

# SOUTH BAY ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026

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**Meeting Type:** Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual via Zoom)

**Location:** WSPA Offices, South Bay, CA / Zoom

**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2026

**Duration:** Approximately 61 minutes

**Presiding:** Jeremy Harris, Chair, Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

**Staff:** Henry Rogers, SBACC

## I. ATTENDEES

### In-Person

Henry Rogers, SBACC

Celest Wilson, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

David Magier, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Mark Warnek – M&M Consulting, Past Chair of SBACC

Mackenzie Neely Wright – AT&T, External Legislative Affairs

Mark Stewart – Carson Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Chair

### Virtual (via Zoom)

Jeremy Harris, Chair – Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Julia Parton, Treasurer – Malaga Bank

Barry Waite – City of Lomita

Marilyn Lyon – Board Member

Jocelyn – Board Member

Michelle Crispin – Board Member

Tracy – Board Member

Heidi Butzine – Incoming Chair, Board Member

Karen – Board Member

Kimberly Ceceres – PBF Energy

Laura Pena – Hermosa Beach Chamber

Monica Garcia Diaz – Wilmington Chamber

Victor Ibarra – Marathon Petroleum

Sharon – Board Member

Ara An – Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Office

George Kivett – Board Member

Celeste – Board Member

### **Government & Partner Representatives**

Rohan Abraham – Congressman Ted Lieu’s Office

Chloe Tachibana – Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi’s Office

Jun Aglipay – Assemblymember Mike Gibson’s Office

Nikki Nguyen – U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Rana Ghadban – California Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Kiernan – League of California Cities (Cal Cities)

Charles Gale – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Tom Lasser – South Bay Aerospace Alliance

Aisha Reyes – South Coast Air Quality Management District

Quorum was established per SBACC Bylaws Article VIII.

## **II. CALL TO ORDER**

Henry Rogers opened the meeting with introductions of in-person and virtual attendees. Chair Jeremy Harris presided over the meeting. Henry provided an overview of the agenda, noting the main focus would be on the annual affordability index and cost driver bills. No guest speaker was scheduled for this meeting.

## **III. REPORTS FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARTNERS**

### **A. California Chamber of Commerce – Rana Ghadban**

Rana Ghadban expressed enthusiasm about hosting SBACC members the following week in Sacramento for the legislative visit. She reported that Cal Chamber has added several bills to the cost drivers list, including new measures in artificial intelligence, antitrust, and employment regulations. Cal Chamber’s team was attending committee hearings throughout the week, and she anticipated providing further updates during the SBACC Sacramento visit.

### **B. U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Nikki Nguyen**

Nikki Nguyen thanked SBACC member chambers that signed on to the Protect Act letter, which garnered over 1,000 signatures from all 50 states and would be sent to Congress upon their return from recess. She noted the U.S. Chamber is monitoring the Iranian conflict and its potential impact on energy policy. Congress remains on recess with limited activity expected.

### **C. Congressman Ted Lieu’s Office – Rohan Abraham**

Rohan Abraham reported that the House passed the 21st Century Housing Act with significant bipartisan support, while the Senate simultaneously passed the Road to Housing Act. Both bills will go to reconciliation and represent the most significant congressional housing action in years. Key provisions include expanding CDBG grant programs, establishing new manufactured home standards, and providing resources to local jurisdictions for housing code updates and ready-to-go projects. Additionally, Congressman Lieu introduced legislation to fund TSA, USCIS, FEMA, and the Coast Guard during the DHS shutdown. The Congressman remains opposed to unauthorized military action in the Middle East.

### **D. Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi’s Office – Chloe Tachibana**

Chloe Tachibana reported that Assemblymember Muratsuchi is in his final legislative term and the office has introduced approximately 10 bills. Key bills highlighted include:

- **AB 1631** – Mandatory kindergarten completion before first grade admission
- **AB 1644** – Bell-to-bell smartphone ban in California public schools
- **AB 2060** – Stipends for mentor teachers in local education agencies
- **AB 2148** – Prohibits AI from replacing human teachers in classrooms
- **AB 2741** – Clarifies housing element law; provides cities additional time to correct housing elements after court findings (developed with City of Redondo Beach)

She also promoted the dual enrollment workshop with El Camino College on Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 AM.

### **E. Assemblymember Mike Gibson’s Office – Jun Aglipay**

Jun Aglipay reported on recent constituent services including free expungement clinics and back-to-back free tax preparation clinics conducted with the YMCA of Gardena-Carson and WLCAC in partnership with State Senator Laura Richardson. He promoted the 7th Annual Autism Walk at the Wilmington Waterfront on Saturday, April 11, from 8:00–11:00 AM, which will be Assemblymember Gibson’s final autism walk before leaving office. Legislative bill introductions are expected next month.

### **F. Supervisor Holly Mitchell’s Office – Ara An**

Ara An provided a detailed update on the LA County half-cent sales tax (Measure ER). At the Board of Supervisors meeting happening concurrently, Item 26 would direct departments to allocate 45% of funds to primary care health coverage for uninsured persons through free and nonprofit community clinics, contingent on voter approval on June 2. She noted the county had hosted virtual meetings with cities to present how the Big Beautiful Bill (HR1) would impact county services. Ara shared the FAQ sheet with funding breakdowns and the Supervisor’s office email in the meeting chat.

### **G. South Bay Council of Governments – David Magier / Barry Waite**

David Magier reported on two major developments. First, the South Bay Regional Housing Trust has been officially formed with 10 member cities, with Rolling Hills Estates considering joining as the 11th before the inaugural meeting at 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 30. The trust will select a chair and vice chair and adopt bylaws at that meeting.

Second, the COG General Assembly on March 26 had approximately 375 attendees. Speakers addressed local arts, major venue projects, and a popular mayor’s panel. A key takeaway was the need for a sub-regional marketing campaign ahead of the Olympics and World Cup.

Barry Waite announced a hybrid meeting on April 30 at 10:00 AM with Larry Cosmont to discuss collaborative economic development and branding for the World Cup and Olympics. SBACC members will receive an invitation. He noted the World Cup is serving as a “dress rehearsal” for the Olympics, with communities already launching outreach programs for hosting various countries.

### **H. League of California Cities (Cal Cities) – Jeff Kiernan**

Jeff Kiernan reported Cal Cities has taken an oppose position on the LA County sales tax measure and is opposing AB 1768, which would exempt LA County from the statewide 2% combined transaction tax rate cap. He thanked Assemblymember Muratsuchi for AB 2741 to address housing element issues affecting Redondo Beach and other cities. Cal Cities submitted a letter requesting \$400 million in full funding for Proposition 36. The organization is developing new e-bike policy to address approximately 18 pending e-bike bills. Cal Cities is also working on reforms to SB 79 (transit-oriented development) to potentially delay implementation to the 7th RHNA cycle.

### **I. Metropolitan Water District – Charles Gale**

Charles Gale reported on two priority bills: AB 2215 (Calderon), which would perfect water rights in the Bay Delta for Metropolitan and 27 State Water Project contractors through the year 2085; and SB 837,

addressing subsidence impacts on the State Water Project from Central Valley groundwater pumping, with potential funding through the Cap and Trade Investment Program or a summer trailer bill. He also noted MWD's biennial rate and budget review would be adopted in April, with proposals ranging from 3% to 9% increases effective July 1 for infrastructure investment, environmental issues, and climate change resilience.

### J. South Bay Aerospace Alliance – Tom Lasser

Tom Lasser reported no major updates regarding Los Angeles Air Force Base, noting things remain quiet. He observed that Space Force was established under President Trump, which may bode well for the base. The next SBAA general meeting is May 3, with invitations forthcoming.

### K. South Coast Air Quality Management District – Aisha Reyes

Aisha Reyes, filling in for Brandi Keith, announced a virtual port community meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00 PM. Spanish translation will be available. Additional information will be distributed.

## IV. LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS

### A. LA County Measure ER – OPPOSE

Henry Rogers presented the LA County half-cent sales tax measure (Measure ER) for opposition. If passed, it would raise the county sales tax from 9.75% to 10.25% for five years, generating nearly \$1 billion annually. The measure requires only a simple majority to pass. Key concerns include: it is a regressive tax hitting working families and small businesses hardest; structured as a general fund tax with limited independent oversight; and pushes South Bay sales tax above 10%, placing local businesses at a competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring counties with rates as low as 7.75%.

Mark Warner provided additional context, noting cities had hoped to capture their own portion of the remaining sales tax capacity before the county acted. Jeremy Harris asked about polling data; Jeff Kiernan shared a poll of LA City voters showing 47% support, though Barry Waite noted the narrow scope of that survey.

**MOTION:** To oppose LA County Measure ER.

**Moved by:** Marilyn | **Seconded by:** George Kivett

**Discussion:** McKenzie Neely Wright (AT&T), Kimberly (PBF Energy), and Ryan abstained.

**VOTE:** Motion passed with abstentions noted. SBACC stands opposed to LA County Measure ER.

### B. AB 736 (Wicks) – Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 – TABLED

Henry Rogers presented AB 736, a \$10 billion statewide affordable housing bond. South Bay median home prices have crested \$1.5 million. The bond includes \$400 million for infill infrastructure near major employers (ports, hospitals) and \$1.7 billion for supportive housing, projected to create over 30,000 new affordable homes statewide. The bill originally targeted the June ballot but has been pushed to November. Chair Harris recommended tabling the item and including it in the Sacramento trip legislative packet for further discussion with attendees.

No motion was made. The item was tabled for future consideration.

### C. AB 1768 (Bryant) – LA County Tax Exemption – OPPOSE

Henry Rogers presented AB 1768, which would authorize LA County to impose an additional transaction tax of up to 0.5% by explicitly exempting the county from the statewide 2% combined rate cap. This is the legislative vehicle enabling Measure ER to move forward.

**MOTION:** To oppose AB 1768.

**Moved by:** Marilyn | **Seconded by:** Heidi

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously. SBACC stands opposed to AB 1768.

### D. SB 1337 (Richardson) – Transportation Fuel Strategy – SUPPORT

Henry Rogers presented SB 1337, brought to SBACC's attention by Kimberly of PBF Energy. The bill establishes an interagency working group led by the Energy Commission to develop a comprehensive transportation fuel strategy ensuring stable supply, addressing price volatility, and supporting workers during energy transitions. The South Bay hosts numerous refineries in Torrance, Wilmington, Carson, Puerto Vallee, and Long Beach. Kimberly's coalition reported that the Middle East situation is projected to produce a 20% spike in operating costs that will be passed to consumers.

**MOTION:** To support SB 1337.

**Moved by:** Celeste | **Seconded by:** Mark Warner

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously. SBACC stands in support of SB 1337.

### E. AB 1350 – Renewable Energy Facilities – SUPPORT

Henry Rogers presented AB 1350, which expands the definition of renewable electrical generation facilities to include turbines using qualifying renewable fuels such as hydrogen and biogas. This technology-neutral policy allows industry clusters like ports and manufacturing facilities to invest in onsite generation, expanding eligibility for the renewables portfolio standard without weakening environmental protections.

**MOTION:** To support AB 1350.

**Moved by:** Celeste | **Seconded by:** Marilyn

**Discussion:** Cal Water abstained.

**VOTE:** Motion passed with Cal Water abstaining. SBACC stands in support of AB 1350.

### F. Cal Chamber Cost Drivers (15 Bills) – OPPOSE

Henry Rogers presented the annual affordability index identifying 15 cost driver bills that threaten to increase regulatory costs across 10 key areas including labor, healthcare, and taxation. SBACC typically aligns with Cal Chamber in opposing these measures, all of which fall within or outside the SBACC policy platform. Rana Ghadban noted Cal Chamber has added additional bills in AI, antitrust, and employment regulation categories. These positions are timely ahead of the Sacramento legislative visit.

**MOTION:** To oppose all 15 Cal Chamber cost driver bills as presented.

**Moved by:** Marilyn | **Seconded by:** Jeremy Harris

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

### G. Cost Cutters: AB 2124 and AB 2366 – SUPPORT

Henry Rogers presented two cost-cutter bills on the affordability index. AB 2124 (Pacheco) requires independent ratepayer impact reviews for energy legislation, ensuring the legislature knows the full cost before voting. AB 2366 requires cost-of-living impact analysis for new regulations, institutionalizing affordability as a mandatory step in the rulemaking process.

Barry Waite raised a concern about potential abuse of these requirements, drawing a parallel to CEQA-like procedural challenges that could be used to delay beneficial legislation. Henry acknowledged the concern, noting nothing in the current language explicitly addresses this. Marilyn made the motion to support with the inclusion of the CEQA-abuse concern in the position letters.

**MOTION:** To support AB 2124 and AB 2366, with CEQA-like abuse concern included in position communications.

**Moved by:** Marilyn | **Seconded by:** Jeremy Harris

**Discussion:** Barry Waite's CEQA concern to be referenced in support letters.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

## V. FINANCIAL REPORT – Julia Parton, Treasurer

Julia Parton provided the financial update. Net income for March was \$7,000. Quarter 1 net income showed a loss of \$3,000. The accounts receivable balance remains a concern, and Julia urged board members to pay invoices on time to support the organization's cash flow.

Julia committed to working with Henry Rogers and Jeremy Harris on an AR reduction plan to collect overdue payments. She also called for rebuilding the sponsorship pipeline and securing new sponsors, collaborating with Henry, Jeremy, and Heidi on that initiative.

Charles Gale offered to contact Chevron regarding their sponsorship. Henry confirmed that all vendor portal documentation had been submitted and a follow-up reminder was scheduled for that afternoon. Charles also confirmed that Metropolitan Water District had received their invoice and the updated SBACC W-9, with payment being processed.

Jeremy Harris noted that the SBACC Executive Committee had agreed to divide and conquer on accounts receivable collection. Board members were reminded they can log into the SBACC portal to check billing status.

Financial reports were received and filed.

## VI. CHAIR'S REPORT – Jeremy Harris

Chair Harris provided an update on the Sacramento advocacy trip scheduled for the following week. A draft agenda had been circulated as part of the board packet. Approximately 8–10 SBACC attendees are expected. Rana Ghadban confirmed that the Cal Chamber lunch can begin at 11:30 AM for a 90-minute session.

The trip will include: Day 1 as a travel day with an evening dinner for SBACC members and invited elected officials; Day 2 featuring a morning briefing and breakfast at WSPA, a full schedule of legislative meetings, and the Cal Chamber lunch. Jeremy thanked Mark Warner for assistance with elected official invitations and Heidi for helping lead the delegation as incoming SBACC Chair.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Jeremy Harris adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:01 PM.

**Next Meeting:** May 2026 (date to be confirmed)

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**Minutes Prepared By:** Henry Rogers, SBACC

**Minutes Reviewed By:** Jessica Vincent, SBACC Board of Directors



## ACTION ITEMS

Task Description	Responsible Party	Deadline
Add AB 1631 and AB 1644 to next month's legislative packet	Henry Rogers, SBACC	May 2026 Board Meeting
Post LA County sales tax Item 26 link, FAQ, and office email in chat	Ara An, Supervisor Mitchell's Office	April 7, 2026
Email SBACC members re: April 30 hybrid ED/Olympics meeting with Larry Cosmont	Henry Rogers / Barry Waite	April 14, 2026
Email invite for May 3 South Bay Aerospace Alliance general meeting	Tom Lasser, SBAA	April 14, 2026
Email port community meeting details (May 6, 5:00 PM, virtual, Spanish translation)	Aisha Reyes, South Coast AQMD	April 14, 2026
Add AB 736 to Sacramento trip legislative packet; discuss with attendees	Henry Rogers, SBACC	April 14, 2026
Send opposition letters: LA County Measure ER and AB 1768	Henry Rogers, SBACC	April 14, 2026
Send support letters: SB 1337 and AB 1350	Henry Rogers, SBACC	April 14, 2026
Send opposition letters: 15 Cal Chamber cost driver bills	Henry Rogers, SBACC	April 14, 2026
Send support letters: AB 2124 and AB 2366; include CEQA-like abuse concern per Barry Waite	Henry Rogers, SBACCC	April 14, 2026
Implement AR reduction plan with Julia Parton; collect overdue payments	Henry Rogers / Jeremy Harris / Julia Parton	Ongoing – May 2026
Rebuild sponsorship pipeline with Julia Parton; secure new sponsors	Henry Rogers / Jeremy Harris / Heidi / Julia Parton	Ongoing – May 2026
Update Sacramento trip agenda: Cal Chamber lunch 11:30–1:00 PM	Henry Rogers, SBACC	April 14, 2026
Finalize Sacramento trip attendee list and circulate	Henry Rogers / Jeremy Harris	April 14, 2026

