

February 5, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
February 5, 2020**

GCCOG President Diane DuBois called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

PRESENT: President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood (E)
Member Tony Lima, City of Artesia
2nd Vice President Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon (E)
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower (E)
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos (E)
Member Emma Sharif, City of Compton
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey (E)
Member Jesse Alvarado, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park (E)
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada (E)
Member Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach (E)
Member Marisela Santana, City of Lynwood
Member Ricardo Lara, City of Maywood
Member Angie Jimenez, City of Montebello
Member Brenda Olmos, City of Paramount
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs (E)
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill (E)
1st Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate (E)
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier (E)
Member Antonio Chapa, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn (E)
Member Steven Neal, Port of Long Beach

ABSENT: Member Ali Saleh, City of Bell
Member Pedro Aceituno, City of Bell Gardens
Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce (E)
Member Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Member Cory Moss, City of Industry
Member Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach
Member Margarita Rios, City of Norwalk
Member Brent Tercero, City of Pico Rivera
Member William Davis, City of Vernon
Member Lacey Johnson, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

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(E) = Executive Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Wilma Franco, Executive Director, Cynthia Cortez, Associate Director – SELA Collaborative, Nina Turner, Local/Regional Liaison, POLB, – Lilian De Loza Gutierrez - Community Relations Manager, LA Metro, Sharon Weissman, Metro Board Deputy to Director Robert Garcia, Julia Emerson, Public Affairs Manager – SoCalGas, Martin Reyes, Transportation Deputy, Guadalupe Duran Medina, Planning Deputy, Waqas Rehman, Director Planning and Infrastructure – Supervisor Hilda Solis Office, Joel Ayala, Chief of Staff – LA County DCBA, Mark Stowell, Director of Public Works – City of La Mirada, Chantell Cuaron, Resident – Long Beach, Conor Nguyen, Chair – LB/SB Sober Living Network, Kekoa Anderson, Consulting Engineer - Gateway COG, Bill Stracker, City Engineer – Infrastructure Engineers, Steve Forester, Senior Vice president – Vardous, Karen Lee, Management Analyst – City of Artesia, Alf Brandt, Planning Director, Diana Morales, Field Representative – Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Joseph Gonzalez – Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Suely Saro, Consultant – RMC, Vaniah De Rojas, Assistant to the City Manager – City of Downey, Andres Molina, Government Relations Manager – WSP, Tim Patton, Deputy to Mayor Garcia – City of Long Beach, Sarah Patterson, Regional Affairs Officer – SCAG, Nancy Pfeffer, Julia Stewart, Stephanie Cadena, Gilbert Saldate, Joel Arevalos, Karen Heit, Ivy Tsai – Gateway Cities COG staff.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Diane DuBois.

Roll call was taken through self-introductions.

There was an amendment to the agenda. Ivy Tsai, COG Counsel, indicated that there was an agenda report and Resolution that arose after the posting of the agenda. The Resolution is required for a grant with a deadline that will occur before the next meeting. The Board approved adding the item to the Agenda and approved the Resolution.

Under the Consent Calendar, Ray Dunton asked why there are two identical payments to Paramount Storage. Executive Director Pfeffer explained that her check writing authority was exceeded for one check. Dunton asked why we were storing so much and why the amounts were not consistent. Genny Cisneros explained that one check contained the security fee for two months that the storage held 91/605/405 and I-710 records and that Karen Heit was going through those files and purging them.

There were no public comments.

Under items from staff, Executive Director Pfeffer talked about the upcoming COG Board retreat date and that the committee is working towards the program. She then went over the AB-101 one-time funds that are available and that she would like to see all cities claiming these funds. Second Vice-President, Cinde Cassidy asked where the population figures came from and Stephanie Cadena, COG Planner, replied that the state

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Department of Finance provided the numbers. Lastly, she reminded the Board that there is a May, 2020 local streets and roads report due to the California Transportation Commission. Future funding for this program is dependent on this report.

Tony Lima moved to approve the consent calendar, approved unanimously.

Alf Brandt, from Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's Sacramento office came to discuss the LA River Revitalization process. The issue of governance has come to the forefront as the interests of the Lower River Working Group are moving forward. Brandt asked the Board if they want to be part of the governance as the plan moves toward implementation. Brandt went on to describe issues along the river that need resolution. Assemblymember Miguel Santiago may want to author a bill for the structure for decision making for the river. Waqas Rehman, Planning and Infrastructure Deputy for Supervisor Hilda Solis discussed the development of the river action plan and other symbiotic projects that are in development. One of the outstanding issues for the River is the need for governance for operations and maintenance, security, law enforcement, development and maintenance of parks along the River. He also asked what ideas and thoughts does the COG Board have for river governance. Los Angeles County Flood Control wants to assume some of the water functions from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The last speaker was LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Mark Stanley. Stanley talked about the master planning effort on how to use the river as open space.

Stanley discussed possible legislation to pass a special district for a park district along the lower river reaches. Stanley talked about the development of projects along the lower reach through the Gateway Cities.

Brandt mentioned that Assembly Speaker Rendon wants to know what the COG Board thinks about the various ideas of local control for the river governance issues. GCCOG Past President, Fernando Dutra asked what would the requirements be and what areas would be covered under governance. Brandt suggested that the issues might be storm water requirements, river parks, or river rangers. He discussed the potential for a city group or state wide entity, or perhaps let the County assume control. Brandt indicated that the USACE gets a small amount of money to handle the maintenance of the channel; although not enough to do the job. Past President Dutra recommended that the COG reach out to individual cities on how this might work. President DuBois received and filed the report.

President DuBois introduced Dr. Wilma Franco from the SELA (South East Los Angeles) Collaborative to talk about the 2020 census. Dr. Franco talked about the role of the collaborative and how it functions for the SELA communities by pulling together the non-profits that work in the area. She gave highlights of some of the projects that SELA Collaborative engages in, including the West Santa Ana Branch. Her associate Cynthia

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Cortez went over the reason for the census; federal funding is allocated based upon the census as well as Congressional representation. Cortez talked about the census day activities and the schedule for sending out the census forms. SELA will work on the non-responsive households. She reviewed the southeast LA undercount and the reasons why this occurs. She talked about the visibility of the census. She reviewed the methods that will be utilized to get the message out, including countering myths about the safety and security of answering census questions. She gave a shout-out to South Gate and Bell Gardens, cities that have census committees to help get the count out. Maria Davila, City of South Gate spoke briefly on the efforts being made within the City of South Gate.

Cortez went on to talk about staff helping to learn how to answer census questions. Cities have a number of ways to get involved with the count including getting resources from the state to help get the count out. She indicated that census jobs are currently available. She emphasized that training cities is a big part of their work to maximize outreach. Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs, asked to have the presentation sent out and have the sample copies of the actual census ten most frequently asked questions. President DuBois mentioned that the Norwalk city manager has his car wrapped with a census advertisement. Maria Davila indicated that South Gate is having city staff trained on the census outreach. The city has asked for two kiosks for the census; for city hall and the park. She indicated that social media is going to be critical to getting the census word out.

President DuBois asked Paramount about their census efforts and the city has magnet census ads on all city vehicles. Executive Director Pfeffer mentioned that SELA Collaborative functions predominantly in the north portion of the COG but they generously are sharing their information with the entire subregion.

President DuBois mentioned that the COG cities generally oppose SB 50, she also noted that the bill failed in the Senate. Julia Stewart, COG Director of Planning went over the background for SB 50 and that the COG staff was looking for direction for whatever similar bill would be replacing SB 50. She indicated that there are items that staff felt the COG Board would oppose. DuBois asked for the opposition slide to be reposted. Ray Dunton, City of Bellflower, suggested that staff draft points and present them to the City Managers Steering Committee for consideration, and recommendations to bring back to the Board for approval. Dutra suggested that the COG staff look to the League of Cities for objections and utilize them. Dutra also discussed the COG's proposal for the redevelopment of failing commercial/retail properties into housing.

President Dubois proposed that we follow up with the opposition in the manner suggested and report back.

Mayor Garcia brought up the presentation of the Metro Gold Line Eastern Extension Phase 2 (MGLEEPH2) and the MTA recommendation for the Washington Blvd. Alignment

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to proceed through environmental. He talked about MGLEEPH2 and the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) being two of the four pillar projects. He indicated that there is little opposition to the selection of this alignment.

He went on to talk about the April 2019 GCCOG letter to MTA to support the Washington Blvd. alignment. A Motion was made to resend that letter with an additional letter reaffirming the COG's position. Executive Director Pfeffer discussed an additional letter for approval asking that the MTA investigate the potential impact of a mega-storm and flood water displacement from structures that would be built within the Whittier Narrows flood basin with the SR-60 alignment. The letter that asked that MTA focus on flood hazard associated with SR-60 alignment.

President DuBois introduced Kekoa Anderson who presented on the Lakewood/Rosemead Boulevard Complete Streets project. He started talking about the Complete Streets representing remodeling of streets within a number of jurisdictions. He mentioned that all of the COG cities are involved with the complete streets with the exception of Avalon. He talked about the comprehensive nature of the complete streets and the finalization of two of the twelve candidate corridors. Anderson discussed the how the COG's other projects (intersection, storm drain and river impacts) integrate into these complete streets projects.

Anderson reviewed different sections of the roadways such as the PCH roundabout and access to the Long Beach airport. He talked about the Lakewood WSAB at-grade crossing and recommended that it be considered for separation. He talked about curb filtration/bioswales that would keep the urban run-off out of the LA River.

Lastly, he spoke of the themes and public art that tie the street together within the cities and amongst the cities. He summed up by saying that the effort provides utility for funding and coordination with other jurisdictions. Herlinda Chico discussed the PCH circle and the safety proposal. She indicated that it would be very challenging to resolve the issues. President DuBois complimented the comprehensive nature of the plan and how it would help each of the participating communities.

Under matters from the President, DuBois announced that the Agenda would only be sent out electronically to each of the cities, to save time, money and to save paper.

There were no matters from Board members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director

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