

**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
August 5, 2009**

First Vice President Stefenhagen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: President Gordon Stefenhagen, City of Norwalk
First Vice President Gil Hurtado, City of South Gate
Second Vice President Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower
Immediate Past President Anne M. Bayer, City of Downey
Member Larry R. Nelson, City of Artesia
Member George Mirabal, City of Bell
Member Sergio Infanzon, City of Bell Gardens
Member Bruce Barrows, City of Cerritos
Member Joe Aguilar, City of Commerce
Member Lillie Dobson, City of Compton
Member Frank Gurule, City of Cudahy
Member Victor Farfan, City of Hawaiian Gardens
Member Stan Carroll, City of La Habra Heights
Member Patrick O'Donnell, City of Long Beach
Member Felipe Aguirre, City of Maywood
Member Kathy Salazar, City of Montebello
Member Bob Archuleta, City of Pico Rivera
Member Betty Putnam, 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 Curt Pederson, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe
Member Erica Jacquez-Santos, Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
Member Vincent Harris, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

ABSENT: Member Bob Kennedy, City of Avalon
Member Elba Guerrero, City of Huntington Park
Member Pete Dames, City of La Mirada
Member Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood
Member from the City of Long Beach
Member Maria Teresa Santillan, City of Lynwood
Member Gene Daniels, City of Paramount
Member Richard Steinke, Ex Officio Member, Port of Long Beach

ALSO PRESENT: Long Beach Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Board Member SCAQMD; Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing, Chair, City Managers Steering Committee; Commerce City Manager Jorge Rifa; La Mirada Director of

Public Works Steve Forster; Lakewood Director of Community Development Jack Gonsalves; Long Beach Government Affairs Manager Tom Modica; South Gate City Engineer Mohammad Mostahkami; MTA Deputy Executive Officer Ernest Morales; MTA Community Relations Manager David Hershenson; SCAQMD Public Advisor Pom Pom Ganguli; SCAQMD Senior Public Affairs Officer Derrick Alatorre; SCAG Regional Affairs Officer Matt Horton; Conservation Corps of Long Beach Board Chair Glenn Ray; Conservation Corps of Long Beach Executive Director/CEO Mike Bassett; Joseph Magaddino, Cal State University Long Beach; Patty Senecal, IWLA and HTFSF; Frank Osgood, Author, Region Aroused; GCCCOG Executive Director Richard Powers; GCCOG Deputy General Counsel Thomas Duarte; GCCOG Deputy Executive Director Jack Joseph; GCCCOG Director of Regional Planning Nancy Pfeffer; GCCOG Consultant Engineer Jerry Wood.

Roll was taken through self-introductions.

Member Nordbak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

South Coast AQMD Member Tonia Reyes Uranga requested that the Board add an item regarding clarification of the Board's previous action regarding SB 696. Member Jacquez-Santos asked why this item was being brought to the Board on such short notice. SCAQMD Board Member Reyes Uranga responded that legislative action was pending on SB 696 and that the Air District was seeking clarification of the Board's action without changing the intent of its previous motion. It was moved by Member Aguilar, seconded by Member Barrows, to make the finding that this matter came to the Board's attention after the posting of the agenda and to add this item to the agenda as an urgency item. The motion was approved with members Nelson, Farfan, Jacquez-Santos, and Harris opposed.

Member Nordbak expressed concern that this item had not gone to the City Managers Steering Committee for review. SCAQMD Board Member Reyes Uranga said that she was not asking that anything be changed; but only clarified. Member Nordbak asked Signal Hill City Manager Ken Farfsing if this had been brought to the City Managers Steering Committee. Mr. Farfsing responded that this is the first time it had come to them. Member Nordbak asked if there is an urgency that required it to be acted on tonight. Pom Pom Ganguli, SCAQMD, responded that the urgency is that the Senate is setting up a committee hearing. SCAQMD Board Member Reyes Uranga said that it would still be the intent to leave the power plants out of the legislation.

First Vice President Hurtado said that he was concerned that the vote last month regarding SB 696 was a split vote and that the matter needs to be studied. Member Harris said that when the matter was brought to the Board of Supervisors the urgency was regarding the impact on small business and public projects. Member Jacquez-Santos said that it is her understanding that the legislation is not moving forward because the matter is being litigated. Mr. Ganguli responded that the bill is still moving forward in the legislature. Member Pederson said that he thought the whole crux of the discussion previously was to exclude the power plants from the bill. Member Wilson said the concern in Signal Hill is of the existing moratorium's effect on essential public services. Regarding Member Nordbak's point, Member Wilson said that if the City Managers Steering Committee has not looked at the issue, it seems that to bring it back in September would not be a problem.

It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to refer the request by the SCAQMD regarding SB 696 to the City Managers Steering Committee and that the matter be brought back to the Board at the September meeting with a recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

There were no other public comments made.

The Executive Director alerted the Board to the upcoming METTRANS National Urban Freight Conference in October to be held in Long Beach.

It was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Barrows, to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director introduced a video presentation regarding forecasts on cargo activity at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles prepared by the Center for Trade and Transportation at Cal State Long Beach.

Commenting from the public on the video presentation, Patty Senecal, IWLA, said that the ports are now operating at 2002 cargo levels. She said Wal-Mart has gone from 85% to 20% of its cargo going through the two local ports because the cost of doing business here is very high. Ms. Senecal said we are going to have to compete with other ports from now on. She said that the Inland Empire currently has eight years of warehouse capacity available.

The Executive Director introduced Dr. Joseph Magaddino, Director of the Department of Economics at Cal State Long Beach, who gave a presentation on a National and Regional Economic Outlook. Dr. Magaddino said that he was focusing more time on the nation's economy because the severity of the national recession is driving things. He said for the first time since World War II, there is a worldwide decline in the economy. He said the recovery from the recession is going to be weak and will still carry high unemployment. He said that it looks like housing starts have bottomed out, but that non-residential construction will remain weak for several years. He said his conclusion is that recessions are temporary, and that there will be slow growth in 2010.

Regarding the regional economy, Dr. Magaddino said that the housing slump hit outlying areas more than Los Angeles County. He said the regional economy next year will be better, but still not good. Since 1998 there have been consistent job losses in durable goods. The only sector that is generating jobs is health services.

It was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Wilson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

GCCOG Engineer Jerry Wood gave a report on the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Feasibility Study Scope of Work. He said that Measure R, passed in the November 2008 election, included approximately \$600 million for "congestion hot spots" projects in the freeway corridors. He said that, in order to better define the congestion hot spots in more detail, set priorities, and select projects, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had recommended to the 91/605/405 Corridor Cities Committee that more detailed engineering work on the draft

scope of work be performed. He said that the Corridor Cities Committee is recommending to the Board that it:

1. Accept the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Initial Corridor Studies report for distribution to other agencies and interested parties;
2. Concur with the Feasibility Analysis final Scope of Work developed with the TAC and proceed with its implementation; and
3. Proceed with the implementation by:
 - A. Requesting \$4 million of Measure R funds from MTA to perform the analysis;
 - B. Request staff to develop a Request for Proposals to retain consultants to do the analysis as Measure R funds are available; and
 - C. Collaborate with Caltrans, MTA, and the I-5 JPA to develop the RFP to proceed with the Feasibility Analysis.

It was moved by Member Barrows, seconded by Member Carroll, to approve the recommendation of the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Executive Director presented a report to the Board regarding the ongoing SB 375 study. He said that SB 375 constituted the most significant movement of land use decisions from local to state government. He said the project was moving forward towards meeting a December deadline for determining whether the COG will accept delegation from SCAG under SB 375. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matt Horton presented a report from SCAG. He encouraged Board members to view SCAG's website and its SB 375 link to review SCAG's guidelines. Member Nelson asked Mr. Horton to report on SCAG's satellite offices. Mr. Horton said that SCAG is opening offices in Ventura, Orange, and Imperial counties and at the end of the month would be opening one in San Bernardino County, as well. It was moved by Member Gurule, seconded by Member Dobson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the League of California Cities.

There was no report from the California Contract Cities Association.
There was no report from the I-5 JPA.

There was no report from the Orangeline Development Authority.

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

David Hershenson presented a report from the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector. He reported that Alex Clifford had accepted a position to head up MTA's High Speed Rail office, and that South Bay Service Sector General Manager would be serving in the interim for the Gateway Cities Service Sector. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by First Vice President Hurtado, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mike Bassett presented a report from the Long Beach Conservation Corps. He said that sponsoring crews from the Conservation Corps could save cities money on odd jobs or special projects. It was moved by Member Nordbak, seconded by Member Salazar, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Wilson presented a report from the Conservancy Committee. He said that the Conservancy had received a small amount of funding from bond sales, but that parks and open space are not among the state's priorities for bond funds. He said the Conservancy would give first priority to projects that can be completed within eight months, and then to those that can be completed within twelve months. It was moved by First Vice President Hurtado, seconded by Member Davis, 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 referred to a status report that he distributed. He said that the I-710 EIR/EIS Project Committee did not meet in July. It was moved by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Archuleta, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no report from the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee.

The Transportation Deputy presented a report from the Transportation Committee. She reported that the MTA's Long Range Transportation Plan has a very incomplete highway plan. She said the COG's position is that we don't want to see a Long Range Transportation Plan that does not have a balance with regard to highways. It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Nelson, to receive and file the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Member Nordbak said that he would like to keep the Board meetings pared down.

President Stefenhagen made a presentation to Immediate Past President Bayer, recognizing her for her service to the COG as President of the Board of Directors during the prior year.

Adjournment: It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.