

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Cerritos Senior Center
12340 South Street
Cerritos, California
September 7, 2005**

There not being a quorum of the full Board present, First Vice President Pena called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: First Vice President Samuel Pena, City of Maywood
Member John Crawley, City of Cerritos
Member Anne Bayer, City of Downey
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member Frank Colonna, City of Long Beach
Member Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach
Member Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Betty Putnam, City of Santa Fe Springs

ABSENT: President Greg Nordbak, City of Whittier
Second Vice President Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Immediate Past President Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill
Member Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alternate Member Dorothy King, City of Bellflower
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Alternate Member Owen Newcomer, City of Whittier

ALSO PRESENT: Norwalk Councilmember Cheri Kelley; Downey Deputy City Manager James Makshanoff; South Gate Assistant to the City Manager Binti Harvey; Bell Special Projects Manager Raul Romero; La Mirada Public Works Director Steve Forster; Lakewood Assistant Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Transportation Program Manager Sumire Gant; Norwalk Director of Transportation James Parker; Connie Sziebl, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe; Luis Marquez, Field Representative for Senator Alan Lowenthal; Patrician Price, Public Affairs Specialist, South Coast AQMD; Alex Clifford, General Manager, LACMTA Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector; LACMTA Transportation Manager Sharad Mulchand; Darin Chidsey, Member Relations Officer, SCAG; Natalie Profant Komuro, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; Allan Hose, I-710 Tier II Community Advisory Committee; Jerry Wood, Acting Executive Director, I-5 Joint Powers Authority; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; Karen Heit, Gateway Cities MTA Board Deputy; GATEWAY CITIES COG Executive Director Richard Powers; GATEWAY CITIES COG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph;

GATEWAY CITIES COG Director of Program Development Deborah Chankin;
GATEWAY CITIES COG General Counsel Richard Jones.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Gurule led the pledge of allegiance.

Member Putnam provided words of wisdom.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Patrician Price, South Coast Air Quality Management District, thanked all who had testified at the previous week's hearing regarding the proposed MOU between the California Air Resources Board and the railroads. She said there had been overwhelming testimony in opposition to the MOU. She invited anyone interested to attend the upcoming hearing scheduled for September 22 at the LAX Marriott hotel.

Vice President Pena said that he would defer action on the consent calendar until a quorum of the full Board arrives.

Whittier Councilman Owen Newcomer, Chairman of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, introduced the Authority's Director of Policy and Strategic Planning, Natalie Profant Komuro. He said that the Homeless Services Authority is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles and is the conduit of federal dollars to agencies serving the homeless in support of the federal goal of ending homelessness in ten years.

Member Lillie Dobson arrived at the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Vice President Pena announced that a quorum of the Board of Directors had been achieved and convened the meeting of the full Board.

Member Newcomer said that the Homeless Services Authority needs local people who know their community to help them. He said the goal is to set up a subcommittee to work with the Authority.

Alternate Member Sally Flowers arrived at 6:09 p.m. Ms. Komuro said that the federal ten year plan has been ongoing for a couple of years. She said the County has helped identify resources that could be better utilized. She said they know that there are thousands of people in the subregion who are homeless. The Authority wants to work with the communities to serve them.

Member Edward Vazquez arrived at 6:11 p.m.

In response to a question from Member Lowenthal, Member Newcomer said that they can't define what a critical mass of homeless is in a community. He said the Authority's greatest interest is in building permanent housing, not a shelter network.

Connie Sziebl said that if the Board decides to appoint a subcommittee she would like to serve on it.

Member DuBois asked what is meant by “building permanent housing”. Ms. Komuro responded that the aim is to build affordable housing as opposed to transitional housing. Member Newcomer said that we’ve done a better job at getting a person a bed for the night rather than getting a person to be self-sufficient.

Member DuBois said that many communities are fully built out. Ms. Komuro responded that that is the reason why they are looking at this as a regional issue.

Immediate Past President Wilson arrived at the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

It was moved by Vice President Pena, seconded by Member Daniels, to refer the item to the City Managers Steering Committee for a recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

There now being a quorum of the Board of Directors, Vice President Pena asked that action be taken on the consent calendar. It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

The General Counsel announced that the Board was being asked to fill two vacancies for elected officials on the MTA Gateway Cities Service Sector Council. He said that one seat was for an unexpired term expiring on June 30, 2006, and the second seat was newly added with the expansion of the Council membership from seven to nine and expires on June 30, 2008. He said that there are five announced candidates for seats on the Council: city councilmembers Elba Guerrero of Huntington Park, Cheri Kelley of Norwalk, Dorothy King of Bellflower, Owen Newcomer of Whittier, and Tonia Reyes Uranga of Long Beach. He suggested that each of the candidates present be given an opportunity to speak and then ballots be distributed and Board members vote for two candidates. After the ballots are tallied, the candidate with the highest number of votes would be awarded the three year seat and the candidate with the second highest number of votes awarded the one year seat. It was the consensus of the Board to accept the recommended process.

Candidates Elba Guerrero, Cheri Kelley, Dorothy King, and Owen Newcomer were present and spoke on behalf of their candidacies. Ballots were distributed, collected, and tallied by MTA Board Deputy Karen Heit. The General Counsel announced that the three year seat had been won by Norwalk Councilmember Cherie Kelley, and the one year seat by Whittier Councilmember Owen Newcomer.

Member Richard Fierro arrived at the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

The Executive Director introduced the Third Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding among Caltrans, SCAG, LACMTA, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments regarding the I-710 Major Corridor Study. He said that the amended MOU provides for the commencement of the environmental phase of the I-710 program. Under the MOU, the MTA would remain the lead agency for the environmental study work. A revised governance structure would include: ongoing public participation; a continuation of the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee as the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Advisory Committee; a continuation of the I-710 Technical Advisory Committee; a new streamlined Project Steering Committee, consisting of the co-chairs of the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Advisory

Committee, Los Angeles County, MTA, SCAG, Caltrans, the Port of Long Beach, and the Port of Los Angeles; and a new Goods Movement Strategy Advisory Group.

The Executive Director reported that \$20 million of the estimated \$30 million needed to complete the environmental phase had been committed from the Port of Long Beach, MTA, Caltrans, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments through an earmark in the recently passed federal transportation funding bill. He said that there are two overriding conditions for this phase of the project: continued meaningful community participation and the need to clean up the air.

Member Colonna said that he is proud that the project has come this far. Immediate Past President Wilson said that he echoed Member Colonna's comments. He asked how long this phase of the process will take. The Executive Director responded that it should take about three years, depending on community issues or litigation. Member Colonna said that time is a friend because of the new air quality standards that will be coming into effect.

It was moved by Member Colonna, seconded by Member Lowenthal, to approve the Third Amendment to the MOU among Caltrans, SCAG, LACMTA, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director announced that the term of Immediate Past President Wilson as the COG representative on the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy had expired. He described the process for filling the seat which is called out in the state legislation which created the Conservancy. He said the legislation calls for the Executive Committee to submit the names of two or more members of the Board of Directors to the Speaker of the Assembly, who will select one of the nominees to serve on the Conservancy Board.

The Executive Director said that President Greg Nordbak had submitted his name to be nominated for the Conservancy Board. Vice President Pena asked for other self-nominations from the Board of Directors. Immediate Past President Wilson nominated himself. Member Bayer nominated herself. It was moved by Immediate Past President Wilson, seconded by Member Colonna, to close nominations and to submit the names of President Nordbak, Immediate Past President Wilson, and Member Bayer to the Executive Committee for nomination to the Conservancy Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director announced that Richard Hollingsworth, President and CEO of the Gateway Cities Partnership, had wished to extend an invitation to attend the Civic Entrepreneurship Summit on September 19 and 20 in Long Beach. He said that California Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing Sunne Wright McPeak will be in attendance for the entire conference. He said that these are very powerful conferences and are very worthwhile. Vice President Pena asked that the invitation also be forwarded to all of the city managers. It was moved by Immediate Past President Wilson, seconded by Vice President Pena to receive and file the invitation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Members Colonna, Crawley, King, and Newcomer left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. There remained a quorum of the Executive Committee.

The Director of Program Development reported that there had not been a meeting of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board the previous month. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to receive and file the report.

Jerry Wood, Interim Executive Director of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority, reported that next month he hoped to get the right of way acquisition process started for the Carmenita Bridge project. He said that the Orange County line to I-606 portion of the I-5 project should be out to bid next year. He said the draft report of the I-5/I-710 "mini study" should be out later this month. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to receive and file the report.

The Executive Director said that the report from the I-710 Oversight Policy Committee had been covered by his report earlier in the meeting on the amended four-party MOU. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to receive and file the report.

Member Stefenhagen reported that the 91/605 Needs Assessment Study was going very well and that a draft final report is complete. He said that the traffic numbers on the freeways are "mind boggling". He said the draft report goes to the Technical Advisory Committee on Thursday and to the 91/605 Policy Committee on September 19. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to receive and file the report.

Member Lowenthal presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She said that the Committee had heard a presentation on the MTA Big Rig Tow Demonstration Project. She said that the MTA was looking for spare land for the project to temporarily house the towed trucks. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to receive and file the report.

Member Daniels said that SCAG was looking for letters of support for its application for \$3-5 million in Blueprint Planning Grant funds. He said that SCAG has 50% of the state's population base. Darin Chidsey, SCAG Member Relations Officer, distributed a sample letter of support. It was moved by Member Daniels, seconded by Immediate Past President Wilson, to send a letter of support for the grant application. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no reports from the SCAG policy committees.

The General Counsel presented to the Executive Committee the action of the Board of Directors to nominate three persons to fill the seat on the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy that is subject to appointment by the Speaker of the Assembly. The three persons nominated were: President Greg Nordbak, Immediate Past President Edward H. J. Wilson, and Board Member Anne Bayer. The General Counsel said that at least two names must be submitted to the Speaker. Vice President Pena recommended that all three names be submitted. It was moved by Member Putnam, seconded by Member DuBois, to submit all three names to the Speaker of the Assembly. The motion was approved unanimously.

Immediate Past President Wilson said that the Speaker will request information from all three nominees.

There were no matters from the President.

Member DuBois said that the League of California Cities Annual Conference in San Francisco starts on October 5, the same date as the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. After discussion among the Executive Committee members, it was the consensus to keep the date of the next Board meeting as October 5.

Immediate Past President Wilson reported that the father-in-law of Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing had passed away. He asked for prayers and asked that the meeting be adjourned in his memory. It was moved by Immediate Past President Wilson, seconded by Member Daniels, to adjourn in memory of Alessandro "Sandy" Mercurio, father-in-law of Ken Farfsing.

Adjournment: The joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.