

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Boulevard
Paramount, California
January 6, 2016**

President Saleh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Second Vice President Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park
Immediate Past President Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member George Ray, City of Cerritos
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Christian Hernandez, City of Cudahy
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Edward Eng, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach
Member Salvador Alatorre, City of Lynwood
Member Thomas Martin, City of Maywood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier
Member Joseph Martinez, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Tracy Egoscue, Port of Long Beach

ABSENT: First Vice President Al Austin, City of Long Beach
Member Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy, City of Avalon
Member Mark D. Radecki, City of Industry
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Member Leonard Shryock, City of Norwalk
Member Jay Sarno, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Rick Velasquez, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member David Riccitiello, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Garcia, Mayor, City of Long Beach; Bill DeWitt, Vice Mayor, City of South Gate; KeAndra Dodds, Housing and Transportation Deputy, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis; Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; Paramount City Manager John Moreno; Santa Fe Springs City Manager Thaddeus McCormack; Bell Gardens Director of Public Works Chau Vu; Downey Director of Public Works Mohammad Mostahkami; La Mirada Director of Public Works Mark Stowell; Long Beach Manager of Government Affairs Diana Tang; Pico Rivera Associate Engineer Gladis Deras; Lara Larramendi, District Director, Congresswoman Janice Hahn; Mark Stanley, Executive Officer, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Fabiola Lao, Deputy Policy Director, Coalition for Clean Air; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Kevin Gilhooly, Regional Affairs Officer, SCAG; Danielle Soto, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Kim Barnette, SPA 7 Homeless Coordinator, LAHSA; Meredith Berkson, Director, South County CES, PATH; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Andres Molina, Government Relations Representative, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff; Melissa de la Pena, Cordoba Corporation; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; GCCOG Consultant Engineer and I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Kekoa Anderson; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Uranga.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member DuBois, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager Thaddeus McCormack presented a status report on the California High Speed Rail Project in the Gateway Cities area. He said the alignment from Union Station to Anaheim is moving to the environmental phase and the cities want to be at the table now rather than when the EIR is released. He said for the first time the California High Speed Rail Authority is working in earnest with the cities. He credited intervention by Supervisor Knabe with getting the Authority to listen to the cities and that the Authority has offered a reimbursable agreement to the cities to do the analysis on local impacts. Mr. McCormack invited COG Engineer Kekoa Anderson to give a brief PowerPoint presentation on the overall plans for the High Speed Rail project.

Member Hurtado said he would like the new members of the Board to be briefed on the project and how much money has been spent. Mr. McCormack responded that he was confident that the High Speed Rail Authority would like to come back and make a presentation to the Board.

Member DuBois asked if the High Speed Rail Authority had reached out to local elected officials before making presentations to the public. Mr. McCormack said they had not.

The Executive Director said that only recently has the High Speed Rail Authority been responsive to the cities.

Fabiola Lao, Deputy Policy Director for the Coalition for Clean Air, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the implementation of Senate Bill 535 (DeLeon) and the Charge Ahead California Initiative. She said SB 535 establishes a framework to direct Cap and Trade investments to disadvantaged communities. She reviewed the Cal EnviroScreen map which shows the high concentration of disadvantaged communities in the Gateway Cities. She reviewed the various programs and levels of funding under the state Cap and Trade program.

Ms. Lao then discussed the Charge Ahead California Initiative, created by Senate Bill 1275 (DeLeon). She said the bill directs the Air Resources Board to develop a long-term funding plan to meet the goal of adding 1.5 million electric vehicles to the roads in California over the next ten years. She summarized the programs, such as the state's existing car scrappage program, which provide incentives for the purchase of new, eligible zero-emission or plug-in hybrid vehicles. She referred the Board members to forms by which they may individually endorse the Charge Ahead California Initiative.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Immediate Past President Tercero, to send a letter expressing the COG's support for the Charge Ahead California Initiative. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that Senate Bill 355 (Lara) had added two new voting members to the Board of Directors of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, one from the San Gabriel Valley COG and one from the Gateway Cities COG. He said the bill called for the COG Board to nominate and send to the Governor the names of at least two Board members from cities that border the Los Angeles River, provided they are not from a city that already has a resident member of the RMC Board.

Member Marquez nominated President Saleh for the RMC Board. Immediate Past President Tercero nominated Member Alatorre. There were no other nominations. It was moved by Member Newcomer, seconded by Immediate Past President Tercero, to forward the nominations of President Saleh and Member Alatorre to the Governor for possible appointment to the RMC Board of Directors. The motion was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The Deputy Executive Director reported on Assembly Bill 530 (Rendon), which created the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group that is tasked with developing a revitalization plan for the Lower Los Angeles River watershed. He said the legislation provides for representation on the Working Group by the Gateway Cities COG and that the purpose of the agenda item was for the Board to select the COG's representative. In addition to the COG's representative, he said the bill provides that elected officials from cities within the watershed may request to be appointed to the Working Group by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Daniels, to nominate Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia as the COG's representative to the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group.

Member Newcomer nominated Immediate Past President Tercero as the COG's representative to the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group.

Member Wilson asked that the nominees address the Board regarding their interest in serving on the Working Group.

Mayor Garcia expressed his interest to represent the COG on the Working Group, including serving as its chair. He referred to the importance of the river to the region and the City of Long Beach, expressing particular concern that all of the trash and debris that enters the river eventually works its way down to Long Beach.

Immediate Past President Tercero similarly expressed his interest in serving on the Working Group, and said he would look after the interests of all of the COG cities. President Saleh asked for a show of hands of the Board members voting for Mayor Garcia and Immediate Past President Tercero respectively, and announced that the Board's nominee was Mayor Garcia by a vote of 13 to 8.

It was then moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Newcomer, to send a letter of support by the COG Board for Immediate Past President Tercero's nomination to the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group as an elected official from a city within the watershed. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file reports A through D. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the I-710 Aesthetics Committee was once again active in developing an overall aesthetics theme for the corridor improvements, including sound walls.

Kekoa Anderson presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the evaluation of the I-605/I-405 interchange was now underway.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the MTA Board had approved the quarterly changes to the Measure R expenditure plan, as well as approving performance metrics.

Meredith Berkson, PATH, presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. She reviewed the numbers by city from the homeless count of January 2015, as well as the outreach statistics for the month of November.

Member Marquez asked how Board members can explain to their residents the cost of the program in relation to the numbers of those housed. Ms. Berkson responded that the outreach effort of the program is very extensive and that the resources available to this region are very limited. She mentioned that two emergency shelters had recently opened in Compton and Hawthorne.

Ms. Berkson reported that the LAHSA homeless count will now be done on an annual basis. She said so far the cities of Bell Gardens and South Gate had opted in to participate in the count.

There was no report from the Committee on Sustainability.

It was moved by Member Davis, seconded by Member Newcomer, to receive and file the committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She reported that only the most southerly segment of the project, the Valley View interchange, is not yet under construction. She said the Alondra interchange is completed, Rosecrans Ave. is 75% completed, and Norwalk Blvd. is 50% completed. She said I-5 north of I-605 is very constrained and a likely bottleneck.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said the Governor was expected to release his budget tomorrow and there is hope that it will include funding for local streets and roads. She said the League would be holding a workshop on medical marijuana in Burbank on January 26th. She said the League is looking for support for an ordinance on responsible collection of sharps and pharmaceuticals.

Kevin Gilhooly presented a report from SCAG. He said SCAG would be holding its annual Economic Summit tomorrow. He said the Regional Council had approved the draft RTP/SCS and it is now available for public review. He referred the Board to a flyer announcing a series of workshops on the RTP/SCS.

There was no report from Eco-Rapid Transit.

It was moved by Member Sharif, seconded by Member Lima, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Danielle Soto presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. She referred the Board to a flyer announcing a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Forum to be held on January 16th at the California Science Center.

There was no report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council.

It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Newcomer, to receive and file the agency reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.