

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
16401 Paramount Blvd.
Paramount, California
March 3, 2021**

Zoom Conference

GCCOG President Maria Davila called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

#	Name	City/Agency	Present	Absent
1.	Tony Lima	Artesia	X	
2.	Cinde MacGugan-Cassidy (E)	Avalon (1 st Vice President)	X	
3.	Ali Saleh (E)	Bell (2 nd Vice President)	X	
4.	Raymond Dunton (E)	Bellflower	X	
5.	Maria Pulido	Bell Gardens	X	
6.	Naresh Solanki	Cerritos		X
7.	Oralia Rebollo (E)	Commerce	X	
8.	Emma Sharif	Compton		X
9.	Elizabeth Alcantar	Cudahy	X	
10.	Sean Ashton (E)	Downey	X	
11.	Luis Roa	Hawaiian Gardens	X	
12.	Marilyn Sanabria (E)	Huntington Park	X	
13.	Cory Moss	Industry		X
14.	John Lewis (E)	La Mirada	X	
15.	Ariel Pe	Lakewood	X	
16.	Roberto Uranga (Alt. for Robert Garcia) (E)	Long Beach	X	
17.	Rex Richardson	Long Beach		X
18.	Marisela Santana	Lynwood	X	
19.	Heber Marquez	Maywood	X	
20.	David Torres (Alt. for Kimberly Ann Cobos-Cawthorn)	Montebello	X	
21.	Margarita Rios	Norwalk		X
22.	Vilma Cuellar Stallings	Paramount	X	
23.	Raul Elias	Pico Rivera		X
24.	Joe Angel Zamora (E)	Santa Fe Springs	X	
25.	Edward Wilson (E)	Signal Hill	X	
26.	Maria Davila (E)	South Gate (President)	X	
27.	William Davis	Vernon	X	
28.	Fernando Dutra (E)	Whittier (Immediate Past President)	X	
29.	Herlinda Chico (E)	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Hahn	X	
30.	Kimberly Ortega	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Solis	X	
31.	Sup. Holly Mitchell	LA County BOS Office of Sup. Mitchell		X
32.	Sharon Weissman	Port of Long Beach	X	
	(E) Executive Committee	Total =	25	7

ALSO, PRESENT: Nancy Pfeffer, Genny Cisneros, Gilbert Saldate, Karen Heit, Joel Arevalos, Sandra Mora, Stephanie Cadena, – COG Staff; Ivy Tsai, COG Attorney; Norman Emerson, Emerson & Associates; Danielle Soto, AQMD; Nina Turner, Port of Long Beach; Jayro Queme, Pico Rivera Resident, Luke Klipp, Office of Supervisor Hahn; Justin Ramirez, Tyler Bonnano Curley – City of Long Beach; Sarah Syed, Reparative Planning; Alex Contreras, Happy City Coalition; Karen Lee, City of Artesia; Sarah Patterson, SCAG; Patricia Camacho, Office of Congresswoman Barragan.

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Administrative Assistant Sandra Mora.

President Davila introduced the newest members of the Board: Mayor Maria Pulido from Bell Gardens, Mayor Luis Roa from Hawaiian Gardens, Mayor Raul Elias from Pico Rivera, and Council Member Kimberly Anne Cobos-Cawthorn from Montebello.

There were no amendments to the agenda. There were no public comments. Under Matters from Staff, Executive Director Nancy Pfeffer announced that the COG is working on a Regional Homelessness Plan led by Gilbert Saldate, COG Homelessness Program Manager. Staff is organizing an informational session in March for councilmembers to provide input on the plan. An invite will be sent via email to all councilmembers.

Director Pfeffer announced that there will be a meeting of the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee on March 8th for the ratification of Metro Board Member Fernando Dutra, who was unanimously approved by the sector committee a few weeks ago. A quorum will be needed at this meeting to ensure that Immediate Past President Dutra is ratified. Director Pfeffer reminded Board members of the meeting date.

Director Pfeffer announced that the July 7th Board meeting will be moved to June 30th to conform with bylaws to elect officers in June for the next fiscal year. The June 30th meeting will serve as the July meeting and the next meeting will be in August.

Director Pfeffer provided an update on the federal Covid relief package that was proposed by the administration and was voted on in the House, with changes recently proposed by the Senate. In January, then-President-elect Biden unveiled his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus package, with \$350 billion in emergency funding to be provided through the American Rescue Plan for state and local governments to keep front-line public-sector workers on the job, while also utilizing additional federal resources in the plan to distribute vaccines, scale testing, reopen schools and maintain other vital services. The funding proposes to provide \$26 billion to the state of California, \$14 billion to California local governments, and \$1.9 billion to the County of Los Angeles. There is no minimum population requirement proposed in the bill, and it is anticipated that the U.S. Treasury Department will allocate funds in a similar process as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Director Pfeffer said the Senate wants to place restrictions on the \$350 billion in aid to states and localities, while diverting 10 billion dollars to critical capital projects, which include things like broadband. If approved, direct aid for cities, counties and smaller units

of government would take a hit in order to finance the new ten-billion-dollar capital projects fund. They would like to distribute the funds in two tranches with 50% upfront and the remaining a year after. Director Pfeffer noted this package is not final yet and the House and Senate are working on putting the details together.

On the consent calendar, Director Pfeffer said Item W is the renewed and updated agreement with COG contractor Nancy Michali who staffs the West Santa Ana Branch TAC. Staff sent a revised document for this item, with an error on the date fixed. When voting to approve the consent calendar, the Board will be voting on the replaced document.

Member Elizabeth Alcantar asked about information on cities' individual funding allocations and differences in funding per capita across cities. Director Pfeffer said staff does not currently have this data. Member Alcantar said she would send the data for staff to review.

President Davila asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Member Raymond Dunton moved to approve Items A-W, and it was seconded by Member Vilma Cuellar Stallings. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

President Davila moved on to Report A, Virtual Tour of Food Waste Recycling Program by Maria Rosales with LA County Sanitation Districts. Ms. Rosales was not present.

President Davila moved on to Report B, Support to Re-Evaluate the Service Planning Areas (SPA) for the Equitable Distribution of Services by Herlinda Chico, Field Deputy for Office of Supervisor Hahn. Member Chico gave an overview of the Supervisor's proposal to evaluate the SPAs. The SPAs date back to 1992 when the Board of Supervisors approved planning and coordination of information gathering, data sharing and services amongst major departments serving communities in the county. As an example, she said the Departments of Children Services, Mental Health, Social Services, Probation, and others were asked to begin implementing programs based on common boundaries. In drawing the boundaries, staff tried not to divide any natural geographic or ethnic communities to the best extent possible and tried to keep school districts and police/health districts intact. The decision was made to have Long Beach in SPA 8, while Signal Hill is in SPA 7 though it is completely surrounded by Long Beach. As county staff began to discuss the creation of the SPAs, they heard from other communities about concerns with the boundaries and how services are provided. Member Chico said the GCCOG region is covered by 4 SPAs.

Member Chico noted that every 10 years we use census data to look at redistricting so that we can assess communities, change and priorities to ensure that we continue to provide beneficial services. In comparison, the SPAs have been in existence over 30 years and have yet to be evaluated. Member Chico said this is becoming an equity issue as we are not aware if we are serving communities the best that we can.

Supervisor Hahn is asking staff to provide a report after 120 days of receiving census data to get an assessment of the SPAs, including review of geographic boundary lines,

population, demographic changes, and other data provided through the Census. The Supervisor's Office would also like to collaborate with service providers and other County departments to designate Signal Hill into SPA 8, and Paramount into SPA 7. These changes would align the GCCOG cities better within the SPAs. Lastly, the Supervisor's Office would like to collaborate with the COGs throughout the region to review the changes and provide input about services provided in their area and whether there is a better system that we can come up with to take that input, redraw boundaries, and make other changes. Member Chico said this could look like a committee, taskforce, or other effort. She noted that South Bay COG and San Gabriel Valley COG are supporting this motion.

Supervisor Hahn is asking the GCCOG Board for a letter of support of this motion, to evaluate SPA boundaries. Member Chico said through this effort we may find that the current method is the best way to continue, but input is needed from the COGs and cities on how services are being received.

Member Ed Wilson moved to approve the motion and Roberto Uranga seconded. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

President Davila moved on to Report C, Legislative Agenda. Director Pfeffer introduced a proposed legislative agenda that was drafted in collaboration with the City Managers Steering Committee and Executive Board Members. The proposed agenda is an effective tool for advocating for our communities at all levels of government, allowing the COG to take more policy positions more quickly and readily. It would also help to better communicate our policy goals in the COG's focus areas.

Director Pfeffer went over the goals under each program area of Transportation, Housing & Homelessness, Air Quality/Climate, Economic Development, and Community-Enhancing activities. Across all areas and for all levels of government, the COG seeks policies, resources, and support to complete regional transportation projects, create and preserve housing, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs and support economic development, and reverse the effects of inequitable policies, processes and practices.

For items that are not covered by the proposed legislative agenda, Director Pfeffer said they could be brought to the City Managers Steering Committee followed by the COG Officers for discussion, with possible presentation to the COG Board.

Member Sean Ashton asked if SCAG's Broadband action plan would be covered for the COG or if it could be added separately to the Legislative platform. Member Ashton wants to ensure that broadband related issues can be supported quickly. Director Pfeffer said this is covered under Community-Enhancing Activities through equitable technology funding, infrastructure, and access.

Member Ashton moved to approve staff's recommendation.

Immediate Past President Dutra asked if it would be appropriate to add equitable medical and health facilities and services to the agenda, given the concerns expressed by

members in the past about equitable access to these services in disadvantaged communities. Director Pfeffer said that while she is unsure of how impactful the COG could be in this arena, the item could be added to the agenda.

Member Alcantar asked for the COG to develop an equity index and making sure that items presented all consider equity in its process. Many cities in our region are not receiving equitable attention, care, funding, services, and support. Member Alcantar said she believes having an equity index would be helpful in pushing the COG's work.

Member Ashton amended his motion. He moved to approve and have staff look into the concepts introduced by Immediate Past President Dutra to see where these could be added, with additional direction for staff to include the equity work proposed by Member Alcantar. Member Ashton said, as a living document, the legislative agenda can be adapted as needed. Immediate Past President Dutra seconded. COG Staff Mora performed a roll call, and the item was approved.

President Davila turned to Item C, Transportation Committee Report. Justin Ramirez gave an update on the presentations received at the Transportation Committee, starting with the Metro Micro Transit Program. He summarized Committee members' comments and feedback to Metro staff for engaging more Gateway cities in the program and increasing services in the region.

Ramirez also provided an update on the Fareless System Initiative (FSI), a Metro pilot program being presented over the next couple of months to the public, including to the Gateway Cities Service Council Meeting in March. Implementation is expected to begin in January of 2022 for about 1-1.5 years. The Committee provided feedback and comments with concern about municipal operators and their involvement. Metro staff assured committee members that engagement will continue with all operators affected.

There were no Matters from the Board of Directors. Under Matters from the President, President Davila asked for board members to join her in a moment of silence to honor and remember those we have lost from COVID-19 in the last year.

Adjournment: President Davila adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director