



The Gateway Cities
Air Quality Action Plan

AQAP Advisory Roundtable – July 14, 2011

Kick-off Meeting Notes

Location: Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, CA 90723

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Invited Participants (those in attendance highlighted)

Academic and Educational

Hilda Blanco, University of Southern California
Brian Cole, University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Health
Norm Kirschenbaum, Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Program
Joe Magaddino, California State University, Long Beach

Community Representatives

Diana del Pozo-Mora, Mothers of East Los Angeles
Juan Diaz, Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Joan Greenwood, West Long Beach Neighborhood
Debra Bechtold, Targhee (Alternate)
Richard Havenick, Port Community Advisory Committee, Port of Los Angeles
Harold Tseklenis, Downey Community Representative

Environmental

Luis Cabrales, Coalition for Clean Air
Robert Cabrales, Communities for a Better Environment
Amanda Eaken, Natural Resources Defense Council
Adrian Martinez, Natural Resources Defense Council (Alternate)
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Jesse Marquez, Coalition for a Safe Environment

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Public Health Advocates

John Miller, Physician
 Elisa Nicholas, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
 Jessica Tovar, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
 Neal Richman, Breathe California of Los Angeles County
 Paul Simon, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
 Louisa Franco, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
 Zahirah Washington Mann, Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles

Private Sector

Victor Caballero, Express Transportation Services
 Michele Grubbs, Pacific Marine Shipping Association
T. L. Garrett, Pacific Marine Shipping Association (Alternate)
 Marisa Olguin, Vernon Chamber of Commerce
 Patty Senecal, Western States Petroleum Association

Public Sector

Richard Cameron, Port of Long Beach
Renee Moilanen, Port of Long Beach (Alternate)
 Peter Greenwald, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Susan Nakamura, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Alternate)
Ian MacMillan, South Coast Air Quality Management District (Alternate)
 Christopher Patton, Port of Los Angeles
 Alan Hicks, U.S. Department of Transportation
 Cynthia Marvin, California Air Resources Board
Jack Kitowski, California Air Resources Board (Alternate)

At-Large

Alex Cherin, Englander, Knabe & Allen
 Thomas Fields, Long Beach Harbor Commission
 Andrea Hricko, University of Southern California
 Alex Pugh, Southern California Edison
Connie Turner, Southern California Edison (Alternate)
 Lupe Valdez, Union Pacific
Peter Okurowski, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (Alternate)
 Mike Walter, Long Beach Harbor Commission
 Elizabeth Warren, FuturePorts

Technical Roundtable

Steve Lefever, City of South Gate

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Public Participation

Debra Ashby, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Patricia Long, Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association
Clay Renwick, Downey Resident
Margaret Renwick, Downey Resident

Project Team

GC COG: Jerry Wood, Karen Heit

Metro: Adrian Alvarez, Danielle Valentino

ICF Team: Scott Broten, Jonathan Heller, Susan DeSantis, Chester Britt, Laura Muna-Landa,
Maria Yanez-Forgash, Kristen Torres, Cynthia Guzman, Lauren Renee

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Agenda

I. Opening Comments

Raymond Dunton, president of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, welcomed the Advisory Committee members and thanked them for their commitment to working together to improve air quality in the region. He noted that the Gateway Cities have been engaged in efforts to improve mobility, congestion, and air quality for the last 20 years. Because the Gateway Cities area has some of the worst air pollution in the nation, particularly pollution from diesel emissions associated with goods movement, improving air quality is a priority issue. He stated that goods movement is vital to the economy of the Gateway Cities, but it presents the dual challenge of managing the resultant impacts on both traffic congestion and air quality. He concluded his remarks by noting that the Gateway Cities Council of Governments remains committed to its initiatives to address mobility and air quality issues to improve the health of its communities.

II. Introductions

III. Agenda Overview

Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis provided an agenda overview. She noted that, in addition to several presentations, the meeting would include an in-depth discussion regarding the I-710 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (i.e., a roundtable discussion) and the selection of an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Advisory Roundtable liaison to the Environmental Committee.

IV. Compendium of Existing and Proposed Near-term Air Quality Improvement Strategies

Scott Broten, ICF International

Mr. Broten provided a brief report on the *Compendium of Existing and Proposed Near-term Air Quality Improvement Strategies for the I-710 Corridor*. He noted that the compendium, which was created in 2006, is intended to be an information baseline for proposed near-term air quality strategies. The compendium was updated using the following methodology: review the original compendium, review regulations and other documents created during the last 5 years, and conduct interviews with Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles staff members to determine the status of the previously identified near-term air quality strategies. He noted that measures with significant emissions benefits have been adopted since 2006. It was reported that 106 out of the 154 measures identified in 2006 have been fully implemented.

Discussion Summary – *Some of the Advisory Roundtable members were unclear about the scope of the I-710 HIA in relation to the I-710 EIR/EIS air quality/health risk assessment. Mr. Broten reviewed the differences between the two documents and the processes. Mr. Broten also responded to roundtable members who had questions regarding measures that were not listed during the presentation as well as other measures. The roundtable members were assured that they would become familiar with the measures that are listed in the compendium. It was suggested that they could help identify the status of existing measures and/or identify new measures. The group then discussed the process for how new measures will be formulated.*

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V. I-710 Construction Staging Concept

Jerry Wood, Director of Transportation and Engineering, Gateway Cities

Mr. Wood presented the I-710 construction staging concept. He noted that the concept is based on building the I-710 freight corridor before the general purpose lanes. He then explained why this concept is being proposed. He noted that communities want cars and trucks separated. Constructing the I-710 freight corridor first will significantly improve congestion, mobility, and safety (i.e., reduce accident rates) in the general purpose lanes. The rest of I-710 general purpose lane improvements will occur over time as funding becomes available. Mr. Wood also stated that the I-710 freight corridor is a potential P3 project (privately financed, or a portion thereof), which means it can be implemented in less time. In addition, zero-emissions transportation technologies may be implemented in the freight corridor sooner than they would be otherwise. Construction of much of the freight corridor would be adjacent to existing freeway lanes, thereby minimizing freeway disruptions. Mr. Wood noted that the concept and the related staging and phasing are based on current geometric plans, as shown in the PowerPoint presentation. If these plans change, the staging and phasing, as well as some project elements, may change.

Discussion Summary – *The roundtable discussed the timeline for the I-710 project, which extends out to 2035; the role of the construction staging concept; and the sizable cost of the project through the 2035 time frame. Mr. Wood said that a project this large and of such national significance will eventually secure all the necessary funding.*

VI. I-710 Health Impact Assessment

Jonathan Heller, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Human Impact Partners

Mr. Heller presented details regarding the goals, overriding parameters, health determinants, pathways, and the scope of the HIA, which were vetted by the HIA Technical Working Group (TWG). These elements are intended to set the direction of analysis for the HIA. The Advisory Roundtable discussed each section and responded with feedback.

Discussion Summary

1. Health Impact Assessment Goals: *The roundtable's input was solicited regarding the goals of the HIA created by the TWG. Several potential changes to the goals were suggested. These changes included establishing health baselines for purposes of comparison, benchmarking and defining success more broadly, providing data beyond that included in the I-710 EIR/EIR, identifying the costs of health care, and identifying additional measures. It was suggested that roundtable members provide opinions in writing and submit them for consideration following the meeting. It was suggested that Goal 5 be expanded to indicate that if other data are available, such data could be included in the HIA.*

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2. **Overriding Parameters and Health Determinants:** *The Advisory Roundtable discussed the overriding parameters and the health determinants selected by the I-710 HIA TWG. A number of issues were discussed, including the indirect effects of freeway expansion on affordable housing; the enumeration of externalities, such as tax subsidies for transportation and health care; the evaluation of water quality impacts; and the assessment of construction effects. It was suggested that the vulnerable population definition be expanded to include pregnant women. It was noted by the project team that a number of concerns of the Advisory Roundtable have already been addressed through design (i.e., in the case of water quality), a separate California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) report, and early construction of sound walls to address construction emissions and noise issues.*

3. **Health Pathways:** *The Advisory Roundtable discussed the role of the schedule for the draft EIR/EIS as it pertains to driving the I-710 HIA process. It was suggested by Advisory Roundtable members that any additional documents that are ready by the time of the draft EIR/EIS submission should be included, although the group was reminded that the decision to include other documents lies with the I-710 Project Committee and, ultimately, Caltrans. Advisory Roundtable members pointed out that there seem to be overlapping issues that fall into more than one pathway, and it was noted that some effects fit into more than one category. Mr. Heller outlined assumptions brought up by Advisory Roundtable members regarding the ports' operating hours, port buildout, and population projections.*

VII. Roundtable Discussions and Reporting

Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Advisory Roundtable members decided against moving into roundtable discussions because of time constraints. Roundtable members valued being able to discuss their ideas with their fellow Advisory Roundtable members, and they agreed to participate in the small group discussion on the HIA at the August 11 Advisory Roundtable meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

Margaret Renwick, a long-time Downey resident, addressed the Advisory Roundtable. She spoke about her health conditions, which she attributes to the confluence of multiple pollution sources near her home. In addition, she compared her experiences in Downey with her past experiences in Alhambra. While living in Alhambra, she witnessed the posturing of neighboring South Pasadena residents who wanted to prevent freeway expansion in their city. She does not want to see any freeway expansion because her community already bears the burden of pollution.

IX. Nominations and Selection of Representative to the Environmental Committee

Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis provided an overview of the Environmental Committee, noting that the committee's roles and responsibilities include providing policy direction and recommendations to the Gateway Cities Board of Directors through the Transportation Committee. She said that a commitment to serve involved attending monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

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Ms. DeSantis opened up the floor for nominations and invited the nominees to speak about their reasons for wanting to serve on the Environmental Committee. Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and Luis Cabrales, Coalition for Clean Air, were selected by a show of hands to be AQAP Advisory Roundtable liaisons to the Environmental Committee. Jesse Marquez was identified by Angelo Logan as his alternate.

X. Next Steps and Wrap Up

Susan DeSantis, Arellano Associates

Ms. DeSantis summarized the topics covered and provided information on upcoming meetings (e.g., July 27, Environmental Committee, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.).

Roundtable members were instructed to provide comments to the project team regarding the goals, overriding parameters, health determinants, pathways, and the scope of the HIA by July 27.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.