

**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
June 4, 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 George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
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 Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
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 Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello
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 Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member William Davis, City of Vernon

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Jim Edwards, City of Cerritos
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Gracie Gallegos-Smith, City of Pico Rivera
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Member Gloria Molina, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Bellflower Mayor Pro Tem Ray Smith; Signal Hill City Manager

Ken Farfsing; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Long Beach Government Affairs Analyst Julia Brown; Brynn Kernaghan, Executive Director, Communications, Long Beach Transit; Mike Hollon, representing Assemblyman Hector De La Torre; Wally Shidler, Councilmember, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; Ernest Morales, Deputy Executive Officer, Metro; David Hershenson, Community Relations Manager, Metro; Michael Sieckert, Planning Manager, Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist, SCAQMD; Yvette Kirin, Executive Director/Authority Engineer, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Luis Cetina, Senior Regional Affairs Representative, Metropolitan Water District; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; 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.

There were no matters from staff.

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

Luis Cetina, Senior Regional Affairs Representative of the Metropolitan Water District, gave a presentation regarding two pending pieces of legislation, AB 2938 and SB 1391. He said that AB 2938 addresses the impact to fisheries of the diversion of water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. AB 2938 would require Delta diverters to measure and report the rate, quantity, and timing of their diversions to the State Water Resources Control Board. The Department of Fish and Game would design and implement a fish entrainment monitoring program. Mr. Cetina said that he was looking for Board support for this bill.

SB 1391 was originally intended to remove restrictions to recharging groundwater basins with recycled water, but has been amended to only require that a state level report be made and that recycled water not be classified as waste. He said that the MWD is rescinding its support request for this particular bill, but asks instead for support in concept.

It was moved by Member Lowenthal, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to

support AB 2938 and to support in concept SB 1391, pending concurrence of the City Managers Steering Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Second Vice President Stefenhagen, Chair of the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee, reported that the Committee had held an important meeting on May 15th, but did not have a quorum. He said that he will be sending out a letter to all of the 91/605/405 cities asking that they appoint alternates that can attend meetings of the Committee when the regular representative is unavailable. He said that all members of the Committee had received copies of the Initial Corridor Studies and that those who did attend the meeting on May 15th had the opportunity to ask questions. Second Vice President Stefenhagen said that he asked Jerry Wood to make a presentation on the Initial Studies to the full Board for approval so that time would not be lost on the project.

Member Lowenthal left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Jerry Wood summarized the recommendations made in the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Initial Corridor Studies. He emphasized that the report recommended that no truck ramps be constructed in the I-710/SR-91 interchange.

Member DuBois asked if trucks don't go east on SR-91 is the assumption that they will go east by way of SR-60. Mr. Wood responded that, no, they may go out on non-freeway corridors.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to approve the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Initial Studies for distribution to other agencies and interested parties; approve the recommendations found in the report; and to recommend to the I-710 Project Committee that the previously proposed truck ramps to the SR-91 freeway from the I-710 truck ramps be deleted from that project. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report concerning the ½-cent sales tax initiative being considered by the MTA Board of Directors for placement on the November ballot. She said that the MTA Board is asking for an extra set of projects to be included in the initiative. She said that the City Managers Steering Committee had looked at the proposed distribution formula for the sales tax and recommended that a portion be set aside for local and sub-regional projects. Specifically, the City Managers Steering Committee recommended inclusion of the I-5 corridor from I-605 to I-710; I-710 early action projects (Atlantic/Bandini interchange, Firestone Blvd. interchange, downtown Long Beach ramps); and the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way Transit Corridor. The Transportation Deputy reported that the Transportation Committee had added three freeway interchanges in the SR-91/I-605/I-405 corridor and five rail grade separation projects in the cities of Pico Rivera and Santa Fe Springs.

Member Nordbak said that he would not support a ½-cent sales tax increase.

Member Hurtado asked what effect the recently approved City of South Gate sales tax

would have on the proposed MTA tax. The Transportation Deputy responded that it would have no effect; the MTA tax would be levied on top of the local city tax.

Member Nordbak said by placing projects on the list, the Board would be saying that it supports the sales tax. Member DuBois agreed that it would be construed that the COG supports the sales tax increase. City Managers Steering Committee Chair Ken Farfaring responded that the city managers felt that if the MTA goes forward without the cities' support, it would go forward without the project priorities of the cities.

Member O'Donnell asked where the Long Beach requests came from. The Transportation Deputy responded that they came from the 2005 I-710 Major Corridor Study report.

Member Mirabal asked what this would fund in the upper I-710 area. The Transportation Deputy responded that there were no discrete projects, just the freeway interchanges.

It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to categorically oppose a ½-cent sales tax increase; but should it go forward, the sub-regional priority projects as stated should be included. The motion was approved, with Member Wilson opposed.

The General Counsel announced that now was the time to conduct an election to fill to elected official seats on the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. He said that there were three candidates for the two positions: council members Larry Nelson of Artesia; Ray Smith of Bellflower; and Cheri Kelley of Norwalk.

Second Vice President Stefenhagen read a letter from Council Member Cheri Kelley expressing her regrets for not being able to attend the meeting, but expressing her interest in the position. Immediate Past President Nelson said that he endorsed Council Member Kelley, who currently serves with him on the Sector Council, and expressed his interest in continuing on the Council. Bellflower Ray Smith addressed the Board regarding his interest in serving on the Sector Council.

Ballots for the two Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector Council elected official positions were distributed and then collected and tabulated by the General Counsel and Deputy Executive Director. The General Counsel announced that Council Member Kelley had received 19 votes, Council Member Nelson had received 16 votes, and Council Member Smith had received 4 votes, and that Council Member Kelley and Council Member Nelson had been elected.

The Executive Director announced that the Transportation Committee, acting as the Nominating Committee for the public members of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector, had nominated Wally Shidler, George Bass, and Cynde Soto to fill the three available positions for members of the general public. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Mirabal, to approve the appointments of Wally Shidler, George

Bass, and Cynde Soto as public members of the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.

I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirin presented a report from the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority. She said that work was moving forward on the Carmenita Road bridge project. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member DuBois, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

SCAQMD Senior Public Information Specialist David Madsen presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He passed out material related to the 20th Annual Clean Air Awards and encouraged nominations of candidates for the awards. He distributed a flyer announcing a town hall meeting to be held in the City of Maywood on June 19 to discuss community air quality issues. He reported on the Marine Vessel Emissions Reduction Act, which was passed by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and on SB 1646 (Padilla), which would reauthorize AQMD's Clean Fuels Program. SB 1646 has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. He also reported that the U.S. EPA has adopted a lower, more stringent limit for ozone. It was moved by member Hurtado, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Hershensen presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said that the new service changes will go into effect on June 29th. He said that Metro was working with the City of Norwalk to improve the parking situation at the Norwalk-Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center. He said that Metro would be doing a survey. In response to a request from Immediate Past President Nelson, Mr. Hershensen described the outreach efforts that had taken place prior to the service changes. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Immediate Past President Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Conservancy Committee.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the community participation groups had mostly been formed. He said that there would be a meeting of the Project Committee in the next two or three months. He reported that information from the study was now starting to be generated. It was moved by Immediate Past President Nelson, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

It was the consensus of the Board of Directors to hold the Annual Meeting and election of officers on Wednesday, June 25.

President Guerrero reported that Member Daniels had requested that the item regarding consideration of adoption of an attendance policy for SCAG policy committee meetings be held over to next meeting.

Member Wilson congratulated cities for defeating Proposition 98 and approving Proposition 99. He reminded Board members that the Los Angeles River Ride would be held on the upcoming Sunday. Member Hurtado said that he would be doing the 100 mile ride from Griffith Park to the Port and then back again. He said there will be a four hour Gateway Cities ride from Hollydale Park in South Gate. He said that Assemblyman De La Torre had contributed to the event.

President Guerrero announced that the City of Huntington Park would be having a Relay for Life event this weekend.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:15 p.m.