

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

February 9, 2026

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Procuring Lobbyist Services

## BACKGROUND:

The SBCCOG is currently sponsoring SB 799 being carried by Senator Allen. As currently written, SB 799 would amend South Bay Regional Housing Trust (SBRHT) formation legislation to allow for non-elected alternates to serve on the Board; clarify when the SBRHT Board would select its Chair and Vice-Chair; and that the SBRHT Joint Powers Agreement would dictate the number of board members and how appointments shall be made. He is also planning to amend the legislation further to allow the SBRHT to fund programs that would address workforce/moderate income housing programs. Currently, the SBRHT would be restricted to extremely low, very low, and low income housing programs.

SB 799 was a “gut and amend” bill subject to different legislative deadlines than a new bill. Due to these deadlines, SBCCOG agreed to hold amendments regarding workforce/moderate income housing until the bill made its way to the Assembly where it would follow a more traditional legislative calendar.

Committee staff in the Legislature has expressed reservations about the inclusion of moderate-income housing language. Given that initial hesitancy, SBCCOG staff has been exploring the use of a lobbying firm to hopefully help usher those amendments successfully through the legislative process and to receive the Governor’s signature. SBCCOG staff would also ask the lobbyist to help remove participation limitations for non-elected alternates that were put into the bill after the Senate Local Government hearing. Additionally, the lobbyist could represent the SBCCOG at committee hearings and provide testimony, saving SBCCOG staff time and expenses.

SBCCOG staff has received proposals from two recommended firms at this time. Services to assist the SBCCOG with this process range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per month. Staff estimates that the services would be needed March through September, for a total cost of \$18,000 to \$30,000.

SBCCOG staff is considering four options:

- 1) Utilize a lobbyist to assist the SBCCOG as described above;
- 2) Attempt to include the workforce/moderate income language without lobbyist support;
- 3) LACAHS is in the process of bringing on their own lobbyist and is amenable to getting approval for the SBCCOG to use those services to support SB 799. Details would still

need to be worked out, however it would likely be at reduced cost when compared to hiring our own lobbyist.

- 4) Only move forward with the governance (non-elected alternates) amendments as-is and let the SBRHT Board consider sponsoring legislation to include workforce/moderate income language given that Measure A funds are not able to directly fund these programs at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction.