

**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
February 6, 2008**

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

PRESENT: President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
First Vice President Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Second Vice President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Immediate Past President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Jim Edwards, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Victor Farfan, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Ron Beilke, City of Pico Rivera
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Bill DeWitt, City of South Gate
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Oscar Hernandez, City of Bell
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Robert Urteaga, City of Montebello
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Maywood Councilwoman Ana Rosa Rizo; Connie Sziebl, Field Deputy for Supervisor Don Knabe; Downey Assistant City

Manager Desi Alvarez; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Downey Assistant to the City Manager Scott Pomrehm; Commerce Senior Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Juan Camacho, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; Wally Shidler, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council Member; Alex Clifford, General Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Sector; Mike Sieckert, Metro Gateway Cities Planning Manager; David Hershensen, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District; Luis Cetina, Senior Regional Representative, Metropolitan Water District; David Madsen, Public Affairs Officer, SCAQMD; Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Program Development Nancy Pfeiffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry R. Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

President Guerrero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

No one wished to speak during public comments.

The Executive Director reported that the amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, which permits the County to have as many as three representatives on the COG Board of Directors, has been approved by a majority of the cities and is now in effect. He said that the 91/605/405 cities had adopted two policy statements regarding the freeway corridor: that the corridor cites seek non-freeway movement or cargo, and that alternative technologies to move cargo be advanced. He said that Cal State Long Beach has agreed to partner with the COG and that Congressman Rohrabacher has invited the University and the COG to meet with members of Congress at the end of the month.

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

Metropolitan Water District General Manager Jeff Kightlinger gave a presentation on current water issues. He said that these are challenging times in terms of availability of water supply. He said that half of southern California's water has to be imported from two sources: northern California and the Colorado River. Half of the latter supply has been lost because of a drought in the Colorado River

basin. Twenty-two percent of the water from northern California has been lost because of a court order protecting an endangered species. The result, he said, is a constrained water supply over the next two years.

Mr. Kightlinger said that water supplies to local farmers have been cut back by thirty percent, effective January 1st of this year. He said he is asking for help and support to get this issue addressed in Sacramento.

Member DeWitt said that he feels the Central Basin cities will be subsidizing the developing areas in the Inland Empire and San Diego. He said he would prefer across the board water cutbacks. Mr. Kightlinger responded that the Central Basin actually does better with this plan than it would with across the board cuts.

Member Nordbak asked how much of the recent rain had been captured. Mr. Kightlinger replied that we don't have the ability to move the captured rainwater into the Diamond Valley. He said the good thing is that the rain brings down demand. Member Dobson asked if the snow pack helps. Mr. Kightlinger said it does help, particularly with the northern California water supply.

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

The Director of Program Development presented a report regarding comments on the 2008 Draft SCAG Regional Transportation Plan. She said that the due date for comments is February 19th and referred to the draft COG comments in the agenda packet. She said there are two major issues. The first is the inclusion in the Draft RTP of a regional high speed transportation system for freight. She said it is unclear how this relates to the I-710 project. Secondly, SCAG's growth forecast includes a policy forecast for more compact, transit oriented development as the basis for the RTP, and not the baseline forecast. The Executive Director reported that the Transportation Committee had recommended that the baseline forecast be used. The Director of Program Development said that Long Beach Transit had recommended the additional comment that SCAG not perform studies regarding transit fare structuring and transit performance standards because they come under the jurisdiction of the county transportation commissions and municipal operators.

It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member DeWitt, to send the letter transmitting the COG's comments on the Draft SCAG Regional Transportation Plan, including the comments from Long Beach Transit. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report regarding the prioritization of the Orangeline among the COG's transportation initiatives. He reviewed the Board of Directors' request that he meet with the COG's Sacramento lobbyist to determine the impact that the Orangeline would have on the funding of the other

COG transportation priorities and to meet with the Orangeline Development Authority's Executive Director and the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the placement of the Orangeline among those priority projects. He said that the Orangeline Executive Director had met with the City Managers Steering Committee and that, following the meeting, the City Managers Steering Committee recommended that the Orangeline transit corridor project be given the fourth priority behind the I-5, I-710, and SR-91/I-605/I-405 freeway corridor projects. He said the Committee further recommended that a Los Angeles/Orange County Transit Task Force be established to investigate the feasibility of a high-speed, environmentally friendly, grade separated transit project between the two counties. Additionally, the City Managers Steering Committee recommended that OCTA and MTA provide funding to allow the Gateway Cities COG, Orangeline Development Authority, Orange County COG, and the City of Los Angeles to participate in the study.

The Executive Director reported that Ken Farfsing, Chairman of the City Managers Steering Committee, had presented the Committee's recommendations to the Transportation Committee and that the Transportation Committee had acted to support the recommendations. The Executive Director referred to a letter from the COG's Sacramento lobbyist which stated that a request for \$200 million by the Orangeline Development Authority from Proposition 1B funds would seriously impact the funding for the I-5 widening project. Member Nordbak asked if the city managers had seen the letter from the Sacramento lobbyist before they made their recommendation because they seem to be in conflict. The Executive Director responded that they had and that was why they inserted the Orangeline project as fourth in line behind the three freeway corridor projects.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Daniels, to approve the recommendation of the City Managers Steering Committee regarding the Orangeline project. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director said that the Board had requested staff to place an item on tonight's agenda providing for a discussion of the Board's monthly meeting stipend. He asked the Deputy Executive Director to report on the increase in the Consumer Price Index since the stipend was established. The Deputy Executive Director reported that the stipend had been initiated in Fiscal Year 1998-99, and that the increase in the Consumer Price Index since that time had been 36.2%. Member Wilson asked what impact an increase in the stipend would have on the member cities' dues. The Deputy Executive Director said that it would depend on the amount of the increase. Member DuBois said that she wanted to be cautious about anything that might affect the dues levels. Member Dunton asked if the increased participation by the County affects the COG's funding ability. The Deputy Executive Director responded that at the time the budget was adopted the level of participation by the County was not known and that the final

contribution level established for the County is higher than anticipated in the budget.

Immediate Past President Nelson said that when he asked that this item be agendaized he was not thinking of a significant increase in the stipend. President Guerrero suggested that a number be given to staff so that they could back with an analysis of the impact. Member Nordbak said that he thought that \$125 should be the ceiling and asked that staff also come back with a report next month on the status of delinquent dues. Member Santillan asked why the stipend shouldn't be increased by the full 36% CPI increase. Member Daniels said that the SCAG stipend limit is \$120. Member Wilson asked why the COG issued 1099s instead of W-2s and asked that staff also report back on this. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to continue this item to next month to allow staff to come back with the information requested. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Guerrero announced that it was now the time for the Board to consider the nominations to fill the vacancy on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. She invited the two nominees, Maywood Council Member Ana Rosa Rizo, and Downey Council Member Anne Bayer to address the Board. Following their addresses, President Guerrero asked the General Counsel to conduct the election. The General Counsel distributed ballots to the Board Members and asked that they each identify themselves on their ballots. Immediate Past President Nelson announced that he would be abstaining since he was current member of the Sector Council. The General Counsel then collected the completed ballots and asked the Deputy Executive Director to assist him in tabulating the votes. At the conclusion of the tabulation, the General Counsel announced that Anne Bayer had received 13 votes, Ana Rosa Rizo had received 8 votes, and that there was one abstention. He said that Anne Bayer had, thus, been elected to fill the vacancy on the Service Sector Council.

Downey Assistant City Manager Desi Alvarez presented an update regarding the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority. He said the first meeting of the JPA was held in October 2007, with the City of Downey acting as the lead agency. The thirteen agencies that make up the Authority are the cities of Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Norwalk, Paramount, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier, as well as the Long Beach Water Department and the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority. He said the Authority has retained Brookman-Edmonston Consulting Engineers to prepare a grant application for the development of a comprehensive water management plan for the region. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, introduced Juan Camacho, who will be replacing him as the liaison to the Gateway Cities Council of

Governments. Mr. Chidsey reported that, in addition to the comments from the COG on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan, SCAG welcomed comments from individual cities. He said that SCAG is developing a letter to be circulated for all cities to sign to be sent to Sacramento asking for a fair share of Proposition 1B funds for southern California. It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that League of California Cities Public Affairs Manager Kristine Guerrero was unable to attend the meeting, but that the February 2008 Legislative Update has been distributed to the Board.

Member Bielke announced that Sharon Olivito of the California Contract Cities Association had lost her 49 year old son in a hit and run motorcycle accident.

Yvette Kirrin, Executive Director of the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority, presented a report on the I-5 project. She said that the environmental process for the segment from I-605 to I-710 had been initiated by Caltrans. She said that agency scoping and public scoping meetings would be held on February 24th in the City of Commerce. She said the segmenting analysis by Caltrans seems to be complete. The first of the four segments would be set to go to construction in 2010. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Aguirre, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

SCAQMD Public Affairs Officer David Madsen presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He said that legislation on maritime vessels emissions was scheduled to be heard in Congress on February 14th. He announced that a public workshop on the draft MATES III Report would be held on March 12th at St. Lucy's Church in Long Beach. Member DeWitt asked what size vessels the federal legislation applies to. Mr. Madsen responded that it affects the large cargo ships. President Guerrero asked that Mr. Madsen report next month on the Vernon power plant. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alex Clifford, General Manager of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, reported that the first of seven public hearings on proposed Metro service changes was being held that night and that the hearings would culminate at the Metro Gateway Cities headquarters on February 14th. President Guerrero asked that more notice of the meetings be given next time, preferably a month. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said the Conservancy had a new Deputy Executive Director, Alina Bodke. He announced that the grand opening of the new RMC headquarters in Azusa would be held on February 23rd. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the kickoff of the EIR/EIS phase of the project had been held earlier in the day by the MTA. He said there is a forty-three month time frame for the project. He referred the Board to the community participation process involving the local advisory committees. He said the two principal firms on the project are URS and MIG. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Daniels, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He reported that Congressman Dana Rohrabacher had invited the COG to come to Washington to talk about what the corridor is attempting to achieve. He said that other Congressional representatives from the Gateway Cities and San Gabriel Valley areas would be invited to attend. He said that a joint meeting of the Gateway Cities and San Gabriel Valley COG officers was going to take place on February 11th. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that MTA is in the process of developing the 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan and that, as part of the revision, MTA has circulated the subregional descriptions and has asked the COG to review the subregional descriptions, transportation priorities, and perspectives. She said the County unincorporated area has been added to the subregional description. She said that the Transportation Committee had recommended that the Board approve the subregional description and authorize staff to submit it to the MTA for inclusion in the 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Nordbak reported that Member Betty Putnam is making great progress in her recovery from her fall.

There were no matters from the President.