



WESTSIDE CITIES

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

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WESTSIDE CITIES COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Hosted By: County of Los Angeles

11:45 AM Lunch
12:15 PM Business Meeting

Location: [Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration](#)
500 W. Temple Street, Room 830 (8th Floor)
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking : [The Music Center](#), 135 N. Grand Ave. LA, CA
(The County does not validate parking, however to secure parking arrangements you must R.S.V.P. no later than Monday, May 18th to Mariea Bereal at 213-974-3333)

Meeting Notes

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Beverly Hills:** Council Member William Brien. Staff: Katie Lichtig, Cheryl Friedling
- Culver City:** COG Vice-Chair and Council Member Scott Malsin and Council Member Micheál O'Leary. Staff: Art Ida, Marna Johnson, Jennifer Ma-Pham
- Santa Monica:** Council Member Kevin McKeown. Staff: Dean Kubani
- City of LA:** Council Member Bill Rosendahl (CD11). Staff: Alex Fay (CD11), Jay Greenstein (CD5), Clay McCarter (CLA)
- County of LA:** Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (SD3). Staff: Flora Gil Krisiloff (SD3), Vivian Rescalvo (SD3), Ben Saltsman (SD3), Karly Katona (SD2)
- West Hollywood:** COG Chair and Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman; Mayor Abbe Land. Staff: Paul Aravalo
- WSCCOG:** Gordon Anderson (Interim Executive Director)
Elizabeth Calciano representing Michael Jenkins (Counsel to the COG)
- Other Attendees:** Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tempore and Metro Board Member Pam O'Connor, Mike Bohlke (Deputy to Metro Board Member Pam O'Connor), Jody Litvak (Metro), David E. Van Iderstine (SCE), Ken Ruben (So Cal Transit Advocates), Matt Horton (SCAG), Teresa Acosta (League of California Cities), Juan Camacho (Senator Boxer)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Heilman called the meeting to order at 12:17p.m.

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Chair Heilman welcomed everyone, conducted self-introductions and voting members of the COG were identified. Chair Heilman acknowledged newly elected Beverly Hills Council Member William Brien and welcomed him to the COG governing board.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2009 MEETING NOTES

The minutes were approved by consensus.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Executive Director's Report was pulled for discussion. Items 4.B. and 4.C. were approved by consensus.

A. Executive Director's Report

- 1) Rule Modifications to Accommodate Southern California Edison Company's Initiative to Install Above-Ground Equipment in SCE's Underground Distribution Systems Whenever Feasible ([ADVICE 233-E](#))**
- 2) AB 139 (Brownley) Update**
- 3) Status of Recommendation to join the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action & Sustainability (L.A. Collaborative) and Membership in ICLEI**
- 4) Endorsement of Climate Communities and ICLEI USA, Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint**

Interim Executive Director, Gordon Anderson provided a brief overview of the proposed rule modifications requested by SCE, emphasizing that the jurisdictions have in the past worked in partnership with SCE on matters such as this, that there has not been a meaning full discussion with Westside and other communities (noting South Bay) on the desired rule modifications, that communities have worked hard to develop undergrounding standards, and that such an effort could give SCE the ability to circumvent local land-use control in this matter. Council Member Malsin indicated that Culver City has already sent a letter of concern and stress that the other Westside cities should consider doing the same so as not to loss local control as the cities have with telecommunications equipment in the right-of-way. Supervisor Yaroslavsky also emphasized that this not just a matter of esthetics, but a public safety issue, particularly fire safety in the unincorporated and City of L.A. areas near Malibu where SCE has jurisdiction.

There was general concurrence that the COG governing board should oppose the SCE rule modifications and encourage the other Westside cities to send separate letters to the CPUC. Anderson indicated that at the next Technical Committee/Managers' meeting a strategy and next steps would be determined.

Anderson provided a brief update the status of AB 139 indicating that Assembly Member Brownley has pilled the bill for further review by stakeholders. Culver City indicated that its Council has already taken action supporting the bill. The Westside cities staff team was acknowledged for their meaningful input and efforts during the negotiations among all the cities in the region. There remains differences related primarily to proposed percentage splits between the County and Cities. The County and City of L.A. perspectives were discussed with a commit from the City of L.A. to review the County's perspective internally because the watershed is essentially the same. The small Cities

acknowledged that it's important to have legislation that works for the County and City of L.A. and encouraged the identification of something that works for both.

With respect to AB 32 and SB 375 update, Anderson indicated that the primary issue to highlight to the COG governing board which could be a barrier to the Westside cities developing its own Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is coordination of the individual Westside cities transportation and land-use policies into a single strategy. As well, there remains a lack of clarity of how to integrate the City of L.A., especially CD11, into the SCS. The County has already indicated it will work cooperatively to be integrated into the Westside Cities SCS.

There was no further discussion of the Executive Director's Report.

B. Contract Extension to December 31, 2009 with Gordon R. Anderson as Executive Director

C. Treasurer's Financial Reports

- 1) **March 2009**

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Annual Budget and Determination of Dues to be Assessed Member Jurisdictions for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

- 1) **Proposed Annual Budget for 2009-2010 Fiscal Year**

The adoption of the Annual Budget was moved by Supervisor Yaroslavsky and seconded by Council Member Malsin.

*Roll Call Vote: (YES), Supervisor Yaroslavsky, L.A. County
(YES), Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, West Hollywood
(YES), Council Member Rosendahl, City of L.A.
(YES,) Council Member McKeown, Santa Monica
(YES), Council Member Brien, Beverly Hills
(YES), Council Member Malsin, Culver City*

B. Recommendation on COG Jurisdictional Boundaries

- 1) **WSCCOG Jurisdictional Boundary Map**

The Executive Director thanked Culver City GIS staff for developing the map and indicated that the map incorporated all the direction from the previous COG governing board discussion. With a minor street name correction where the Easterly boundary begins at Highland Avenue, the new jurisdictional boundaries were approved by consensus.

C. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary to the WSCCOG for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

COG Chair Heilman thanked staff for assistance and fellow elected officials for their support that has allowed the COG to accomplish and move forward on a lot over the past year, and he feels the same will continue.

Chair Heilman called for nominations for the position of Chair. Council Member Scott Malsin, Culver City was nominated. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Council Member Scott Malsin, Culver City was elected Chair by a unanimous vote.

Chair Heilman called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Council Member Bill Rosendahl, City of L.A. (CD11) was nominated. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Council Member Bill Rosendahl, City of L.A.(CD11) was elected Vice-Chair by a unanimous vote.

Chair Heilman called for nominations for the position of Secretary. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky was nomination; however, the nomination was graciously declined. Council Member Richard Bloom, Santa Monica was nominated. With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Council Member Richard Bloom, Santa Monica was elected Secretary by a unanimous vote.

D. Appointment/Reappointment of Members to the three WSCCOG Standing Committees for 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

Appointments to the three COG standing committees were determined:

- Homeless Issues Committee- Council Member Bloom, Santa Monica
Council Member Rosendahl, City of L.A. (CD11)
Supervisor Yaroslavsky, L.A. County;
- Transportation Committee – Council Member O’Leary, Culver City
Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, West Hollywood
Council Member Brien, Beverly Hills; and,
- Sustainability Committee -- Council Member McKeown, Santa Monica
Mayor Land, West Hollywood
Council Member Malsin, Culver City.

E. Appointment of WSCCOG Regional Director to the LA County Division of the League of California Cities

Council Member O’Leary, Culver City was appointed as the WSCCOG Regional Director to the LA County Division of the League of California Cities.

F. Appointment/Reappointment to SCAG Policy Committee(s)

Appointments to the SCAG Policy Committees were determined:

- Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) – Council Member Malsin, Culver City;
- Energy and Environment (EEC) – Mayor Land, West Hollywood; and,
- Transportation and Communications (TCC) – Council Member O’Leary, Culver City.

6. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. April Meeting Notes, Report and Recommendations from the COG Homeless Issues Committee and Related Items

1) Status of 2009 Annual Issues Conference

It was highlighted that the Homeless Issues Committee will start early this year talking about the Winter Shelter Program to have problems resolved before the beginning of the winter season.

Flora Gil-Krisloff presented and discussed the committee's recommendation that the 2009 Annual Issues Conference take on the format of a "roll-up your sleeves" workshop of COG staff and elected officials, VA staff and leadership, service providers, County DMH staff, County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs staff, HUD staff, and representatives from Congress member Waxman's, Harmon's and Watson's offices and Senator Feinstein's office. The workshop would be about a half-day session hosted by LA County and the COG at the County Hall of Administration. The goal of the workshop would be to have tangible objectives at its conclusion.

Following discussion, the COG governing board concurred on format and focus for the workshop.

B. April Meeting Notes, Report and Recommendations from the COG Committee on Sustainability and Related Items

1) Branding of WSCCOG Sustainability Efforts/Documents – review of draft ideas/logos

- a. Attachment: Logo Series E**
- b. Attachment: Logo Series F**

Following a brief presentation of the matters reviewed by the Sustainability Committee at its last meeting, Council Member Malsin lead a discussion on the draft logo designs. The COG governing board concurred and approve the draft logo designs for the Sustainability Committee and directed staff to begin thinking about ways to introduce and use the Sustainability Logo.

C. April Meeting Notes, Report and Recommendations from the COG Transportation Committee and Related Items

The transportation Committee didn't meet in the month of April.

Jody Litvak was asked to provide an update on the status of Expo Line and extension of the Subway to the Sea indicating that scoping sessions have begun, an urban design working group has been established, with a draft locally preferred alternative anticipated by summer 2010.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky discussed the Expo Line indicating that there remain a lot of issues. A major issue is with the Phase I, treatment a Dorsey High School which is not resolved. He indicated further that the Phase II should be smoother. It was suggested that an item for the next Transportation Committee be to review how the COG may be helpful in resolving Phase I issues and continue advocacy and support for Phase II.

D. MTA Southwest Cities Corridor and Westside Central Service Sector Report

Pam O'Connor, Metro Board member provided a reported on the current status of transit related activities. (Report notes will be added when available.)

E. League of California Cities Updates

Following a discussion of recent comments by Governor Schwarzenegger and local news headlines that the state may need to borrow from local governments to balance the state budget, the COG governing board considered an emergency action directing that a letter be sent to the Governor and our local state representatives opposing any proposal that seeks to take or borrow local property taxes, transportation funds or other revenues to balance the state budget. Further indicating that such action on the part of the state will harm the cities and cripple local services. The emergency action was unanimously approved.

7. RECEIVE/ FILE AND PROVIDE DIRECTION RE: CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from Interim Executive Director to California Public Utilities Commission, Energy Division, RE: Rule Modifications to Accommodate Southern California Edison Company's Initiative to Install Above-Ground Equipment in SCE's Underground Distribution Systems Whenever Feasible ([ADVICE 233-E](#))**
- B. Letter from Interim Executive Director to League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division RE: Recommendation to Support As Amended, AB 139**
- C. Letter from the Executive Director to Climate Communities RE: WSCCOG Endorsement of the Climate Action Plan**

There was no discussion of the Receive/File.

8. EVENT REMINDER AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Malsin, Culver City indicated the Culver City Council had recently introduced an [Ordinance entitled "Budget Restrictions,"](#) related to the adoption of balanced City budgets and the use of reserve funds which establishes more rigorous guidelines for the use of reserves to balance the city budget.

9. FUTURE MEETING LOCATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. 2009 Meeting Dates and Host City

**July 16 – LA City
September 24 - West Hollywood
November 19 - Beverly Hills**

B. Tentatively Scheduled Agenda Items:

1) July 16, 2009:

- a. Amendment to Conflict of Interests Code Adding the Jurisdiction Staff Performing the Treasurer Functions**
- b. Recommendation of FY 2008-09 Work Program Items and Advocacy Packet Contents from Homeless Issues Committee**
- c. Recommendation of Work Program Items for FY 2008-09 from the Sustainability Committee**

2) Items for Other Future Agendas:

- a. Tour of Exposition Light Rail Route**

An item is to be added to a future agenda: Review of ways to cooperate on service delivery and/or political advocacy between the Westside cities to respond to current fiscal conditions facing local jurisdictions. The Technical Committee and city managers are asked to review this matter at its next meeting.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may address the Westside Cities Council of Governments on any subject on or off the agenda by raising a hand and being recognized by the chair. Speakers shall confine their comments to three minutes per speaker.

David E. Van Iderstine, SCE indicated his presence and that SCE was available to meet with the COG Technical Committee and city managers as soon as a meeting can be scheduled. that he was

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45p.m to July 16, 2009 to be hosted by the City of Los Angeles. The planned meeting location is the Skirball Cultural Center.