



MEETING SUMMARY

NORTH COUNTY MEASURE D POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 6, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Santa Ynez Valley Marriott – The Del Mar Room
555 McMurray Road
Buellton, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton and committee chairperson; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Pat Mickelson, Caltrans, District 5 (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: Doreen Farr, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria.

SBCAG Staff Members Present: Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director; Gregg Hart, Public Information Officer; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner; Scott Spaulding, Transportation Planner

SBCAG Consultants Present

Bob Bramen, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Jim Salvito, MNS Engineers
Gerald Comati, COM3 Consulting
Eric Rouse, Sharon Greene & Associates

Due to a lack of quorum, the committee agreed to review items not requiring action.

7. SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY 101 HOV LANES WIDENING

Gregg Hart summarized the staff report. Gregg added that public meetings had been held and the public reception had been very good.

6. MEASURE A ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE

Stephen VanDenburgh summarized the staff report and highlighted sections of the staff report for discussion.

The first section that was highlighted was compensation for Board members. He noted that current compensation amounts of \$100 per meeting had been established in 1990 and not been changed since then.

Stephen then reviewed Sections D, E and F regarding the General Counsel and Fiscal Officer for SBCAG. He noted that the General Counsel of SBCAG is currently the County Counsel and that the Fiscal Officer is the County Auditor. Stephen said that staff recommended making these sections consistent so that they provide the same flexibility and latitude in filling the positions. He also mentioned that SBCAG staff would be formulating a recommendation on an amendment to Ordinance #3 that would control when changes to project or programs would trigger an Investment Plan or Strategic Plan amendment.

Kevin Ready responded that Ordinance #5 states when amendments to the Investment Plan are needed, and how they are carried out. Kevin added that any changes to General Counsel and Fiscal Officer affect SBCAG, not just as a Local Transportation Authority, but as a Joint Powers Authority as well. He mentioned that some changes are easy and others are not as easy.

Regarding Board Member compensation, Mayor Alvarez noted that the Board chair has many additional responsibilities and that staff should analyze whether other agencies pay their Board Chair more and whether the SBCAG Board Chair should receive perhaps an additional \$50 per meeting.

Supervisor Centeno said that staff should also look inside the county at agencies like LAFCO when surveying compensation for Board Members.

Mayor Alvarez said there are pros and cons when evaluating the appointment of the General Counsel and Fiscal Officer.

Supervisor Centeno asked staff to review those occasions when there have been problems with using County Counsel as General Counsel.

Mayor Dick DeWees arrived at this time and a quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilmember Ed Skytt nominated Councilmember Russ Hicks for the position of Chair and Mr. Hicks accepted.

Mayor Lupe Alvarez nominated Mayor DeWees for the position of Vice-Chair and Mayor DeWees accepted.

A motion to approve the nomination was made by Ed Skytt and was seconded by Lupe Alvarez. The motion passed unanimously.

4. MEASURE A STRATEGIC PLAN

Stephen VanDenburgh summarized the staff report. Stephen then introduced the Measure A Strategic Plan Consultant Team of Parsons Brinkerhoff, Sharon Green and Associates, COM3 Consulting and MNS Engineers.

Bob Bramen of Parsons Brinckerhoff presented an overview of the development of the Strategic plan.

Councilmember Russ Hicks noted that the Measure A Citizen's Oversight Committee will be an advisory committee that will document accountability.

Mayor Alvarez asked how many members would be included on the Measure A Citizen's Oversight Committee and Steve VanDenburgh responded that there were eleven members. Mayor Alvarez asked if there were a provision if the committee can't be filled and Steve VanDenburgh responded that there was not a provision.

David Whitehead, City of Santa Maria Public Works Director, expressed that the Public Works Directors wanted to provide more input on the development of the Strategic Plan and mentioned the idea creating a Public Works Leadership Council that would provide input to the Board.

Kevin Ready noted that if such a committee were created, that it would be subject to the Brown Act.

Stephen VanDenburgh noted that the Ordinance prescribes TTAC as the official advisory body and that the TTAC agenda could be modified to include a section specifically for discussion on Measure A items.

The committee recommended that public works directors work with their representatives on TTAC and their respective Board members to convey any input regarding items.

Stephen VanDenburgh highlighted that prioritization of projects was another item for discussion in the Measure A Strategic plan.

Mayor Dick DeWees noted that priorities should be established in each the North County and South Coast regions.

Bob Bramen noted that the South Coast Highway 101 widening was on a different schedule and that priorities should be established.

Councilmember Hicks recommended the North County have an advisory member on the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee and vice versa.

Mayor DeWees noted that the Interregional Transit Program should be discussed by both regions.

Stephen VanDenburgh asked Bob Bramen if there was an opportunity to issue bonds and Sharon Green responded that project readiness need to be reviewed.

Stephen added that Measure D regional projects were 100% funded with Measure D and that SBCAG should look at bonding to accelerate Measure A dollars. He noted, however, that matching funds for Measure A projects could not be accelerated and this should be considered.

Kevin Ready noted that there is also the capability of bonding the local funds to help accelerate the delivery of projects funded from the Measure A Local program.

5. MEASURE A CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Gregg Hart summarized the staff report.

Gregg noted that there are different ways to recruit members of the public for the Citizen's Oversight Committee and he explained the nomination process. He added that staff thinks that experience is good and those members of the Measure A Investment Plan development committee should be considered.

Mayor DeWees asked if a job description had been developed for the Citizens Oversight Committee and Gregg responded that the Ordinance is very broad on the description of the responsibilities of the Measure A Citizen's Oversight Committee.

Councilmember Hicks asked if there any objection to recruiting from the Measure A Investment Plan Development Committee and Mayor DeWees said that recruitment should be open to everyone.

Supervisor Centeno said that the committee should not take any action at this time.

Councilmember Hicks asked staff to share thoughts from the North County Subregional Planning committee with the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee.

Kevin Ready reminded the committee that SBCAG is not allowed to adopt the Measure A Strategic Plan until 90 days after the Citizens Oversight Committee is established.

Councilmember Hicks asked if there would be an item on the May SBCAG Board Meeting agenda on the Citizen's Oversight Committee. Gregg Hart said that one could be added.

Supervisor Centeno made a motion to conduct an open advertisement for the North County representatives on the Citizen's Oversight Committee. Mayor Alvarez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor DeWees recommended that a timeline for forming the committee be included in the SBCAG Board Staff report. Stephen VanDenburgh responded that staff would establish a timeline working the Strategic Plan adoption date of November 2009.

Mayor DeWees asked if elected officials are eligible and Gregg Hart responded that elected officials and government staff are not eligible to serve on the committee.

8. ADJOURN

There being no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Hicks at 11:00 a.m.