

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING NOTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025
IN-PERSON AT THE SBCCOG OFFICE AND VIA ZOOM
357 VAN NESS WAY, #90, TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90501
RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE:
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/NGXV142ZWA8](https://youtu.be/NGXV142ZWA8)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Suarez of Lawndale began with presentations and informational items at 6:06 pm, due to no quorum being obtained in-person for this meeting.

II. & III. CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Bacharach confirmed the posting of the agenda.

In attendance were the following voting elected officials:

Rodney Tanaka, Gardena
Ray Jackson, Hermosa Beach
Bernadette Suarez, Lawndale
Barry Waite, Lomita

Nina Tarnay, Manhattan Beach
Craig Quinn, Palos Verdes Estates
David Bradley, Rancho Palos Verdes
Brad Waller, Redondo Beach
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates

Also, in attendance were the following persons:

Aksel Palacios, LA City Tim McCosker Staff
Andy Sywak, Metro
Bill Reynolds, Torrance Social Services
Irma Galicia, LA County D2
Matha Trembley, LA County Sanitation Districts
Lourdes Kriste, Metro
Mike Bohlke, Metro
Nicole Hernandez, Metro
Andreya Mulligan, SBCCOG

Anne Tsai, SBCCOG
Colleen Farrell, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG
Jacki Bacharach, 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 to the agenda.

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

Grace Peng, Ph.D. emailed a public comment questioning the protected bike lane cost estimates of \$1.75 to \$3.5 million per mile, requesting clarification on whether the figures included utility relocation or street repaving and how mode shift was measured. She noted that Culver City and Boulder, Colorado completed similar upgrades at far lower costs with documented mode shift and shared her own experience of replacing roughly half of her car trips with e-bike trips as local facilities improved, citing published studies supporting this trend. Dr. Peng urged that future presentations provide verifiable data and methodological transparency to avoid discouraging officials with inflated figures and recommended obtaining cost documentation, clarifying scope, benchmarking other cities, and adopting clear data standards for future reports. The public comment is accessible using the following link: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/29123301/Public-Comment_8.28.pdf

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. July 24, 2025 minutes (*attachment*) – **Approve**

B. Contract with Sanitation Districts (*attachment*) – **Approve**

C. SBCCOG Agency Partnership Policy (*attachments*) – **Approve**

D. Board Officer Elections Policy and Procedures (*attachment*) – **Approve**

E. Legislative Matrix (*attachment*) – **Receive and file**

NOTE: The Steering Committee took these positions because the legislature will be concluding its session on August 31, 2025

1. Support: AB261, AB 300, SB 454, SB 346, SB 74
2. Oppose unless amended: SB 707
3. Oppose: AB 1061

F. Outstanding Dues as of 8/21/25

1. City of Los Angeles – in process

G. SBCCOG Monthly Reports – Receive and File

1. City Attendance at SBCCOG Meetings (*attachment*)
2. Client Aid Report (*attachment*)
3. Media Report (*attachment*)
4. Transportation Report (*attachment*)

Due to the lack of a quorum, Ms. Bacharach reported that the contract with the Sanitation Districts would be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration with a report back to the Board on their action. She also noted that the City of Los Angeles is requesting the Steering Committee's discussion on a Joint Powers Agreement amendment that would allow the City of Los Angeles to appoint a non-elected alternate to the Board. She added that the General Assembly item would also be scheduled for the Steering Committee meeting and mentioned the possibility of holding the General Assembly at an alternate venue. Ms. Bacharach also asked the Board to provide recommendations for potential speakers.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Reduce Carbon Emissions by Reducing Power Demand: Micro-Mobility, Household Appliances and Building Retrofits

SBCCOG Staff Wally Siembab and Kim Fuentes presented on the urgency of transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy to mitigate extreme weather impacts. Mr. Siembab emphasized that increasing investment in renewable energy was critical and noted that Southern California Edison (SCE) projected 35% renewable power by 2025 with "green rate" options of 50% or 100% participation. He highlighted the Clean Power Alliance (CPA), its three competitive pricing tiers, and the participation of six South Bay cities, and cited policy innovations such as neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs), municipal regulations for autonomous "robo cabs," and the development of smart neighborhoods, micro-mobility hubs, and shared vehicles. Board Members Bradley, Waller, and Jackson discussed the challenges of expanding these initiatives, and Ms. Bacharach raised the need to extend micro-mobility options to people with disabilities. Ms. Fuentes addressed the costs of decarbonization, stressing the importance of prioritizing energy efficiency to reduce demand before scaling solar installations and urging implementation of identified efficiency measures at city facilities, community engagement through education, and support for sustainability programs to recognize and replicate successes. The presentation is accessible using the following link: https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/28131305/PRESENTATION_8.25-Electricity-Demand-for-Board-WS-KF.pdf

B. Clearwater Tunnel Update

Martha Tremblay, Assistant Chief Engineer with the Sanitation Districts of LA County, reported on the Clearwater Project tunnel collapse and construction progress. She explained that the 7-mile tunnel alignment crosses several seismic faults beneath public rights-of-way and will transport wastewater treated at their Carson facility to the ocean. The breach occurred on July 9 at a depth of approximately 368 feet near Western Avenue and Raymond Avenue. All workers evacuated safely, and daily surface monitoring along Western Avenue showed no land movement or street-level impact. Ms. Tremblay noted challenging soil conditions, potential cracking and water intrusion at the breach point, and ongoing construction at Royal Palms Beach where human bones—possibly of American Indian origin—had been found, prompting careful excavation protocols. She stated that CalOSHA approval was required before re-entering the tunnel to assess damage and that additional tunneling experts had been hired to conduct an independent review. Board Member Waller and Ms. Fuentes asked about the structural lining and potential impacts to the remaining mile of tunneling, with Ms. Tremblay sharing repairs would depend on the inspection results and that a detailed repair plan would be developed after cause determination. Board Member Tarnay asked about the process of determining the bone excavation, with Ms. Tremblay stating that careful digging will determine if the bones are of an individual or more and whether the bones are of indigenous persons. Ms. Tremblay shared she would continue to keep the SBCCOG apprised of the repair plan.

The presentation is accessible using the following link: [https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/28133441/PRESENTATION Clearwater Project Update Portuguese Bend Landslide in City of Rancho Palos Verdes-min-1.pdf](https://cdn.southbaycities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/28133441/PRESENTATION%20Clearwater%20Project%20Update%20Portuguese%20Bend%20Landslide%20in%20City%20of%20Rancho%20Palos%20Verdes-min-1.pdf)

VII. SBCCOG PROGRAM ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS AND UPDATE

A. General Assembly Topic and Title (*attachment*) – Approve

B. SBESC Projects and Programs (*attachment*)

Ms. Fuentes reported on ongoing work with LA County regarding an application for a biodiversity plan grant through the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The grant requires a significant amount of the funding to go towards the demonstration project, so there will be an initial focus on disadvantaged communities for that piece. LA County will be re-working the budget.

C. Homeless Services

1. TLS report (*attachment*) – **Receive and file**
2. Measure A implementation updates
3. Review Homeless Services contract template updates (*attachment*) – **Receive and file**
4. Measure A Contracts for Homeless Services (*attachment*) – **Approve**

Ms. Bacharach noted that when the Board does not meet, the Steering Committee can act on the Board's behalf and emphasized that the Scopes of Work would need approval at the next Steering Committee meeting. SBCCOG Staff Ronson Chu reported that LACAHSa had approved the housing guidelines and stated he would identify regional housing pipelines for upcoming projects. He referenced a recent [LAist article](#) highlighting residents being turned away from housing programs and underscored the need to address these gaps. Ms. Bacharach announced that the SBCCOG hired two new staff members for the Homeless Services group and stressed the importance of Mr. Chu contacting cities to receive updates on current housing projects and gather data on housing needs. This information will also help inform the development of the South Bay Regional Housing Trust. There will be an update on that project

in October and there are several important outstanding issues including whether member cities would have to contribute financially to the trust.

D. Senior Services

Mr. Chu shared that the agenda for the next meeting is still being developed.

E. Transportation Reports

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

Mike Bohlke provided an update on the C Line extension and announced that the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) would be brought to the Metro Board in October to allow additional time for public comment. He discussed the upcoming independent audit of the Measure M Subregional Program (MSP), noting that this would be the first audit since Measure M passed ten years ago and would examine funding flows, project performance, and the cities' three percent contributions. Mr. Bohlke explained that the audit was intended to provide useful information to help Metro and the subregions optimize program outcomes and to prepare for the Measure M ten-year assessment. He acknowledged concerns from subregional representatives regarding potential burdens but emphasized that the audit would be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. A preliminary scope for the audit had been developed and was scheduled for finalization by early September, with selection of an external firm to perform the audit and outreach to the councils of governments and other subregional representatives to share details and timing in a workshop planned for late September. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that the MSP audits are from Measure M.

NOTE: Two items were subsequently clarified: 1) that the FEIR would be brought to the Metro Board no earlier than October, but that no official date had been confirmed; and 2) there was reference to a window within which a lawsuit could be filed challenging an FEIR – that window is 30 days after the lead agency files and posts a Notice of Determination.

Andy Sywak of Metro reported that the FEIR had no official release date, but was expected next month, with notifications to be sent once confirmed. He announced that the A Line stations would open on September 19, creating the longest light rail line in the world. Ms. Bacharach noted that the cities of Gardena and Torrance charge fares for their shuttles while Metro services remain free. She also highlighted that applications for the Slow Street grants would open in September, with a webinar scheduled for September 8 and applications closing on October 10.

2. Micromobility Programs and Projects – No updates were provided.

F. REAP 2.0 Updates

1. Commercial Redevelopment to Housing - Ms. Bacharach mentioned that this project is underway.
2. Housing Trust Feasibility Study - Ms. Bacharach shared that only one elected official and one city manager attended the meeting and noted that there will be a presentation to the Board in October.

G. South Bay Fiber Network

Ms. Bacharach reported on the South Bay Fiber Network, noting a lack of financing impacted the prior firm's ability to purchase the network. She stated that staff are seeking another operator to support network expansion and that three companies had expressed interest, with two identified as strong candidates.

H. Resolution 2025-2 – Rescinding Resolution 2025-1 (attachment) – Approve

This item was tabled to be reviewed by the Board in September.

I. Other

Ms. Bacharach reported on the formation of an AI Working Group and invited input from the Board on desired areas of focus. Mr. Siembab asked the Board to consider the SBCCOG's role in AI strategy and planning and proposed developing a catalog of AI tools and data applications to guide member cities. Board Member Bradley discussed the pros and cons of AI adoption, highlighting the need to monitor municipal AI initiatives given their impact on fiber network demand. Mr. Siembab referenced the Government Technology Conference and recent developments in AI funding and municipal applications, including constituent services, AI chatbots for answering public questions, and traffic control and synchronization for bike lane planning. He stressed the importance of big data collection, AI training, and ethical considerations, while noting environmental impacts and the value of community engagement to anticipate council reactions. Board Member Waite encouraged beginning discussions and allowing meetings to shape the group's direction, and Ms. Bacharach recommended a lunch-and-learn format. Board Member Waller outlined the elements of an AI strategic plan for cities, including use cases, target audiences, and public requests, and suggested bi-monthly meetings via Zoom, on a Wednesday or Thursday, starting in October. Board Member Quinn inquired about other cities' efforts, and Mr. Siembab noted that larger cities were advancing while smaller cities faced funding and technical challenges. Hermosa Beach was cited as having launched an AI initiative, while Hawthorne was still in early stages. Chair Suarez recommended identifying existing city efforts to inform the SBCCOG's role.

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bacharach announced plans for a Harbor UCLA tour in October or November. Board Member Jackson shared that the California Coastal Commission would host a reception on October 7 to provide information on the Commission's role, including a Q&A session covering the Whale Tail Act and Coastal Commission processes. He noted that related events would take place at the Sonesta Hotel on October 8–10, coinciding with the Cal Cities conference in Long Beach.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

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

- A.** South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (Barry Waite) (*attachment*)
- B.** League of California Cities & LA Division Legislative Committee (Britt Huff, Jeff Kiernan, Bea Dieringer) (*attachment*)
- C.** County Department of Public Health (Alicia Chang) (*attachment*)
- D.** SCAG update (Erik Rodriguez)
 - 1. Regional Council (Mark Henderson, Mark Waronek, Drew Boyles)
 - 2. Community, Economic, and Human Development (Mark Henderson, Drew Boyles, Mark Waronek)
 - 3. Transportation (Bill Uphoff, Asam Sheikh)
 - 4. Energy and Environment (Britt Huff)
- E.** Metro Service Council (Don Szerlip)
- F.** South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Chris Cagle)
- G.** AQMD update (Brandee Keith)
- H.** Area G Emergency Management (Brandy Villanueva)
- I.** California Association of Councils of Governments – CALCOG

- 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 7:51 pm until the next Board Meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted:
Natalie Champion
SBCCOG Staff