

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Cerritos Senior Center  
12340 South Street  
Cerritos, California  
December 7, 2005**

There not being present a quorum of the Board of Directors, President Nordbak called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 6:12 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier  
First Vice President Samuel Pena, City of Maywood  
Second Vice President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia  
Immediate Past President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member John Crawley, City of Cerritos  
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park  
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount  
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs

**ABSENT:**  
Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey  
Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk  
Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach  
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach  
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

**ALSO PRESENT:** Board Member John Pratt, City of Bellflower; Board Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy; Board Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights; Board Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing; La Habra Heights City Manager Ron Bates; Lakewood Director of Community Development Charles Ebner; South Gate Assistant to the City Manager Binti Harvey; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Long Beach Transit Executive Director for Community and Customer Services Brynn Kernaghan; Bell Special Projects Manager Raul Romero; Montebello Bus Lines Management Analyst Manchi Yi; Jerry Wood, Interim Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Ernest Morales, Metro Gateway Cities Director; Alex Clifford, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector General Manager; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Patrician Price, Public Affairs Specialist, SCAQMD; Kristine Guerrero, Regional Representative, League of California Cities; Lee Saage, URS; Graciela Italiano-Thomas, Chief Facilities Development Director, Los Angeles Universal Preschool; Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director, South Bay Council of Governments; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG

Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Program Development Director Deborah Chankin; Karen Heit, GCCOG Transportation Deputy to MTA Director Lowenthal.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member DuBois led the pledge of allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Patrician Price, SCAQMD, announced that the District's calendar contest entitled "Color My Air Clean" had resulted in three winners from Bellflower and one from South Gate. She said that the District would be hosting the first Asthma Conference on Friday, February 17, at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member DuBois, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Graciela Italiano-Thomas, Executive Director of Los Angeles Universal Preschool, gave a brief overview of her organization. Los Angeles Universal Preschool is a public benefit corporation whose goal is make voluntary, high quality preschool available to every four-year-old child in Los Angeles County. She said that there are 150,000 preschool age children in Los Angeles County, which is three times the number in the entire state of Georgia. She said their aim is to build on existing preschool infrastructure, as well as to create new facilities. She said there is currently a \$3 million investment in the Gateway Cities area, which funds seven facilities serving more than 900 children. She said new classrooms being developed will serve about 450 more children, bringing the total investment in the sub-region to \$4.7 million.

Ms. Italiano-Thomas said that her board wants to focus in the areas of the county with the greatest need, with the aim to bring the participation level up to the national average of 58%. She said that of the 34 areas of greatest need, 16 are located in the Gateway Cities sub-region. Of these, nine have deficits of over 1,000 spaces and five have deficits of 500 spaces. The current level of participation in the sub-region is 41%; approximately 16,000 four-year-olds do not have access to preschool. She said that between \$78 and \$105 million is needed to build and operate facilities to meet the need in this sub-region alone.

Ms. Italiano-Thomas said that there will be an initiative on the ballot in June to impose a 1.7% income tax on the upper income tax brackets to fund additional preschools. She said that they need to identify projects and leverage funding. She said they have begun working with Assemblyman De La Torre and that Supervisor Knabe is very supportive. She said that the help they needed from

the Gateway Cities COG members is to identify potential partners that they can contact.

Member Crawley asked who will pay for the program. Ms. Italiano-Thomas replied that funding from Proposition 10 covers the next five years.

Second Vice President Nelson asked if Ms. Italiano-Thomas would be available if a city were to schedule a town hall meeting. She replied that she would be available.

President Nordbak asked how their program differed from licensed day care. Ms. Italiano-Thomas responded that they support only high quality programs, and that a program must reach a three star level (out of a possible five) to be eligible under their guidelines.

The report was received and filed by consensus of the Executive Committee.

Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director of the South Bay Council of Governments, spoke in support of the proposal to amend the composition of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board of Directors to add four new municipal representatives. She said that Los Angeles County presently has two municipal representatives, one from the east and one from the west. However, because of its size, the City of Los Angeles always receives the west seat, meaning that the other cities in the west part of the county are never afforded the opportunity to have a representative on the Board. She said that the South Bay COG has retained a legislative consultant and is seeking an author for legislation which would add one municipal seat for each of the four counties covered by the SCAQMD, with the additional seat in Los Angeles County designated for a representative from the western sector outside of the City of Los Angeles. She said that the South Bay COG was looking for support from the Gateway Cities COG and for a small contribution of \$2,500 towards this effort.

First Vice President Pena said that he thought that the consultant was to look at the membership of more than the one board. Ms. Bacharach responded that eventually the consultant would look at other boards but is starting with the Air District. Immediate Past President Wilson expressed concern that the proposed composition would make the Air District Board too large. President Nordbak said that he felt it was important to support the South Bay COG in this effort since that COG had supported the Gateway Cities COG in the past.

It was moved by President Nordbak, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the recommendation to support the legislative efforts of the South Bay COG to increase municipal representation on the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board of Directors, and to contribute \$2,500 towards the cost of the legislative consultant. The motion was approved, with Second Vice President Nelson and Immediate Past President Wilson opposed.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing presented a report on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). He said because the State had decided that only one IRWMP would be developed for Los Angeles County and only the County Department of Public Works would be eligible for planning grant funds, that the original Memorandum of Understanding had been set aside and a new governance structure had been proposed. He said that a Los Angeles County structure with semi-independent sub-regional groups was suggested and passed out a chart showing the proposed steering committee makeup for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed. He pointed out that the proposed steering committee had only one member representing cities. He said that the structure was critical with regard to funding of future projects from bond issues. He asked that the Executive Committee support a proposal that cities have at least three seats on the steering committee, appointed by the COG Board of Directors. He said that the San Gabriel Valley, currently included in the proposed structure, was desirous of forming its own steering committee. In that case, seats would be opened up for additional city membership. Finally, he said that the proposal, in the interest of accountability, called for the fiscal agent to be a city or county.

The Executive Director said that the COG has historically served as a facilitator on behalf of its member cities regarding water issues, but has not engaged in water policy decision making. He said that the recommended action is intended to facilitate the selection of city membership to represent the interest of cities in the governance of the program, but is not intended for the COG to engage in water policy decisions.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Immediate Past President Wilson, to approve the recommendation regarding the structure of the IRWMP Steering Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. She said the Conservancy Board had approved the formation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, initially consisting of the RMC, the cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach, and the California Coastal Conservancy. The new JPA will have the ability to acquire property in the Los Cerritos wetlands for conservation purposes. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Immediate Past President Wilson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood, Interim Executive Director of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority, presented a status report on the I-5 project. He said that the Carmenita bridge right-of-way acquisition was about to begin. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Guerrero, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee. He said that the goal of raising \$30 million from the various participating entities had largely been achieved to fund the environmental analysis phase of the I-710 project. He said that the "mini-study" of the Commerce and East Los Angeles segment had been completed and had been approved by the City of Commerce. It is still undergoing review in East Los Angeles.

The Executive Director presented a report on the SR91/I-605 Needs Assessment Study. He said that staff was currently evaluating ways to fund a major corridor study.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Second Vice President Nelson, to receive and file the I-710 and SR91/I-605 reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Karen Heit, Transportation Deputy to MTA Director Lowenthal, presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the Transportation Committee had met and voted to support a draft motion by MTA Directors Lowenthal and Roberts supporting continuance of the Municipal Operators Service Improvement Program by the MTA. Currently, that program is set to expire in 2006. She also reported that the Transportation Committee took a position to support changes to the Local Return Guidelines proposed by the Gateway Cities Streets and Freeways Subcommittee representatives. It was moved by Immediate Past President Wilson, seconded by Second Vice President Nelson, to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the SCAG Regional Council agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Second Vice President Nelson, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the agendas for the SCAG policy committees. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Nordbak announced that the January meeting of the Board of Directors would be the first meeting to be held at the new location at the Clearwater Building in the City of Paramount. Since several members had a conflict with the normal meeting date of January 4, 2006, the Executive Committee reached a consensus to hold the next meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, January 18, 2006.

President Nordbak expressed to Member Crawley the thanks of the Board to the City of Cerritos for hosting the meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the past ten years.

The Executive Director introduced Ernest Morales, who had recently been appointed as the new MTA Team Director for the Gateway Cities sub-region.

The Executive Director announced the upcoming EPA Summit to be held in Santa Fe Springs on January 13, 2006. He reported that the COG and the other sub-regions are currently undergoing an audit process on their SCAG OWP projects for the past three years. He said that an updated roster of SCAG Administration Committee members is included in the agenda packets for tonight's meeting.

Second Vice President Nelson asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory and honor of those who served at Pearl Harbor on this day in 1941.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus of the Executive Committee at 7:11 p.m.