

MINUTES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA

3. CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to closed session at 8:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Members Present: Naomi Schwartz, Supervisor, First District (SBCAG Chair); Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District (arrived at 10:00 a.m.); Bill Traylor, Mayor, City of Buellton; Richard Weinberg, Mayor, City of Carpinteria; Jack Hawxhurst, Councilmember, City of Goleta; Sam Arca, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc (SBCAG Vice-Chair); Dan Secord, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara; Marty Mariscal, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; David Smyser, Mayor, City of Solvang; Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative (Ex-Officio member).

Members Absent: Supervisor Marshall, Supervisor, Third District.

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs; Kent Epperson, TDM Program Administrator; Gregg Hart, Public Information/Government Affairs Coordinator; Cathy Muneio, Executive Secretary/Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Schwartz called for the pledge of allegiance.

4. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Mr. Ready reported that the Board had discussed the Executive director's employment contract and that this was scheduled for action later on the agenda.

Mr. Ready reported that the Board had authorized retaining Fell Marking as co-counsel for pending litigation (Pierce, Estrada and Our Children's Earth Foundation v. SBCAG).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 17, 2004

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

Councilmember Hawxhurst requested that his comment on page 8 relative to the jobs/housing imbalance be rephrased to better clarify his statement from "Councilman Hawxhurst indicated he was concerned that the report needed to be more balanced such as citing the success of Measure E in the City of Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara requirements in the past for the Goleta area infrastructure and housing mitigation from job creating commercial development. He stressed that excessive job growth was more of a problem than inadequate housing production. He said he hoped the report would facilitate job development in the north county and said job training was a key element." to "Councilmember Hawxhurst said he hoped that the City of Santa Barbara would play a leadership role in this process since Goleta was such a young city. He said he hoped the report would facilitate job development in the north county and said job training was a key element."

A motion was made by Mayor Arca, seconded by Councilmember Secord and carried to approve the minutes of June 17, 2004 as amended with Supervisor Centeno abstaining.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Alvarez advocated for a north county methadone clinic and low income housing for the city of Guadalupe. Chair Schwartz stated that these issues were not relevant to the function of SBCAG. Mr. Alvarez stressed the need to clean up the willows at 12th Street.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Secord requested that Item 7A be discussed and Supervisor Schwartz requested that Item 7B be discussed.

A. ROUTE 101/154 (NORTH) INTERCHANGE

Councilmember Secord praised SBCAG for completing this project on time and asked Mr. Kemp to spend a few minutes discussing the ability to complete the project with Measure D funds.

Mr. Kemp said the closeout report was a routine item for SBCAG. He explained that the project involved the construction of a new interchange at Hwy 101 and 154 near Los Alamos and had been the site of many serious and fatal accidents. The board voted to accelerate the project and it was completed nearly 5 years ahead of the original schedule. He said that the project was funded by Measure D funds and had turned out to be a tremendous success.

B. 101 IN MOTION

Supervisor Schwartz stated that the staff report had been revised based on subsequent actions by the consultant and stated they were delaying the roundtable discussions until August. Mr. Kemp said the staff report mentioned that there had been a stakeholders meeting and steering committee meeting held earlier in the month and that as a result of the comments received from those meetings the approach was revised and a different course of action was being pursued to develop the alternative packages. He said the committees had concluded that the packages should first be formed at the steering and stakeholder committee level and then by the public since it would be more timely and cost effective, and emphasized that there was clearly a need for public input. He said as

a result of this change it would delay the effort to develop the alternative packages and he hoped to take the first draft of alternative packages to the steering committee prior to bringing them to the public.

Mayor Smyser suggested that a report from the 101 in Motion project contractors be placed on the board workshop agenda. Supervisor Schwartz said that it was scheduled to be on that agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hawxhurst, seconded by Councilmember Secord and unanimously carried to approve the consent calendar.

9. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

A motion was made by Supervisor Gray and seconded by Councilmember Mariscal to adopt the resolution of appreciation for Mayor Lavagnino. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Schwartz presented the resolution of appreciation to Mayor Lavagnino.

Mayor Lavagnino said that he had been involved in government for 40 years and that he did not think people realize all of the tough decisions that are made. He said he had made many difficult decisions and he liked giving back to the community. Mayor Lavagnino credited the United States with being so great due to people like those on the Board. Mayor Lavagnino said he enjoyed his time on the SBCAG Board and noted that when he was representing SBCAG, things were always decided based on the whole region. He thanked the Board for this recognition.

Supervisor Centeno arrived at 10:00 a.m.

8. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Krumholz presented the construction report. He expressed appreciation to the City of Santa Maria businesses and citizens along that corridor for the patience they showed during the last two years of construction of the now completed Route 166 Rehab project.

Councilmember Mariscal stated that the city of Santa Maria was happy with the completion of that project and that it made it easier to drive down Main Street without the impediment of construction. Councilmember Mariscal also asked when the overlay would occur on Hwy 135 between McCoy and Winter Road.

Mr. Krumholz said he would get back to Councilmember Mariscal with an answer.

Supervisor Gray asked what the status was of the project on Hwy 135 between St. Andrews and Winter Road.

Councilmember Mariscal responded that the bids had been opened relative to that project.

Councilmember Hawxhurst said that Highway 101 was in the best condition he had ever seen between Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. He also asked if the report was complete since there was a blank page at the end of the report.

Mr. Krumholz said he would review the report to make sure it is complete.

10. JOBS/HOUSING INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Powers reported that the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee and the Interregional Partnership Steering Committee had met to consider the final report and had given it their endorsement. He said that while the South Coast Subcommittee had approved the report, Councilmember Hawxhurst had opposed the motion because inadequate attention had been given to controls on job growth. Mr. Powers introduced Jim Youngson of the consulting team that helped prepare the report.

Mr. Youngson said he was making the report since Mr. Jostes was on vacation. He commended the Steering Committee for their hard work and dedication and said he was very pleased with this report. He stated that Chapter 6 was an addition to the previous presentation and focused on continuing to the next phase. He said that they gathered a combination of the most strategic components and elaborated on them in more detail on ways to move forward with discussions. Mr. Youngson stated that the issues were so complex that it could take a long time to address them, but that this report provided a guideline to future discussions and recommendations.

Supervisor Schwartz said she appreciated the report and that the call to action was excellent. She said this was a complex issue and that this report would provide a good tool in establishing dialogue.

Mr. Youngson said that there was an overwhelming amount of support and positive reaction from the community along with some ambivalence.

Mr. Urbanske, IRP Steering Committee member, said that it was interesting to see that the models shown under the present policies would worsen the problem and showed there would also be worsening commuting problems. He said that as elected leaders they were in the driver's seat and that they had the ability to change things. Mr. Urbanske said that playing with the housing market would not work. He advocated respect for property rights and more smart growth decisions that facilitated mixed use, apartments, and housing near transit.

Mr. Holmdahl, IRP Steering Committee member, expressed his support for the report and advocated presentations to city councils and continued funding. He said the Steering Committee was composed of a diverse cross section of individuals who agreed on some of the controversial proposals such as minimum density.

Mayor Smyser said that SBCAG is usually just involved in transportation but that land use issues needed to be addressed and that transportation and housing went together. However, this may create some tension. He noted that the transportation/jobs/housing process should be incorporated into the 101 in Motion.

Supervisor Rose stated that she didn't know that the 101 in Motion program had the ability to provide funding for this effort and said there should be some discussion on other possible funding sources and that this item should be part of a report on a regular basis.

Mayor DeWees suggested that a copy of the report be sent to LAFCO.

Supervisor Schwartz asked if copies would be sent to the Ventura participants.

Mr. Kemp replied they would and stated that a joint meeting with SCAG and Ventura County regional agencies of VCTC and VCOG is being scheduled.

Councilmember Secord said a presentation should be made to the city councils. He said that this was a refinement of smart growth and had an extra regional approach to it.

Mr. Kemp said that this was right in line with what the Steering Committee felt was needed for Phase II. He said the project ran into time constraints and that it was necessary to abbreviate some of those efforts. He said the Steering Committee asked the consultant team to prepare a proposal on what could be accomplished in the next phase of the outreach and to look for other funding possibilities. Mr. Kemp noted that there was some interest in funding this project that was expressed by some private sector businesses.

Mr. Youngson said that the dynamics between Ventura and Santa Barbara needed to be better understood. He noted that Mayor Smyser had made an interesting comment relative to the 101 in Motion project and that there may be some overlap of strategy recommendations between the 101 in Motion and Interregional Partnership projects.

Supervisor Gray suggested making a presentation to the cities in the second phase of the project. She asked what it would cost to make a presentation to each of the cities and county and asked whether there was funding available to do so.

Mr. Kemp said there was a budgeted ballpark figure of \$60,000-100,000 and said he would look into sharing the costs among the local agencies.

Councilmember Mariscal asked whether the SBCAG staff could make these presentations.

Mr. Kemp said that SBCAG could make the presentations to the city councils but that he was talking about a larger effort to present the report to the public.

Councilmember Marsical said he was encouraged by the effort to interact with other communities and said there hasn't been this type of interagency discussion before. He said there were many things the cities and county could do to help facilitate moving this forward by utilizing individual interests and encouraging communities to talk together.

Councilmember Secord said this was an educational matter. He suggested talking to the planning commissions about the potential benefits and gains.

Councilman Weinberg expressed that he had some concerns with the report that he had reviewed earlier with the Steering Committee.

Councilmember Secord moved to accept the report. Supervisor Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilmember Hawxhurst opposed.

11. TRIENNIAL PERFORMANCE AUDITS

Michael Powers introduced Lynda Rhine with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting firm that presented the report and reviewed the findings and recommendations for SBCAG. She said that SBCAG had fully complied with TDA requirements. She said that SBCAG had responded to two recommendations that came from the previous report and presented the findings from this audit.

She said that the unmet transit needs process had been greatly enhanced, that there was a very active TDM program, and that SBCAG does an effective job of administering grants.

Councilmember Secord moved to approve the audit reports and authorize their submittal to the State Controller. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mariscal and unanimously carried.

12. MEASURE D LOCAL ALLOCATIONS

Mr. Kemp explained that this item was continued from the June meeting and that the Board had requested staff to return with the options that involve different scenarios. He said this had gone before TTAC and that after the meeting some of the members had expressed they did not understand some of the options. He said he felt it was important to answer those questions and come back to TTAC before the Board is asked to act on this item. Mr. Kemp said he polled the TTAC members and that none had expressed concerns with continuing this item.

Supervisor Gray said that several Board members would not be at the August meeting.

Mr. Kemp said he would poll the Board to determine attendance at the August meeting.

Supervisor Schwartz asked that this item be placed on the September agenda.

Councilmember Secord moved to continue this item until the September board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mariscal and the motion carried unanimously.

13. CLEAN AIR EXPRESS OPERATOR CONTRACT

Mr. Ready stated this item was on the agenda to extend the current contract and was not related to the RFP process.

Mr. Epperson explained that in May staff had brought a recommendation to the Board to award a contract to Santa Barbara Airbus and at that time American Star submitted a protest against the award of the contract at which time the award process was stopped until the protest is resolved. Mr. Kemp said that the protest will take some time to resolve and that the existing Santa Barbara Airbus contract would need to be extended to continue the service.

Councilmember Secord moved to authorize the Chair to execute an amendment to the existing contract with Santa Barbara Airbus extending the contract term to August 27, 2005. Councilmember Mariscal seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Centeno, Mayor DeWees, and Councilman Secord expressed concerns with the RFP process.

14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTRACT

Supervisor Schwartz stated this item was discussed in the closed session.

Mr. Ready said there was a mileage rate change that needed to be made to the agreement. The mileage rate would not be a specified amount but would now follow the IRS mileage rate.

Mr. Ready explained that as a result of the closed session the Board directed County Counsel and the Executive Director to return to the Board with recommendations for a longer term contract to extend beyond the one year limit. The other suggestion made was for the Executive Director contract renewal to be completed prior to the adoption of the budget for whatever year it comes up for renewal.

Mayor Arca moved to authorize the Chair to execute the Executive Director Employment Agreement as amended. The motion was seconded by Mayor DeWees and carried unanimously.

15. SOUTH COAST TRANSIT PRIORITIES PROJECT

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, SBMTD, gave a presentation on the status of the South Coast Transit Priorities project.

Mayor DeWees asked why MTD would want to provide service to the Santa Ynez Valley if they are not being paid for it.

Ms. Fisher said that the MTD and the community of Santa Barbara have employees that live in Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley.

Supervisor Rose asked if these potential routes had been assessed.

Ms. Fisher said there was a very successful online survey taken. She said that they had called 200 local employers and talked to the human resources departments.

Mayor Smyser said the discussion of having MTD in the North County started about two years ago when people who work in Santa Barbara decided they couldn't afford to live there. He expressed that he was very pleased that Ms. Fisher was named as the General Manager of the MTD and said she was very honest and helpful. Mayor Smyser said that at the meeting he had attended there were representatives from Raytheon and UCSB and that it was a large turnout for this type of issue. He said these companies indicated that they would take advantage of this service.

Ms. Fisher stated they were pleased with the responses and if it doesn't work out she said they were open to suggestions.

Mayor DeWees asked if it was known what MTD would be charging to ride this bus.

Ms. Fisher said they were proposing a \$4.00 one way cash fare, a ten ride pass for \$35.00, or a 30 day unlimited pass for \$120.

Mayor DeWees asked what the Clean Air Express was charging. Mr. Kemp replied that it was \$130 per month.

Councilmember Secord asked what the MTD fare box ratio was. Ms. Fisher responded that it was 40 percent due to the bi-directional service and a transit intensive community.

Mr. Kemp said that MTD's original program submitted to SBCAG had changed over time. He said that MTD was currently requesting to use \$2.1 million in CMAQ funding for operating assistance for a three year period and originally these funds were going to be used for capital

costs. He said there is the question of how the operating costs for this service will be paid for after the three year period ends. He said that Ms. Fisher has discussed this issue with the cities and county staff and made it clear that there would be a need for assistance. Mr. Kemp said the project may need to be phased in or scaled down since it was not clear whether MTD would have to find other funding to operate this service. He also said due to the change in the scope of work it would need to be rescored and compared with the other CMAQ projects submitted at the same time as the original project was submitted by MTD.

Councilmember Secord said it would take about three years to develop information on the success of the service and if this service proved to be unsuccessful MTD would need to cut back service at that time. He expressed satisfaction that the California Air Resources Board had finally approved use of diesel electric buses. He said that SBCAG should support this project and see what happens after the service matures.

Supervisor Schwartz asked when this would be coming back to the SBCAG board.

Mr. Kemp said time was needed to meet with the cities and county prior to returning to the SBCAG board and that it would possibly come back at the September meeting for board action.

16. INTERCOMMUNITY TRANSIT SERVICE

Michael Powers presented the staff report. He said that last month the MOU was approved and has been signed and said that it would be going to the Board of Supervisors for approval the first part of August and that a CMAQ application is being prepared so Santa Maria can apply to SBCAG to obtain federal funds. He said that SBCAG staff will rank the application based on the usual scoring process. He also cautioned that since Congress has not reauthorized the federal transportation legislation that this could have an impact on funding. Mr. Powers said there was sufficient funding available at this point in time but funding may be an issue in the future if SBCAG loses its eligibility for CMAQ funding due to improved air quality. Councilman Secord recommended consideration of older MTD buses for this service.

17. ROUTE 246 TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT REPORT

Keith Heinrichsen made a presentation on the Route 246 Transportation Concept report.

Supervisor Schwartz asked how this report would be used.

Mr. Kemp responded that it was part of a long range regional transportation document.

Due to time constraints, Councilmember Smyser recommended this item be continued to be given the time it merits for discussion. He also said that there were issues from the city of Solvang to the Chumash Casino that should be discussed.

Mayor Traylor also asked for a continuation of this item. He said he was waiting for authorization from Caltrans. He stated a median should be added to slow traffic down.

Mr. Krumholz said he appreciated that the state highway serves as the main street but that it was difficult to reach a consensus on how to handle this. He said he would be happy to continue the dialogue to try to come to a consensus with all of the communities along the Hwy 246 corridor.

Mayor Smyser said it would be helpful to have all of the jurisdiction representatives in one meeting to avoid different arrangements with the different cities over the role of SR 246 as Main Street in a number of towns.

Supervisor Schwartz recommended that this be a North County Subregional Planning Committee agenda item.

Mayor DeWees suggested that all of the public works directors be invited to this meeting.

Mr. Krumholz said he would be happy to attend the North County Subregional Planning Committee meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Supervisor Gray presented the June 24th Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting report. She stated one of the main issues was that both the Amtrak and Union Pacific could not find people to man the trains. She also reported that it cost \$47 million dollars for Coast Daylight to build side rails so that one passenger train could go by. She said that Mr. Fuller, who does train modeling, had given a report and said that she would like him to attend an SBCAG meeting to make a presentation.

Supervisor Gray said that ridership out of Surf continues to decline and that they are talking to the cities of Lompoc, Solvang and Buellton to build this service up.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kemp introduced Jimmy Chen as a new SBCAG staff member and said that currently SBCAG was fully staffed but that he would be losing Shannon McEtrick, the TDM Marketing Coordinator, and would be recruiting for that position soon.

Mr. Kemp said that there was a joint meeting with SCAG scheduled for August 12th but that it would most likely be cancelled. He also said that he was in the process of scheduled a Board workshop in September and would be getting back to the Board with some possible dates.

Mayor DeWees said that several Board members would not be able to attend the regular September meeting due to the Annual California Leagues of Cities Conference being held at the same time.

Mr. Kemp said he would poll the Board members to see who would be attending the SBCAG board meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.