

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
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
April 4, 2007**

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

PRESENT: President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
First Vice President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Laura Lee, City of Cerritos
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Ron Beilke, City of Pico Rivera
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon

ABSENT: Immediate Past President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Oscar Hernandez, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Member John Heckerman, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Fernando Pedroza, City of Lynwood
Member Jeff Siccama, City of Montebello
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member Kerry Cartwright, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Nick Ippolito, Social Services Deputy for Supervisor Don Knabe; Connie Sziebl, Field Deputy for Supervisor Don Knabe; South Gate City Manager Gary Milliman; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Luis Marquez, District Representative, Office of Senator Alan Lowenthal; Debra Reed, Public Affairs, SCAQMD; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Jo Ann Armenta, SCAG Clean Cities Coalition; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; Kip Field, Program Manager, California High Speed Rail Authority; Brew Clarke, Project Manager, California High Speed Rail Authority; Roderick Diaz, Deputy Project Manager, California High Speed Rail Authority; Betsy A. Lindsay, Deputy Project Manager, California High Speed Rail Authority; Elise McAllister, Environmental Planner, California High Speed Rail Authority; Genoveva Arellano, California High Speed Rail Authority; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Thomas Duarte; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin; Karen Heit, GCCOG Transportation Deputy; Jerry Wood, GCCOG Consultant Engineer.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member DuBois led the pledge of allegiance.

The Executive Director asked that Item VII B, Approval of the Warrant Register, be voted on separately from the consent calendar; and that item VII H, Draft AQMD Air Quality Management Plan, be taken up under reports. It was the consensus of the Board to remove those two items from the consent calendar.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

The Executive Director introduced Nick Ippolito, Social Services Deputy to Supervisor Don Knabe, who presented a letter announcing an award of \$150,000 to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments to hire a consultant to develop a plan for providing services to the homeless in the Gateway Cities subregion, and \$1.2 million annually for the provision of services to the homeless. The Executive Director explained that this award to the COG was a joint effort of Supervisors Don Knabe and Gloria Molina.

Member Lowenthal presented a letter inviting Board members to take a tour of the port facilities with the alternative dates of May 9 and May 10. It was the consensus of the Board to select the date of May 9 for the tour.

The Executive Director explained that the warrant register included an unusually large billing from the COG's independent auditor, which is attributable to a significant amount of work relating to three audits of the COG by SCAG, Caltrans, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He said that these costs are offset by savings in other accounts. It was moved by President Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the warrant register as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Member Putnam, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the remainder of the consent calendar, with the exception of Item H, relating to the Draft Air Quality Management Plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Director of Program Development presented a report on behalf of the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the Draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan. She said that the city managers and planning directors are in support of the draft plan as a whole, but that there is serious concern about a measure entitled Emissions Growth Management (control measure EGM-01), which would mandate an increased level of SCAQMD involvement in the CEQA process for all new and redevelopment projects. The city managers feel that the criteria for the AQMD review are not well defined. The Director of Program Development said that the city managers recommended that the Board:

1. Support the Draft 2007 AQMP as an overall policy framework;
2. Commend the District for removing the development fee proposal;
3. Express interest in working with AQMD staff on the development of EGM-01 and that the COG be represented on the EGM-01 Working Group, but not support the implementation of this measure until details are known and found satisfactory;
4. Urge that the approach to EGM-01 not include any new air quality analysis processing fee, that any new air quality analysis be concurrent with the existing CEQA comment period, and that SCAQMD not assume a role that interferes with local land use authority and discretionary development approvals;
5. Request that the Plan acknowledge the issue of atmospheric deposition and the need to further explore the extent of its impact on water quality compliance;
6. Urge that no new rulemaking be undertaken with regard to "urban heat islands" and that this issue continue to be handled on a voluntary and advisory basis only.

Member Wilson asked if the Plan covers all development and not just commercial and industrial. The Director of Program Development responded that it does cover all development, including housing.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Guerrero, to approve the recommendations made by the City Managers Steering Committee.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Kip Field, Program Manager for the California High Speed Rail Authority introduced Project Manager Brew Clarke, who made a presentation on the Authority's proposed high speed rail system, which would extend from San Diego to San Francisco and Sacramento. He said his primary focus was on the Los Angeles to San Diego segment of the project. Mr. Clarke said that this is the beginning of a three year environmental review process. A \$10 billion bond issue is proposed for the November 2008 ballot to fund the construction of the system. He said that scoping meetings on this segment of the project would be held throughout the month of April in Los Angeles, Anaheim, and Norwalk.

Member Gurule referenced the Orangeline Development Authority project and expressed concern that everyone is going after the same dollars. Mr. Clarke responded that they would not necessarily be competing for the same money, and that they may be serving different areas. Member Du Bois asked if the system would connect with local lines. Mr. Clarke responded that it would connect at Union Station in Los Angeles and at the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink station.

Jo Ann Armenta gave a presentation on behalf of the SCAG Clean Cities Coalition regarding the Coalition's desire to create synergies to advance the awareness of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. She said that her intention was to introduce herself and to describe the outreach activities of the Coalition, which aims to increase the use of alternative fuels. She encouraged Board members to contact her at SCAG.

President Nelson said that he had gone to two Coalition conferences in Phoenix and Indio, and that they have the ability to display dozens of different vehicles that use alternative fuels.

Luis Marquez, District Representative for Senator Alan Lowenthal, presented a report on SB 974 (Lowenthal), which would impose a \$30 container fee on cargo moving through the ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland, to fund environmental mitigation and congestion relief related to the flow of cargo through those ports. Member Lowenthal reported that the Long Beach City Council had taken a position of support for the bill and to work with the author of some modifications of the provisions. Member O'Donnell said that this is a regional solution to the problem, not just one for our area.

Member Wilson asked if the bill had been studied by the Legislative Committee. Member Lowenthal said that the Transportation Committee had studied the bill and had voted to support the bill and to work with the author on the final language. Member Wilson noted that the Port of San Diego was left out of the bill. The Executive Director said that the Gateway Cities COG is written into the bill to potentially receive funding for air quality programs. It was moved by

Member Lowenthal, seconded by Member Hurtado, to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Committee to support SB 974 and to work with the author on the final language. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the proposed MTA Congestion Management Fee. She said the fee was currently at the stage where it is being studied for the nexus between the collection of the fee and its distribution. She said the City Managers Steering Committee had expressed several concerns regarding the proposed fee:

1. The MTA has not done sufficient analysis on issues that face built-out cities within an urbanized area like the Gateway Cities subregion;
2. The proposed fee may act as a deterrent to encouraging development with urbanized areas and unduly burden redevelopment efforts with additional fees the cities may end up subsidizing;
3. The fee may function as a deterrent to in-fill housing efforts or commercial development in economically challenged areas;
4. The fee may require smaller cities to contribute to a regional project outside of the city's boundaries;
5. There is no provision for maintenance of effort to regional funding of projects by the MTA;
6. Cities that do not adopt the fee would face losing their gas tax funds.

The Transportation Deputy said that the city managers felt that the option should be left open for cities to opt out of the fee and to retain the current debits and credits system. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, presented a report from SCAG. He said that a special joint workshop between the SCAG Regional Council and the SCAG policy committees would be held tomorrow on SCAG's role in the air quality process. He announced the SCAG General Assembly to be held on May 3 and the Housing Summit to be held on May 24.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She announced the League Legislative Action Days would be held on May 16 and 17. She asked that anyone planning to attend contact her. Member Daniels said that there is a conflict of those dates with the annual conference of the California Contract Cities Association. Ms. Guerrero said that she would discuss that conflict with the League's Executive Director in the hope of avoiding that conflict in the future.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the I-5 Joint Powers Authority. She said that the properties needed for the Carmenita Bridge project had been acquired.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

Debra Reed presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. She said that many cities had approved the Draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan. She said that there would be a representative from the COG on the Working Group. She said public hearings would be starting on April 17 and called the Board's attention to a flyer announcing the public hearing dates. She announced the Conference on Asthma and Air Pollution to be held April 26 and 27 at the Disneyland Hotel. She invited Board members to pick up a copy of the SCAQMD newsletter, which she made available.

Member O'Donnell presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board of Directors had heard a presentation on the results of a planning grant that had been awarded to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

Jerry Wood presented reports from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee and the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that work was progressing on the Air Quality Action Plan for the I-710 corridor. He announced that a meeting of the SR-91/I-710/I-405 Technical Advisory Committee was currently being scheduled.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the Committee had discussed and acted on SB 974 and the proposed MTA Congestion Management Fee, both of which were acted on by the Board earlier during the meeting.

President Nelson thanked Member Lowenthal for taking the lead in arranging for the upcoming tour of the ports.