South Bay cities.

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was Board discussion around emergency preparedness and response in light of the recent wildfires. Ms. Fuentes addressed recent cell phone service outages and the challenges cities face in communicating with constituents during emergencies. Board Member Dieringer highlighted the importance of redundancy and described a siren system with sound and voice alerts to help alert cities. Board Member Lesser discussed the Map Your Neighborhood Program, which enables neighbors to organize emergency supplies and resources within neighborhoods and encouraged expanded SBCCOG involvement. Board Member Quinn reported that PV Cares remains active, and Ms. Fuentes offered to share Board Member city programs during SBCCOG outreach events and business engagements. Board Member Quinn also noted the need for virtual schools to be prepared for emergencies. Board Member Waite discussed CERT programs in peninsula cities. Ms. Bacharach emphasized SBCCOG's role in message dissemination. Board Member Dieringer stressed the need for comprehensive reporting on water pressure, fire vulnerability, and emergency personnel staging based on environmental risk factors, particularly emphasizing the importance of documenting conditions in the Palisades area. Waite noted the Fire Tax approval in November 2024 presents an opportunity to assess best practices. Board Member Stegura reported that CalWaters conducted water pressure testing and announced an upcoming community presentation on fire preparedness scheduled for Spring 2025. Board Member Quinn shared PulsePoint <https://www.pulsepoint.org/> for city use, and Board Member Dieringer suggested the Genasys protection platform <https://protect.genasys.com/search> as additional emergency response resources.

The 25th Annual General Assembly – The SBCCOG will host the 25th General Assembly March 27, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's program marks the 30th anniversary of the SBCCOG and will explore progress made as well as chart a path ahead to address challenges in sustainability, housing, homelessness and transportation. Register NOW at <https://southbaycities.org/event/25th-annual-general-assembly/>.

South Bay 90s Rewind Photo Contest – As the SBCCOG celebrates its 30th year, it's inviting the public to look back at its own past and submit photos that capture the essence of the 90s in the South Bay. Learn more and enter at <https://southbaycities.org/media-center/90s-rewind-photo-contest/>

South Bay Legislative Meet and Greet – The South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce, the SBCCOG and CalCities host this 10th annual South Bay Legislative Meet and Greet on February 28, 2025 at the Nakano Theater in Torrance. Leaders from local, state and federal sectors will engage in open and insightful dialogue about regional policy

issues that directly impact our community. Register at
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3v368d8>

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tanaka adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm until the next Board Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 6 pm at the SBCCOG office.

Respectfully Submitted:

Natalie Champion
SBCCOG Staff