



WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Date: January 29, 2009

To: Chair and Members of the Governing Board,
Westside Cities Council of Governments

From: Gordon R. Anderson, Interim Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director/Facilitator’s Report #16

A. Transition

Transition effort began immediately following COG Governing Board selection of interim executive director, Gordon Anderson. The former executive director, Jody Hall Esser, continued her responsibilities during the month of December yet included the interim executive director on all activities, including but not limited to: meetings, emails, correspondence and phones call when possible. During December each COG Committee meeting was attended by both Esser and Anderson.

Esser and Anderson meet several times during December on COG director operations and administration. Ms. Esser has turned over all COG documents and materials. COG members are reminded that all the official documents of the COG are turned over to the COG Secretary at each Governing Board meeting. It should be noted that Ms. Esser did provide electronic documents and material of the COG going back to 2003.

Ms. Esser concluded her month with a COG information packet and parting thanks that was sent to the Chair and Board of Directors of the COG, City Managers and staff, and Member Jurisdictions.

B. SOUTH BAY CITIES COG (SBCCOG) AND WESTSIDE CITIES COG COLLABORATION PROJECT FOR 2008-09

In September, the Board authorized, in principle that Westside and South Bay COG-member jurisdictions explore the concept of a CERT ([Community Emergency Response Team](#)) conference as a collaborative project. The initial meeting of the two COGs along with various representatives from a number of the communities and jurisdictions within the two COGs met in October. Follow the October meeting, it was reported to the Board in November that a follow up meeting was scheduled in January 2009 and that each jurisdiction would be asked to respond to a Fact Sheet providing information on CERT in their respective communities and jurisdictions.

The follow up meeting was held on January 15, 2009 in Redondo Beach. In attendance were representatives from the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood, Gardena, Lomita, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Torrance, Redondo

Beach and Los Angeles County Fire; and the Executive Director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and Westside Cities Council of Governments.

The attendees discussed strategies to increase CERT penetration within the two COG areas. Strategies included holding a one-day symposium on CERT, developing a program to directly contact the faith-based community, large property managers and large employers, providing a master calendar of CERT training class allowing to anyone within the area of the two COGs to attend, and providing links for information sharing on the websites of the two COGs. Subcommittees were formed to explore these and other strategies.

The Good Samaritan Law was identified as a potential major legal barrier to CERT efforts. The recent Times article [The Perils of Being a Good Samaritan in California](#) (Jan. 14, 2009), indicates that “the high court held that the state statute immunizing rescuers from liability applies only if the individual is providing medical care in an emergency situation.” Naturally, the concern from a CERT perspective is during an emergency will CERT volunteers have to worry about getting sued. It was acknowledged that certain protections are provided when an emergency is declared, but it was suggested that each jurisdiction review with their respective legal counsel.

C. COG JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARY

Discussion of the COG boundaries began several months ago. At the November 2008 Board meeting, the COG Subcommittees were requested to discuss the boundaries at their meetings in December and following input from staff to be brought back to the Board for consideration. The COG Committees have concurred on nine (9) thoughts that staff will use in developing alternatives for the Board to consider in March.

D. Metro Board Recommendation RE: Westside Extension Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study (Alt. #1 - Metro Purple Line Extension via Wilshire Blvd, Alt.#11 – Metro Purple Line Extension via Wilshire plus Subway Extension from Metro Red Line via Santa Monica Blvd.)

At the November 2008 meeting, the COG Board approved recommending to Metro that Alternatives #1 and #11 be considered for further study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (Draft EIS/R) and Advanced Conceptual Engineering. The recommendation was approved by the Metro Planning & Programming Committee on January 14, and ratified by the full Metro Board on January 22. Mayor Pro-Temp Abbe Land of West Hollywood and the interim executive director presented the COG recommendation to the Metro Board.

E. NEW COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

- 1. Follow up from December Sustainability Committee meeting:** staff was asked to review an alternative schedule for the Committee to meet that would not conflict with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Committee. The proposed new day is the 2nd Wednesday at 11a.m. of each month.
- 2. Follow up from December Transportation Committee meeting:** staff was asked to review an alternative schedule for the Committee to meet. Committee Co-Chair Heilman

can no longer commit to the current day. The proposed new schedule will be discussed at the meeting. It is understood that a Monday or Wednesday at 9:30a.m. will work; however, due to several council meetings on Tuesday evenings, it would appear that a Monday at 9:30a.m. is more likely. Which Monday would have to be decided as well.