

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

June 8, 2026

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2027 General Assembly Brainstorming

SHALL WE CONTINUE? - IF YES:

Same timing – 9 am to 3 pm?

- Same length or shorter?
- Change to afternoon event after lunch with just afternoon refreshments and no meal? ca. 1:30 pm – 5 pm

Format:

- Speakers/Panels
- Presentations/Discussions
 - South Bay Elected Officials and/or City Managers?
- Exhibit Hall
- Other
 - Polling issues with the audience
 - Breakout groups

TOPIC

Something that is not being discussed everywhere but is important to the South Bay.

- 1) How cities are financed and is it sustainable? Funding sources and responsibilities – RHNA, EV (Transportation California) = VMT tax, Wealth Tax
- 2) Escalating effects and impacts of climate change. Major events are happening faster and more severely than predicted and what does that mean for the future.
- 3) There seems to be a new federal/state relationship and what is the result for regions and specifically how will it affect the South Bay. The federal government is stepping in with hands-on law enforcement, deciding how much research funding our universities, and reducing some of the funding for social service programs. Along with the effect of tariffs, how should the South Bay mitigate these potentially costly changes?
- 4) Increasing autonomy of local government faced with supply chain disruptions, withdrawal of federal financial support and state government overreach in local matters, address how local governments and regions like the South Bay can be more autonomous

STAFF COMMENTS

Most of the comments favored #1 and #4. There were several people who liked 3 and suggested it could be combined with 4.

Specific issues mentioned:

- implications of the phase out of the gas tax
- future of South Bay research institutions like CSUDH, UCLA satellite campus, Lundquist Institute
- highlight the importance of proactive local leadership
- as the population of LA County has grown to the size of the entire state of Michigan, should we delegate more responsibilities to the sub-regions?
- climate resilience amidst funding instability
- what governments choose TO do as well as what they choose NOT to do - hit heavy on governing and how we can do a better job and specifically impacts/effects of what our cities choose to do and not do

POSSIBLE PROGRAM TITLES

Colors are staff preference; red is definitely the favorite; green got several votes and blue got 1 vote; black got no votes.

#1

- **Behind the Curtain: How Cities are Financed**
- **Show Me the Municipality: How Cities Get and Spend Their Cash**
- **The Price of the Place: Who Pays for Our Cities?**
- **Concrete and Capital: The Hidden Economy of Cities**
- **Under the Pavement: Financing the Modern City**
- **Urban Economics: How Cities Fund the Future**
- **Funding the Future City: Innovative Municipal Finance**
- **Resilient Revenues: Sustaining Cities in the 21st Century**
- **Balancing the Books: Equity, Infrastructure, and Urban Budgets**
- **Beyond the Tax Base: New Frontiers in Financing Local Government**

#2

- **"Faster Than Forecast: Confronting Climate Disruption in Real Time"**
- **"The Climate Clock is Speeding Up: What It Means for Our Communities"**
- **"When the Future Arrives Early: South Bay in an Age of Climate Extremes"**
- **"From Wildfires to Water Woes: Building Climate-Ready Cities"**
- **"Extreme Today, Normal Tomorrow: Governing Through Climate Disruption"**

#3

- **"Power Shift: Navigating a New Federal-State Dynamic in the South Bay"**
- **"Caught in the Crosshairs: South Bay Cities and the New Federal-State Tug of War"**
- **"Policy Fallout: Federal Moves, Regional Consequences"**
- **"The Price of Realignment: Tariffs, Budgets, and South Bay's Strategic Future"**
- **"A New Federalism? Regional Resilience in an Era of Centralized Action"**

- **Cutting the Cord: How the South Bay Can Stand on Its Own Two Feet**
- **Masters of Our Own Municipal House: Driving Local Autonomy in the South Bay**
- **Chartered by Choice, Not Chance: Navigating the Shift to Local Self-Reliance**
- **The Sovereign Suburb: Reclaiming Local Control in an Era of State Overreach**
- **Regional Resilience: Strategies for Local Autonomy Amid Federal and State Shifts**
- **Governing from the Ground Up: Building Self-Sustaining South Bay Communities**
- **By the South Bay, For the South Bay: Shielding Local Government from External Disruption**
- **The Autonomy Agenda: Navigating Supply Chains, Budgets, and Local Mandates**
- **Forging the Frontier: How South Bay Cities Can Fund and Govern Independently**

LOCATION AND COST

SBCCOG staff looked last year at the growing costs for this event. It has gotten big enough that we have to plan for about 400 attendees and room for exhibits although we consistently get around 350.

The Westdrift Hotel in Manhattan Beach got good reviews but now is the time to look at other options. We welcome your suggestions.

PREVIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TITLES:

- 1st – About the SBCCOG, Speaker from Governor’s Office & Panel re: Internet Sales
 - 2nd – Cooperative Law Enforcement Efforts & Law Enforcement Technology in the South Bay
 - 3rd - Designing Places for People – Livable Communities in the South Bay
 - 4th - Hometown Security
 - 5th - Partnerships – Building Better Communities
 - 6th - Facing the Future: Energy Use & Supply in the South Bay
 - 7th – The South Bay’s Digital Future: How It Will Change Everything
 - 8th – Mobility Options for the South Bay
 - 9th - Bracing for the Boom: Are Cities Ready for Their Aging Population?
 - 10th –Funding City Services in the Future – House of Cards?
 - 11th –A Vibrant Economy: Jobs Keep the South Bay Strong
 - 12th –The South Bay in 2040: Out of the Box and Into the Future
 - 13th - Being Prepared: Preventing Disasters/Planning for Recovery
 - 14th - At What Cost? The Unintended Consequences of Declining Revenues
 - 15th - Why Must We Care? The Cost of the Changing Environment to the South Bay
 - 16th - A View From the Front Porch: Neighborhoods in the South Bay
 - 17th- Governing in an Era of Disruptive Technologies
 - 18th – Driving the South Bay’s Digital Future
 - 19th - The Evolution of Retail & Its Challenges for Cities
 - 20th – Celebrating the Past & Shaping the Future
 - 21st – Intersections: Mobility, Land Use, Technology, and Finance
 - 22nd - Back? To the Future: Re-imagining the South Bay
 - 23rd - The South Bay: Leading the Way in Resilience and Adaptability
 - 24th - Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe for the South Bay
 - 25th – The SBCCOG at 30: A Legacy of Success, A Vision for Tomorrow

- 26th – Let the Games Begin: How Sports and Entertainment are Shaping the South Bay

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction on the following:

- Length
- Topic and title
- Format
- Venue