

**MINUTES 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, 2012**

President Dunton called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

PRESENT: President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
First Vice President Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Immediate Past President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
Member Michael Ponce, City of Avalon
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Josue Barrios, City of Cudahy
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Cheri Kelley, City of Norwalk
Member Joseph Serrano, City of Santa Fe Springs
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Member Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Angie Castro, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Second Vice President Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
Member Ana Maria Quintana, City of Bell
Member Luis Marquez, City of Downey
Member Reynaldo Rodriguez, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Larry Mowles, City of La Mirada
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member Jim Morton, City of Lynwood
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Jack Hadjinian, City of Montebello
Member Bob Archuleta, City of Pico Rivera
Ex Officio Member Christopher Lytle, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers
Steering Committee; Commerce City Administrator Jorge Rifa; La Mirada

Director of Public Works Steve Forster; Long Beach Director of Government/Strategic Affairs Tom Modica; Long Beach Management Analyst Brendan Keeler; Pico Rivera Public Works Director Arturo Cervantes; South Gate Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; Aaron Nevarez, Deputy, Officer of Supervisor Knabe; Phil Doudar, Watershed Management Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; Metro Community Relations Manager David Hershensen; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Specialist Derrick Alatorre; I-5 JPA Executive Director Yvette Kirrin; Kedrin Hopkins, Senior Project Coordinator, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Luis Cetina, Principal Regional Affairs Representative, MWD of Southern California; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG General Counsel Richard D. Jones; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Ivy Tsai; Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCOG Transportation Deputy Karen Heit; GCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

President Dunton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

There were no matters from staff.

It was moved by Member Lima, seconded by Member Barrios, to approve the consent calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing briefly summarized the proposed County Water Quality Funding Initiative, which, if approved by a property owner vote, would establish a dedicated source of funding for the County and cities for ongoing efforts to improve surface water quality. He introduced Phil Doudar of the Watershed Management Division of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to talk in more detail about the proposed property assessment for these projects.

Mr. Doudar said there is currently an unfunded state and federal mandate for local agencies to clean up storm water, which often contains trash, bacteria, metals, and other pollutants that end up in the streams and waterways that lead ultimately to the ocean. He discussed AB 2554, which authorizes the County to conduct a property owner election to establish an assessment to be used to fund programs addressed at improving storm water quality. Revenues from the proposed assessment would be distributed on a formula basis of 50% to the local watershed area group, 40% to the cities for their storm water and runoff projects, and 10% to the County Flood Control District for administration, monitoring, and special studies. He said it would be a parcel based fee subject to a vote under Proposition 218. He said polling shows a majority

support for the fee. Mr. Doudar said the typical annual assessment for a single family lot would be \$54. He said he was targeting a date of May 15 to go to the Board of Supervisors for a vote to authorize the election. He said a protest hearing would be held in the fall, with a vote by mail by property owners to take place during March through May 2013.

Immediate Past President Hurtado asked what would be the government property rate. Mr. Doudar responded that it would be the same as for commercial and residential property at about two cents per square foot of hard surfaces.

Member Nordbak asked if municipal lots and regional shopping centers would be included. Mr. Farfsing responded that they would. Member Nordbak said that wouldn't be good for local businesses.

Immediate Past President Hurtado said it would be appropriate to let the voters decide.

Member Wilson stated that there would be no requirements that cities do anything different from what they are doing now. Mr. Farfsing said that most cities are currently using general funds to meet these requirements. He said there is a recognition that after Proposition 13 commercial properties have lagged behind other properties in being reassessed for property tax purposes, but produce a lot of pollution.

Member Nordbak asked if all parcels would have an equal vote. Mr. Farfsing responded that they would under current state law.

Member DuBois asked if there would be a limit on the rate charged to a commercial property. Mr. Doudar responded that the fee would decrease as the size of a property increases.

President Dunton said that, as a business owner and property owner, he wants his city to be financially strong, especially with regard to public safety.

Member Sziebl asked if there is no sunset to the fee and if it would remain the same. Member Doudar said that is correct. Member Sziebl asked if the fee would be sufficient or would cities still be required to put funds into the projects. Mr. Farfsing responded that most cities would still need to put their own funds in.

Member Sziebl asked if the purpose of the proposed resolution just to ask the Board of Supervisors to put the fee to a vote of the property owners, not to endorse the fee itself. Mr. Farfsing responded that it is.

Member Barrows said he didn't think any of our cities can afford the costs of complying with the mandates without the assessment.

It was moved by Immediate Past President Hurtado, seconded by Member Nordbak, for the COG Board of Directors to support the Board of Supervisors putting the initiative to

a vote of the property owners and requesting the cities to respond to the Supervisors with their concerns.

Member Harris said the Board of Supervisors needs to hear from the constituent members of the COG as to why they are not endorsing the ordinance. Member Nordbak responded that cities are free to send letters supporting the initiative.

The motion was approved unanimously, with Member Ponce and Member Sziebl abstaining.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said the RMC Board approved a resolution adopting an open end programmatic fund structure in lieu of the competitive grant programs previously used to allocate RMC funds. He reported that Frank Colonna was re-elected as Chair of the RMC. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee. He said the draft EIR/EIS should be out for a 60-day review on June 1st. He said all three utility studies are finally underway as well as a sound wall feasibility study.

Jerry Wood presented a report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. He said the project consultants are moving ahead with studies on the congestion relief "hot spots".

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the two freeway corridor reports.

Member DuBois presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said the Feuer bill to extend Measure R is being reworked to include highways. If it is rewritten, she said, no new Measure R projects will be proposed, just those that are already in the hopper. She said the Transportation Committee voted to send a letter saying that it sounds like the bill will be improved, but holding endorsement until seeing the final form.

Member DuBois reported that MTA and Caltrans are continuing to work with the railroads to combat graffiti on I-710. She said the MTA Board will be certifying the two EIRs on the west side subway and the regional connector.

Jerry Wood reported that the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 technical advisory committees and the Transportation Committee had voted to concur with the proposed programming of funds for the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 Measure R projects and requested the Board's endorsement.

It was moved by Member DuBois, seconded by First Vice President Daniels, to approve the proposed programming of funds for the I-710 and SR-91/I-605/I-405 Measure R projects. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report from the Committee on Homelessness. He said the deadline for the RFP for the Homeless Action Plan Implementation Agency had been extended 30 days to April 26 to get ample response. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

There was no report on the California High Speed Rail project.

Yvette Kirrin presented a report from the I-5 JPA. She said the groundbreaking for the I-5/Alondra Blvd. interchange took place on March 19th. She said there are now two projects under construction— Carmenita Road and Alondra Blvd. She referred the Board to the I-5 website for closure notices. She thanked MTA for allocating another \$5 million for the I-5/I-710 interchange study. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from SCAG.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Orangeline Development Authority. She said the analysis of the Pacific Electric Railroad right of way study is almost ready for public review. She said the study is now at the point that it can narrow the list of alternatives.

Member Barrows reported on the recent trip to China and Japan to examine the rail systems in those countries. He said there is much to learn about those projects that will help with the Orangeline planning. He said the Japanese rail system is very smooth even though it is steel on steel infrastructure. He said the railroad is supported by surrounding development without subsidies, a very good model for the Orangeline. Member Lima said it was a very informative trip. He said he was glad that the President of SCAG was able to come.

It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

Derrick Alatorre presented a report from the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He referred the Board to the annual Clean Air Awards program and asked if anyone knew of any businesses or projects that he or she would like to nominate to contact him. He encouraged cities to utilize their AB 2766 funds. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

David Hershensen presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He said the Expo Line would have its grand opening on the weekend of April 28-29. He referred the Board to a report on the extension of the Metro Green Line to the Los Angeles International Airport which he had distributed. He said the report details what the system options are. He encouraged responses to the various alternatives. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

Kedrin Hopkins presented a report from the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. He invited the Board to attend the April 21 Earth Day celebration at the Corps' Environmental Education Center. He said the Corps is currently working with the Friends of the Los Angeles River on a cleanup effort. It was the consensus of the Board to receive and file the report.

There was no report from the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors.

There were no matters from the Board of Directors.

There were no matters from the President.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:29 p.m.