

**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
October 1, 2008**

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

PRESENT: President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
First Vice President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Second Vice President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Immediate Past President Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
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 Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Gracie Gallegos-Smith, 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
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Curt Pederson, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe

ABSENT: Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Mario Beltran, City of Bell Gardens
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Richard Steinke, Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach
ALSO PRESENT: Norwalk Councilmember Cheri Kelley, Chair Metro Gateway
Cities Service Sector Council; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City

Managers Steering Committee; Bell Gardens Director of Public Works John Oropeza; Commerce Senior Administrative Analyst Fernando Mendoza; La Mirada Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; Long Beach Management Assistant Courtney Aguirre; Ron Fisher, Deputy, Office of Supervisor Yvonne Burke; Metro Deputy Executive Officer Ernest Morales; Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities; Joe Carreras, Program Manager for Housing and Community Planning, Southern California Association of Governments; Alex Kenefick, Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Coordinator, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; Marian Putnam, Santa Fe Springs; GCCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCCOG Assistant General Counsel Thomas Duarte; GCCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry R. Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Mirabal 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 he and President Bayer had represented the COG at Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities' sponsored meeting with other COGs. He said there was agreement to work with the Los Angeles County Division of the League on matters of common interest to the County's COGs.

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

Joe Carreras, Program Manager for Housing and Community Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments, gave a presentation regarding the foreclosure outlook for the Gateway Cities subregion. He said that SCAG intends to help local governments deal with foreclosure issues. He described the difference between prime and sub-prime mortgages and the trends in the mortgage industry. He said in 1998 95% of all loans were fixed rate, but by 2005 this figure was down to 50%. The sub-prime crisis is focused in the states of California, Florida, Nevada, and Arizona.

Mr. Carreras said that SCAG is working with UCLA on a land opportunity tracking system (LOTS). One third of the foreclosures are in California, with half of those located in the SCAG region. The average loss to municipalities is approximately \$7,000 per foreclosure. In 2007 housing production was at a 25-year low. He referred the Board to the SCAG website (scag.ca.gov/housing/index.html) for more information on the topic of foreclosures.

Member Hurtado asked how the HUD program on foreclosures for communities works. Mr. Carreras responded that the funds are used to purchase a home from the lender. In response to Member Hurtado's question regarding the value at which the home gets sold, Mr. Carreras replied that the homeowner is probably working out a short sale with his bank. The price is negotiated between the community and the lender.

Member Daniels said that the largest percentage of foreclosures involve those who couldn't afford the home in the first place. The one who loses money is the last one to hold the paper.

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

The Executive Director referred the Board to a letter from Member Lowenthal lending her support for the request from the South Bay and Westside Cities COGs for interim staff support for MTA Board Member Pam O'Connor until a new Board Deputy for Member O'Connor is hired. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the request of the South Bay Council of Governments and the Westside Cities Council of Governments for interim MTA Board Member support and to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter agreement with the South Bay COG providing for reimbursement to the Gateway Cities COG at the hourly rate of \$44.00 on an actual time spent basis. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing introduced the agenda item regarding SB 375, recently approved legislation regarding climate change. He said a debt of gratitude was owed the City of Lakewood for bringing this matter to the attention of cities in the COG. He said SB 375 is extremely complicated and implements AB 32 from 2006, the Global Warming Solutions Act, which called for California to roll back its carbon emissions to 1990 levels in accordance with the Kyoto protocols.

Mr. Farfsing said SB 375 affects land use policies of cities and links housing with transportation so that SCAG and MTA are involved. He said there is a short time frame to achieve air emission reductions. He said efforts taken prior to the bill's passage such as the Gateway Cities Clean Air Program and the City of Cerritos' joining with other cities to create the clean fuel Magnolia Plant would not be recognized under the legislation.

Mr. Farfsing recommended that the Board refer this issue back to the City Managers Steering Committee and to have them work with the planning directors and public works officers to develop a recommended approach. He said he would like to pursue hiring a consultant to devise strategies to deal with SB 375.

Nancy Pfeffer, Director of Regional Planning for the COG, reported that AB 32 requires California Air Resources Board to develop a Scoping Plan for carbon emission reductions. She referred the Board to recommended amendments to the comments developed by SCAG staff to be made to the Air Resources Board concerning the AB 32 draft Scoping Plan. The recommendations were that the Scoping Plan should "identify permanent

revenue sources to fund the Plan's implementation at the regional and local levels of government" and that there is "meaningful subregional representation" on the Regional Targets Advisory Committee. She said these recommendations would go to the SCAG Regional Council tomorrow. The Executive Director said that staff had talked to other subregions to support the amendments.

Member Daniels asked if the League of California Cities indicated why it had changed its position on SB 375 in favor of support. Mr. Farfaring responded that the best staff could get from them is that they were satisfied with changes made in the language of the bill. Second Vice President DuBois said that cities that have already done things such as modernizing their fleets get no credit for it.

It was moved by Second Vice President DuBois, seconded by Member Hurtado, to refer SB 375 back to the City Managers Steering Committee and to support the recommended amendments to the AB 32 Scoping Plan as presented by staff. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from SCAG.

Kristine Guerrero presented a report from the League of California Cities. She said that SB 375 had been signed by the Governor yesterday. She credited the City of Lakewood and the COG for bringing the issues surrounding SB 375 to the forefront; otherwise the League would not have put out a clarifying memo. She asked for comments from cities to bring back to the League to work on for possible clean up legislation. She described the Neighborhood Stabilization Act, under which CDBG entitlement cities are on a list to receive monies. Otherwise the State Department of Housing and Community Development would receive funding. She passed out a memo regarding the recently approved State budget. She announced that Member Carroll was now on the League's Board of Directors.

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 JPA and the cities of Downey and Commerce are looking at the segment from I-605 to I-710. Regarding the segment from I-605 south to the Orange County line, she reported that there were continued discussions with Caltrans regarding hazardous waste on properties that Caltrans may acquire.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

There was no report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

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

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said that 70% of the available Tier 1 grant funds from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy went to

projects in the Gateway Cities subregion. Member Barrows said that he had heard that some money is being spent by the Conservancy on projects outside of the watershed. Member Wilson said that he had heard that some money had been spent in Irvine, but that he would follow up with staff on this. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said that the Committee did not have a meeting because it did not achieve a quorum. Member Hurtado said that the Committee was in need of a meeting and asked the cities to send alternates if their Committee members are not able to attend. Mr. Wood said that the next meeting is scheduled for October 22 to approve the key assumptions of the project. He said the I-710 protocols may help meet the SB 375 requirements. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Member Gurule, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said that he is working on a schedule of congestion hot spots to bring to the Committee. The Executive Director reported that Measure R on the November ballot recognizes the SR-91/I-605/I-405 corridor and includes \$600 million for projects in the corridor. It was moved by Member Hurtado, seconded by Member Davis, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the Transportation Committee.

Member Daniels said that it was a sad situation that the Lowenthal bill on port container fees had been vetoed. The Executive Director said that the veto related to a request from the Central Valley region that projects in their area be funded from the container fees.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.