

## SBCCOG BOARD MEETINGS: ATTENDANCE 2025

| City                                            | July - 25 | August - 25                  | September - 25 | October - 25 | November - 25 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Carson                                          |           |                              | Hicks          |              |               |
| El Segundo                                      |           |                              |                | Baldino      |               |
| Gardena                                         | Tanaka    | Tanaka                       |                | Tanaka       |               |
| Hawthorne                                       | Manning   |                              | Monteiro       | Monteiro     |               |
| Hermosa Beach                                   | Jackson   | Jackson                      | Jackson        | Jackson      |               |
| Inglewood                                       |           |                              | X              | Butts        |               |
| Lawndale                                        | Suarez    | Suarez                       | Suarez         | Suarez       |               |
| Lomita                                          | Uphoff    | Waite                        | Uphoff         | Uphoff       |               |
| Los Angeles                                     | X         | X                            | X              | X            |               |
| Manhattan Beach                                 | Tarnay    | Tarnay                       | Tarnay         |              |               |
| Palos Verdes Estates                            | Quinn     | Quinn                        | Quinn          |              |               |
| Rancho Palos Verdes                             | Bradley   | Bradley                      | Seo            | Bradley      |               |
| Redondo Beach                                   | Waller    | Waller                       | Obagi          | Waller       |               |
| Rolling Hills                                   | Dieringer |                              |                | Dieringer    |               |
| Rolling Hills Estates                           | Stegura   | Huff                         | Stegura        | Stegura      |               |
| Torrance                                        |           |                              |                | Kaji         |               |
| County of Los Angeles-2 <sup>nd</sup> District  | Galicia   | Galicia<br>(AB 2449 virtual) |                | Galicia      |               |
| County of Los Angeles- 4 <sup>th</sup> District | LaMarque  |                              | LaMarque       | LaMarque     |               |
|                                                 |           |                              |                |              |               |
| Number of Active Members                        | 17        | 17                           | 16             | 17           |               |
| Quorum Required (50% +1)                        | 10        | 10                           | 9              | 10           |               |
| Number of Members Attending                     | 13        | 9 – no quorum in person      | 11             | 14           |               |

|                                                 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| For informational purposes:                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Number of members present                       | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Number of affirmative votes required for action | 7  | 7  | 8  | 8  | 9  | 9  | 10 | 10 |

This grey chart (number of members present/number of affirmative votes required for action) is just a reference chart and doesn't have anything to do with the actual attendance from the chart above.

## ***South Bay Cities Council of Governments***

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### **SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025**

**IN-PERSON AT THE SBCCOG OFFICE**

**357 Van Ness Way, #90, Torrance, California 90501**

**RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE:**

**[https://youtu.be/gkctQU4OG-k?si=57rT1QWFZc\\_GZd93](https://youtu.be/gkctQU4OG-k?si=57rT1QWFZc_GZd93)**

## **AGENDA**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Suarez of Lawndale called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

### **II. & III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach confirmed the posting of the agenda.

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

Ryan Baldino, El Segundo  
Rodney Tanaka, Gardena  
Alex Monteiro, Hawthorne  
Ray Jackson, Hermosa Beach  
James Butts, Inglewood  
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale  
Bill Uphoff, Lomita

Irma Galicia, LA County D2  
Jennifer LaMarque, LA County D4  
David Bradley, Rancho Palos Verdes  
Brad Waller, Redondo Beach  
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills  
Debby Stegura, Rolling Hills Estates  
Jon Kaji, Torrance

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

Adam Eliason, Civic Home  
Adam Lane, Waymo  
Aksel Palacios, City of Los Angeles  
Alexandria Latragna, Manhattan Beach  
Andy Sywak, Metro  
Brandee Keith, South Coast AQMD  
De Mai, DKS Associates  
friend Redondo Beach resident  
Holly Osborne, South Bay resident  
Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities  
McKenzie Neely-Wright, AT&T, Inc.  
Niki Negrete-Mitchell, Redondo Beach resident  
Pam Lombar, South Bay Resident

Collen Villegas, Lawndale resident  
Erik Rodriguez, SCAG  
Michael Bohlke, Metro  
Anne Tsai, SBCCOG  
Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG  
David Leger, SBCCOG  
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG  
Jake Romoff, SBCCOG  
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG  
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG  
Ronson Chu, SBCCOG  
Wally Siembab, SBCCOG

### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes announced.

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

Erik Rodriguez from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) provided a presentation on the Draft 2026 Public Participation Plan (PPP) and executive summary, which outlines SCAG's commitments to representative, accessible, and effective public and

stakeholder participation in the development of regional plans and programs. Mr. Rodriguez explained that the plan defines audience categories, outlines methodologies for conducting participation efforts, summarizes communication methods, and describes evaluation measures for participation outcomes. He stated that the Draft PPP was prepared in compliance with federal and state requirements governing SCAG's responsibilities as a metropolitan planning organization. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the 45-day public comment period began on September 22, 2025 and will conclude on November 7, 2025. Public comments may be submitted via the [online form](#), email at [contact@scag.ca.gov](mailto:contact@scag.ca.gov), dedicated phone line, or U.S. mail. He further announced that SCAG will hold an additional public hearing on November 20, 2025 whose participants may join virtually or by telephone. Mr. Rodriguez encouraged members to review the Draft Plan and Executive Summary on the project website and to share public outreach opportunities with their respective cities and communities.

Brandee Keith from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) provided an informational update on two current incentive programs supporting clean energy and emissions reduction efforts. She introduced the *Invest Clean* initiative, a goods movement sector upgrade program consisting of four project components focused on Class 8 truck upgrades, cargo handling equipment improvements, charging infrastructure installation, and rail switcher modernization. Ms. Keith explained that this program is particularly relevant for cities with logistics operations or rail lines. She also highlighted the *Go Zero* program, designed for residents and small businesses, which provides rebate funding for replacing older gas-powered water and space heaters with electric models. Additionally, the program includes a workforce training component to support implementation. Ms. Keith concluded by noting that informational flyers were available upon request and offered to provide digital copies to interested members following the meeting.

Niki Negrete-Mitchell, a Redondo Beach resident, thanked Hermosa Beach for its 4–1 vote supporting Redondo Beach, Lawndale, and Hawthorne in opposing the Right-of-Way (ROW) Hybrid and favoring a Hawthorne Boulevard alignment, with particular appreciation to Mr. Jackson for his remarks. Ms. Negrete-Mitchell asserted that supporting the ROW Hybrid would risk displacement and health harms to more than 300 seniors (65+), citing 24/7 construction impacts over six years and noting her own placement within a trenching zone and immunocompromised status. She reported that, on their letterhead, Torrance Refinery and Torrance Logistics pipeline owners submitted objections to Metro, warning of breaches of internal safety protocols and severe public-safety risks (including potential “incidents” such as fires/explosions); she added that the FEIR acknowledged unresolved pipeline issues and retained significant impacts, with potential implications for LAX operations. She argued it was illogical for a transit agency to overrule refinery and pipeline professionals and referenced recent precedent in which the Court of Appeal rejected the Dodger Stadium gondola FEIR and a Union Station project required conditions/supplemental review. Ms. Negrete-Mitchell concluded that, while the Metro Board may attempt certification, the current project faces substantial vulnerability, and she urged support for a Hawthorne Boulevard alignment terminating at the Galleria—citing planned housing along that corridor and reduced refinery exposure—and requested that member cities transmit letters of support to [greenlineextension@metro.net](mailto:greenlineextension@metro.net). The Board received and filed the comment accessible here: [https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/10144441/Public-Comment\\_Niki-10.23.25.pdf](https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/10144441/Public-Comment_Niki-10.23.25.pdf)

## **VI.CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. September 25, 2025 minutes** (*attachment*) – **Approved**
- B. Eide Bailly Third Amendment for Financial Services (payment by the SBCCOG)** (*attachment*) – **Approved**
- C. Express Lanes Outreach Program (payment to the SBCCOG)** (*attachment*) – **Approved**
- D. Emergency Beds for Inglewood** (*attachment*) – **Approved**
- E. Action Taken by the Steering Committee – Measure A Prepayments to Non-Profit Providers** (*attachment modified since the Steering Committee*) – **Received and Filed**
- F. Legislative Matrix** (*attachment*) – **Received and Filed**
- G. Outstanding Dues as of 10/15/25**
  - 1. City of Los Angeles – in process
- H. SBCCOG Monthly Reports – Received and Filed**
  - 1. City Attendance at SBCCOG Meetings (*attachment*)
  - 2. Client Aid Report (*attachment*)
  - 3. TLS (Time Limited Subsidy) Report (*attachment*)
  - 4. Media Report (*attachment*)
  - 5. Transportation Report (*attachment*)

**MOTION by Board Member Tanaka, seconded by Board Member Stegura, to APPROVE the Consent Calendar. No Objections. No Abstentions. MOTION Passes.**

## **VII.PRESENTATIONS**

### **A.Waymo – Future Transportation in our Region**

Adam Lane, Waymo Public Policy Manager, discussed the company's autonomous vehicle program, emphasizing safety as Waymo's primary focus and noting that someone loses their life to a traffic accident every 26 seconds. He explained that Waymo, founded in 2009, continues to advance from driver-assist technology toward achieving Level 5 full automation. Mr. Lane described the vehicle's hardware and software systems, including 29 cameras, radar, and LiDAR technology that detect objects within a three-football-field radius, supported by artificial intelligence capable of identifying and responding to complex driving scenarios. He highlighted that Waymo's next-generation driver system is fully electric and has demonstrated significantly fewer airbag deployments, injury-causing crashes, and serious accidents compared to human drivers. Mr. Lane discussed the *Waymo Accessibility Network*, which informs app and navigation design through feedback from accessibility advocates, ensuring features such as adaptive routing, screen reader support, and minimized walking distances. He added that Waymo collaborates with public transportation agencies—including Metro's Mobility Wallet program—and with first responders to provide incident-response training. Responding to questions from Board Members, Mr. Lane noted that Waymo is regulated by the California DMV and CPUC, has submitted its application for South Bay operations, and expects to expand its current Los Angeles market southward, including more of the South Bay, next year. SBCCOG staff Wally Siembab inquired about response times during high-demand periods and possible partnerships with SBCCOG's local-use vehicle initiatives, which Mr. Lane expressed interest in exploring. SBCCOG staff Jake Romoff asked about plans for the 2028 Olympics, and Mr. Lane stated that while there is no formal engagement yet, Waymo anticipates contributing to first- and last-mile connections during major events. Board Member Monteiro and Board Member Uphoff asked about fleet charging, parking, and depot logistics; Mr. Lane explained that vehicles use geolocation to distribute charging across multiple depots and that the company welcomes city suggestions for underutilized sites. Jeff Kiernan of CalCities inquired about fleet size, and Mr.

Lane reported over 600 vehicles operating in the Los Angeles region with five to six depot sites. Board Member Baldino asked about operations at LAX, and Mr. Lane confirmed discussions are underway due to the site's critical importance during upcoming large-scale events.

### **B. Housing Trust Feasibility**

Adam Eliason of Civic Home presented the draft Strategic Plan and draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for forming a South Bay Regional Housing Trust. Additionally, Ms. Bacharach, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to share findings, strategic plan suggestions, and JPA concepts and to learn what information Board Members needed to decide whether their cities should join the trust; she asked members to take the discussion back to their cities and return for a vote at a later meeting. Mr. Eliason summarized the Trust's mission to expand affordable and supportive housing, noted his background securing over 70 million in grants supporting more than 30 developments and 2,000+ units over the past six years, and reviewed proposed governance (one city-appointed elected representative per member city plus two subject-matter experts), staffing options (COG staff support and/or contracted administration), and an unpaid advisory committee drawn from lending, nonprofit, and city staff without conflicts of interest. He outlined first-year goals—securing initial capital commitments; establishing transparent policies (investment, procurement); providing technical assistance to cities; creating performance metrics; brand/communications; and launching a menu of funding programs (e.g., homeownership, ADU loans, multifamily and small-scale rental). He explained the preliminary administrative budget concept, Measure A covering roughly half of admin costs and member dues scaled by population covering the balance, the JPA's activation upon the fourth city's approval, limits to avoid interfering with local land-use authority, and a withdrawal option with 90-day notice before the fiscal year. Board Member Dieringer asked about advisory committee scope and safeguards, with Mr. Eliason confirming volunteer service and the need to screen to prevent conflict of interest. Board Member Kaji confirmed the JPA would have bonding authority and heard that LACAHSa is exploring "social bonding" that trusts/COGs might join. Board Member Baldino asked about city outreach and sequencing; and Ms. Bacharach raised issues for Board input around the Trust's board size depending on how many cities join; dues methodology, use of Measure A vs. alternative uses, and indicated the schedule would likely shift to January to allow city manager review and a Board bonding briefing. Board Member Uphoff emphasized that securing capital commitments is prerequisite and questioned flat dues across very different city sizes. SBCCOG staff Ronson Chu and Mr. Eliason clarified that some LACAHSa funding is available regardless, but absent a trust the administrative burden (lending, compliance, legal, insurance) would shift to the SBCCOG, which is not structured to act as a lender or property purchaser. Mr. Siembab asked about property rehabilitation with Mr. Eliason replying that the trust is primarily a financing entity, and acquisition/rehab could be pursued via a complementary Community Land Trust.

### **VIII.SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATE**

#### **A. Request from LA Council District 15 to amend the Joint Powers Authority to allow for a non-elected alternate for the LA City member (*attachments*)**

Ms. Bacharach provided an update on the current Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), explaining that the City of Los Angeles had requested that staff members be eligible to serve as board representatives. She noted that the existing JPA requires all cities to appoint an elected alternate; however, when the County of Los Angeles joined the COG, an exception was made allowing the appointment of a chief of staff or senior staff member as the alternate representative due to the county's governance structure. Ms. Bacharach explained that Board Member McOsker had requested a similar amendment for the City of Los Angeles, as his district does not have another elected official within its boundaries who can serve in this role. She confirmed that the City's

dues were current and recommended that the Board approve an amendment mirroring the county's provision. Board Member Uphoff requested that SBCCOG prepare a draft resolution to formalize the action. Ms. Bacharach confirmed that the amendment language had been reviewed by legal counsel Mike Jenkins, and that a draft JPA amendment and resolution were included in the agenda materials.

**MOTION by Board Member Uphoff, seconded by Board Member Jackson, to APPROVE an amendment to the JPA to be approved by all member agencies that would allow the City of Los Angeles to appoint a non-elected alternate representative. No Objections. No Abstentions. MOTION Passes.**

### **B.General Assembly site recommendation**

Mr. Leger provided an update on alternative site options for the upcoming General Assembly, noting that staff had been exploring new venues beyond the traditional Carson facility. He reported that site visits were conducted CosM, DoubleTree San Pedro, Crafted Warehouse San Pedro, West Drift Hotel Manhattan Beach, and Altasea San Pedro. The Steering Committee had previously eliminated Intuit Dome from consideration and expressed initial interest in CosM; however, the proposal received was approximately \$125,000, which exceeded budget parameters and eliminated it as a viable contender. Mr. Leger explained that the fundraising goal for the GA is \$60,000 and doubling that amount would be required to cover CosM's costs. Proposals from West Drift, DoubleTree, Altasea, and Crafted Warehouse were still pending, while the Carson venue remained under review with prior year cost data available for comparison. Ms. Bacharach added that before Carson had waived its facility fee last year, West Drift's pricing had been highly competitive, and the location carries strategic value given its visibility and use by major sports organizations such as the Rams, Chargers, FIFA teams, and the upcoming Olympic delegations. She noted that, should West Drift's pricing align closely with Carson's, staff might recommend that venue given its alignment with the year's sports and tourism theme and the potential to attract new sponsorships. Mr. Leger further announced that two sponsorships had already been secured—\$5,000 from So Cal Edison and \$2,500 from the Gas Company—and requested Board approval to allow the Steering Committee to finalize the venue recommendation once all bids are received. The Board agreed to delegate the decision to the Steering Committee and expressed appreciation for staff's continued coordination of fundraising and event planning efforts.

### **C.SBESC Projects and Programs (*attachment*)**

SBCCOG Deputy Director Kim Fuentes reported that the City of Gardena achieved Platinum status under the Energy and Climate Recognition Program. She announced the upcoming Energy and Climate Recognition Awards Luncheon scheduled for December 11 and noted that updated incentive programs will be available beginning in February 2026. Ms. Fuentes presented customized reports to each city summarizing the SBCCOG's collaboration with member jurisdictions and identifying potential energy-efficiency projects. The reports outlined estimated project costs, potential savings, and recommended next steps for implementation. She encouraged cities to coordinate with their finance staff, noting that several of the proposed projects could be self-funded through resulting energy savings. Ms. Fuentes invited cities to notify her of projects they wish to prioritize for immediate action and highlighted facilities with the highest utility usage, encouraging staff to begin with those buildings for site assessments and improvements.

## **D.Homeless Services**

### **1.Measure A implementation**

SBCCOG Senior Program Manager Ronson Chu presented an overview of the LACAHSAs Public-Private Opportunity (PPO) NOFA program, explaining that LACAHSAs plans to bond approximately \$50 million in annual revenue to generate over \$210 million in available funding for affordable housing projects. He noted that investors are actively attempting to purchase and convert local housing sites and emphasized the urgency for jurisdictions to act to preserve affordability. Mr. Chu outlined eligible applicants and project types, including large- and small-scale multifamily rental new construction and preservation projects for both large (40+ units) and small (5–39 units) properties. He described the range of financial products offered under the program, such as short-term financing (predevelopment, construction, and light-rehab loans), permanent and gap financing (senior or subordinate loans, capital grants), and ongoing subsidies (rental or operating). Mr. Chu also reviewed LACAHSAs scoring matrix, which prioritizes affordability, family-sized units, low development costs, and project readiness. He noted that listening sessions are currently underway, with final project selection expected early next year. SBCCOG staff Kevin Umaña provided a policy update on Senate Bill 79, which introduces by-right development standards for parcels within one-quarter and one-half mile of eligible transit stops zoned for residential, commercial, or mixed-use development. He explained the law’s two-tier classification for transit-oriented developments—Tier 1 for heavy or high-frequency rail and Tier 2 for light rail or bus rapid transit with 24-hour bus-only lanes—and outlined required affordability set-asides of 7% for extremely low-income households, 10% for very low-income households, or 13% for low-income households. Mr. Umaña presented a South Bay map identifying eligible and excluded zones and noted that cities with populations under 35,000 are exempt. Board Member Waller asked whether planned transit stops qualify under SB 79, and staff agreed to confirm. Jeff Kiernan of CalCities requested clarification on the dedicated bus-lane requirement for Tier 2. Board Member Jackson inquired about height impacts, and staff confirmed that the closer a parcel is to a transit stop, the taller the building height allowed. Mr. Kiernan asked about the City of Los Angeles’ station radii and potential spillover impacts into South Bay jurisdictions. Board Member Waller also raised concerns about housing overlays and decertification risks, recommending that cities coordinate on potential amicus briefs if cases reach the Supreme Court. Board Member Kaji discussed the growing influence of private equity in multifamily housing, citing examples such as Project Homekey, Extended Stay America, and CALPERS/CALSTRS investments in private equity real estate firms, and suggested that a portion of pension endowment funds be set aside to directly support local affordable housing development. Mr. Chu concluded by reiterating that LACAHSAs funds can only be used in cities with active, HCD-certified housing elements and noted that several jurisdictions, including Redondo Beach, may face compliance challenges following a court ruling invalidating overlay zoning as inconsistent with state housing law.

The presentation is available using the following link: [https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/10172835/PRESENTATION\\_Housing\\_Board-Meeting-10.23.2025.pdf](https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/10172835/PRESENTATION_Housing_Board-Meeting-10.23.2025.pdf)

## **E.Senior Services**

There were no updates provided.

## **F.Transportation Reports**

### **1. Metro Report – Board member James Butts/Mike Bohlke**

Board Member Butts provided a report from the Metro Board of Directors, noting that the meeting was relatively brief and primarily dedicated to recognizing Chief Financial Officer Nalini Ahuja who will retire in November after 39 years of service to Metro. He commended Ms. Ahuja’s contributions and professionalism throughout her tenure. The Board approved and certified the

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Link Union Station Project, which is anticipated to improve systemwide efficiency for Metrolink, Amtrak, and the future California High-Speed Rail Authority, contingent upon continued Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. The project is expected to reduce train arrival and departure times by as much as 30 minutes per train, enhancing service for passengers traveling through Los Angeles Union Station. Board Member Butts also reported that the Board adopted Mayor Bass's "Protect Our Small Business" motion, an amendment to Metro's policies supporting Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Small Business Enterprises (SBEs), and other historically underrepresented groups, ensuring continued compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent rule changes affecting DBE certification and evaluation. In addressing the C-Line Extension FEIR, Board Member Butts confirmed his support for the COG's request to defer Metro's consideration of the item until early 2026, likely January or February, to allow for resolution of outstanding issues. He emphasized that his primary concern remains project funding, stating that regardless of whether Metro selects the Right-of-Way (ROW) Hybrid Alternative or the Hawthorne Boulevard Alternative, the project currently faces a \$1.3 billion funding gap, calling into question its near-term feasibility.

Additionally, Mr. Leger provided a brief update on Measure M, confirming that meetings have been completed with nearly all member cities. He noted that this is the first year of the Local Allocation Program, under which 10% of Metro's FY 2029–2030 allocation will be distributed to cities based on the Board-approved formula, with allocation announcements expected in early November.

## **2. Micromobility Programs and Projects**

Ms. Bacharach provided the Micromobility Program update, reporting that engagement with participating cities is ongoing. She stated that Carson's project is progressing, and upcoming efforts in Lawndale, Lomita, and Manhattan Beach will soon launch. She added that staff will present next to the Hawthorne City Council to share lessons learned from the El Segundo Local Travel Network (LTN) pilot, particularly on refining signage placement, improving safety at intersections, and enhancing intercity connectivity.

## **G.REAP 2.0 Updates**

### **1.Commercial Redevelopment to Housing**

### **2.Micromobility Hubs**

Ms. Bacharach reported that both the Commercial Redevelopment-to-Housing Initiative and the Micromobility Hubs Program remain on schedule, with consultants continuing to collect data and conduct analysis. She noted that the redevelopment-to-housing project is in the process of developing a data tool for cities to assess the viability of converting commercial properties into housing, which will assist local jurisdictions in identifying adaptive reuse opportunities and evaluating project feasibility.

## **H.South Bay Fiber Network**

Ms. Bacharach stated that staff have been meeting with internet service providers to identify new partnership opportunities following previous performance challenges. She shared that one prospective provider has shown strong interest and technical capacity, though staff are proceeding cautiously. She added that Mr. Dave Daigle, owner of American Dark Fiber and the existing network partner, has expressed optimism about the potential collaboration while maintaining similar due diligence concerns. To strengthen the technical evaluation process, a meeting has been scheduled with Councilmember and Board Member Mark Henderson of Gardena, an IT director by profession, and Gardena's IT Manager, Mr. Alex Pinto, to review the

provider's qualifications and pose detailed technical questions. Ms. Bacharach noted that the outcome of this review will help staff return to the Board with a more informed recommendation.

### **I.AI Forum Series**

Ms. Bacharach announced the launch of the AI Forum Series, clarifying that it will not function as a formal working group since all cities are invited to participate. The first session is scheduled for next week at 3:00 p.m. She explained that the purpose of the initial forum is to engage cities in a discussion about how they are currently using AI tools and to gather input on future topics of interest. Ms. Bacharach highlighted that several South Bay cities are already experimenting with AI applications, noting examples such as Hawthorne's and Lomita's chatbots and Rancho Palos Verdes' use of AI for planning documents. The forum will invite participants to share local experiences and suggest subject areas for upcoming sessions so that SBCCOG can identify appropriate speakers and design relevant future discussions. Ms. Bacharach encouraged Board Members and city staff to attend or send representatives, emphasizing that the series is intended to foster regional learning and collaboration around emerging AI technologies.

### **J.COG Chairs/Officers meeting**

Ms. Bacharach reported that SBCCOG Chair Suarez, in collaboration with the Chair of the San Gabriel Valley COG, initiated a meeting of all COG Chairs in Los Angeles County. The inaugural discussion took place during the League of California Cities Conference, immediately following the Los Angeles Division luncheon. Ms. Bacharach shared that the meeting was productive and well attended, with participants expressing a shared interest in improving coordination among the region's seven councils of governments. She noted that the Chair of the San Gabriel Valley COG proposed the long-term idea of forming an Association of COGs in Los Angeles County to strengthen regional collaboration. While recognizing that such an initiative would take time to develop, attendees agreed to hold a follow-up meeting in January, inviting officers from all seven COGs. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that, despite each organization's distinct priorities and structures, there are key areas of shared concern—particularly in working with LACAHS, navigating county-level coordination, and monitoring the County Government Reform Task Force, which is currently examining the expansion and redistricting of the Board of Supervisors. She suggested that COGs may wish to monitor the task force's activities and potentially issue joint statements regarding its impact on regional representation. Ms. Bacharach concluded that the date and results of the January meeting will be reported back to the Board.

### **K.Other**

Ms. Bacharach reported on the success of the recent City Staff Orientation and Engagement Session, which was designed to strengthen collaboration between SBCCOG and municipal staff beyond department heads and city managers. She explained that the event was organized to introduce city staff to the work of the COG, clarify how SBCCOG programs can support local operations, and encourage two-way communication to enhance project implementation. Ms. Bacharach shared that the event exceeded expectations, with 70 RSVPs and 36 attendees representing eight cities across the South Bay region. She described the session as highly interactive and well-received, noting that participants stayed after the formal program to connect directly with SBCCOG staff for one-on-one discussions about ongoing projects and potential collaborations. She added that feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees requesting that the event be repeated every six months. Ms. Bacharach remarked that the strong turnout demonstrated a growing interest among city staff in partnering with SBCCOG and highlighted specific follow-up opportunities, including assisting city staff with award applications and

technical project support. She credited the informal format and welcoming environment for helping attendees feel comfortable engaging with SBCCOG personnel and emphasized that the event successfully advanced the goal of positioning SBCCOG as a resource and partner to city operations.

## **IX.UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **October 29 – Technology Showcase – Energy Efficiency for Cities (*attachment*)**

Ms. Bacharach announced the upcoming Technology Showcase, scheduled for Wednesday at 8:00 a.m., and strongly encouraged city participation. She explained that the event will bring together certified vendors specializing in HVAC, lighting, and other energy-efficiency technologies to provide hands-on guidance and demonstrations for city facility staff. The showcase is designed to help cities evaluate potential upgrades, verify budget assumptions, and receive expert input on selecting appropriate equipment and systems. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that the event will be an excellent opportunity for public works and facilities personnel to engage directly with industry professionals, ask technical questions, and explore funding or incentive opportunities for future projects. She concluded by noting that the SBCCOG team is eager to support cities in applying new technologies that enhance sustainability, efficiency, and long-term cost savings.

- **Tour of the Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center**

Ms. Bacharach announced that SBCCOG will host a tour of the Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center next Thursday at 11:00 a.m., with carpooling available from the SBCCOG office. She shared that many city clerks have already registered to attend, and several others who could not participate sent messages expressing that the tour is “well worth the time.”

Ms. Bacharach explained that the purpose of the visit is to provide elected officials and city staff with a firsthand understanding of the ballot processing and counting procedures, enabling them to confidently address constituent questions or concerns about election integrity. She encouraged Board Members and staff representatives to sign up or invite colleagues from their cities to join the tour, noting that it offers valuable insight into how local ballots are received, verified, and tabulated within Los Angeles County’s voting system.

- **October 30 – AI Forum Series (*attachment*)**

- **November 20 – Open House and Volunteer Recognition (*attachment*)**

Ms. Bacharach announced that the next SBCCOG Board meeting will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. there will be an open house to showcase the organization’s new office space. She shared that this will be an opportunity for members and partners to tour the facility and celebrate the organization’s relocation. Following the open house, SBCCOG will host its annual Volunteer Recognition Program to honor and thank the SBCCOG’s dedicated volunteers for their valuable service and contributions throughout the year. Ms. Bacharach encouraged all Board Members to attend and participate in recognizing the volunteers who play an essential role in supporting SBCCOG’s programs and initiatives.

- **December 11 – Energy and Climate Recognition Awards Luncheon (*attachment*)**

- **January 22 – Cybersecurity & Q and A with Experts including the FBI**

Ms. Bacharach announced that before the January 22nd SBCCOG Board meeting there will be a special Cybersecurity Forum beginning at 4:00 p.m.. The session will be led by Councilmember Derek Lazaro of Palos Verdes Estates, who also serves as the Chief Information Officer at Nossaman LLP and is recognized for his expertise in cybersecurity and information systems.

Ms. Bacharach shared that Councilmember Lazaro will be joined by FBI agents specializing in cybercrime and digital security, who will present case studies and real-world examples relevant to local government operations. The forum will provide practical insights on protecting city systems and sensitive data, responding to cyber threats, and strengthening digital infrastructure. She emphasized that the event is designed for elected officials and city staff and encouraged broad participation, noting that it will be both educational and highly relevant to municipal operations. A flyer with event details will be distributed once finalized.

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

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Suarez ended the presentations and updates at 8:02 pm until the next Board Meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Natalie Champion  
SBCCOG Staff