

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Thursday, October 19, 2006**

**Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA**

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno (SBCAG Chair), Supervisor, Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton; Donna Jordan, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Jonny Wallis (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Mayor, City of Goleta; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Marty Mariscal, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5 Representative

**Members Absent:** Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Centeno called for the pledge of allegiance.

**3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

The board recessed to closed session at 8:38 a.m. to discuss the Executive Director's Employment Contract.

**4. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

When the board reconvened at 9:08 a.m. Counsel Ready stated that no reportable action was taken.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor DeWees moved approval of the minutes for September 6, 2006 and September 21, 2006. The motion was seconded by Mayor Blum and carried with Supervisor Gray abstaining from the September 6, 2006 meeting, and Supervisors Carbajal and Centeno abstaining from both meetings.

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mr. Kemp requested that Item 6D - SBCAG Medical Insurance Contribution, be deferred to a future date. A motion was made by Mayor Blum, seconded by Councilmember Skytt and unanimously carried to defer this item to a future date.

Mayor Alvarez moved approval of the remaining consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Gray and carried unanimously.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Davis, the new Executive Director for Easy Lift, introduced himself to the Board.

Sister Janet from Santa Maria expressed her appreciation to Supervisor Joe Centeno for his work and thanked the Board for spending funds on humanitarian projects.

**8. NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN**

Mr. Powers presented the staff report. He said that the plan had incorporated the comments made by Councilmember Mariscal at the September SBCAG board meeting. In addition, Mr. Powers reported that he had received a letter from the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District staff stating they concur with the assumption in the plan that they would not be able to provide financial support for the Clean Air Express after the end of this fiscal year.

Supervisor Carbajal thanked everyone responsible for putting the plan together for their time and effort and noted it was an excellent plan.

Councilmember Mariscal thanked staff for adding his comments since his suggestions would be left open as possible options. He stated the North County is not yet ready for the District approach offered by MTD, but the primary function of transit is to serve local needs. He said as a representative of SMAT that their main emphasis will be placed on local transit and that with the passage of Measure D local and regional services will be granted more flexibility to respond to growing needs. He thanked staff for a good plan and said he was very supportive of it.

Councilmember Mariscal moved to adopt the North Santa Barbara County Transit Plan. The motion was seconded by Mayor DeWees and carried unanimously.

**9. STATE TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITIONS 1A AND 1B**

Mr. VanDenburgh explained that Supervisor Gray had requested at the September meeting that Propositions 1A and 1B be placed on the agenda in order for the board to discuss whether they would like to take a position on these propositions.

Mayor DeWees stated that he hoped the board would consider supporting these measures. He said that the measures imply that these funds are necessary to fix transportation but in comparison to the renewal of Measure D the amount was minimal. He said under Proposition 1B of the 20 billion dollars it would bring in Santa Barbara County would receive 71 million dollars, which would be a drop in the bucket and comes nowhere close to what the Measure D funds will provide but they will work well in conjunction with Measure D.

Mayor Alvarez asked if it wasn't premature to prepare applications for the 101/Santa Barbara to Ventura widening and the 101/Santa Maria River Bridge projects.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated that the draft applications would have to be turned into Caltrans shortly after the election and that there is a quick turnaround time of December 2012 to begin construction.

Councilmember Mariscal said that during the 101 in Motion process the Ventura Council of Governments said that they would not have funding available until 2048 and asked if that timeframe had changed.

Mr. VanDenburgh replied that VCTC did not want to use their STIP funds but that they were okay using bond funds. He added that this was discussed with the VCTC board and they did not indicate that there were any concerns with the applications.

Councilmember Jordan said she agreed with Mayor DeWees' comments and added that there was confusion in the 30 year timeline when people were comparing things on an annual basis. She said that one of the concerns people had was that with widening 101 in Santa Barbara the congestion problem would move further south and that any opportunity to address this concern would be beneficial and expressed her support of this.

Supervisor Gray made a motion to support Propositions 1A and 1B and authorize staff to prepare applications for the 101/Santa Barbara to Ventura Widening and 101/Santa Maria River Bridge projects for the Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account program funding in cooperation with Caltrans, Ventura County Transportation Commission and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and directed staff to return to the board for approval of the project applications at a future meeting. Councilmember Skytt seconded the motion and the motion carried with Supervisor Centeno abstaining.

#### **10. REGIONAL GROWTH BLUEPRINT PLANS**

Mr. Powers presented the staff report.

Mr. Devencenzi with SLOCOG said that he had submitted the grant paperwork last week.

Mr. Powers summarized what the grant would be able to achieve and not achieve but said that the local agencies and SBCAG will make the decisions.

Supervisor Rose said she had missed the original discussion but was worried about losing local control and asked how it would work if the plan was submitted.

Mr. Powers responded that the SBCAG board would be approving the plan and any documents that are a result of this process. He said it was designed with the intention of insuring that local control remains in the process.

Councilmember Mariscal said he was not on the SBCAG board during the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process and requested a brief synopsis of how that developed. He stated concern that once the plan is developed if something is not included in the vision process then the state will not allow a project to be completed.

Mr. Powers responded that there were two elements to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process, a statewide allocation of need to counties and a distribution within the County of that need to each local agency. He stated that SBCAG objected to the State's original allocation and they reduced it somewhat. He said that the work on the allocation involved local staff and there were several alternatives presented to the board. The board eventually adopted a plan that included housing needs based on certain criteria and used the resulting numbers to prepare their local housing elements. He said that this proved to be quite controversial and that the process would begin again in the next fiscal year.

Mayor Wallis said that the board was starting to confuse a couple of things. She said the first confusion was supporting the SLOCOG grant for participation by Santa Maria and that they should deal with them as independent issues.

Councilmember Jordan said that even though they are saying the Regional Growth Blueprint Plan won't be controlled by the state it will be certified by the state and asked what that might mean.

Mr. Devencenzi said that the blueprint process does have provisions for a commitment to the state that performance measures are going to be developed. He said that the state wanted to set common denominators but that the Partnership Planning Grant will be more open ended and will not have the same strings attached so that a plan can be developed based on needs. He noted that part of the objective was to develop a better way to influence state legislation to change the regional housing needs assessment process.

Councilmember Jordan said she saw a lot of red flags but also could see the value of the data that would be collected. She said that with all of those cautions she would still be supportive of moving forward with collecting data.

Councilmember Mariscal asked if this process was voluntary in the beginning prior to the state developing the Regional Housing Needs Assessment numbers.

Mr. Kemp responded that it was and that the hope of having a blueprint planning grant would be a way to defend the numbers submitted to the HCD. He noted that there was currently no defensible pushback.

Councilmember Mariscal said the majority of the discussion was relative to housing and asked how land use decisions could be separated from this.

Mr. Devencenzi said he believed there needed to be an offense and a defense and that with concrete evidence the state may realize there is a reason to change the housing needs numbers that are developed.

Councilmember Mariscal asked what the state was going to do with the information when they receive it. He said he was concerned that there could be issues that could come back to the board in the future as a result of this.

Supervisor Rose asked if all agencies were developing blueprints.

Mr. Devencenzi said they were pleased to see that other agencies were working together at the state level and it seemed that it was moving more in that direction.

Supervisor Centeno said it seemed that regional planning was the issue and that some of the requirements could be done without the blueprint plans and state grant funds. He asked why there weren't more meetings between SLOCOG and SBCAG and VCTC to discuss what the regional planning grant will do. He said that once the state provides funding for the grant they may mandate additional requirements.

Supervisor Carbajal stated that the SBCAG board has always taken a contradictory approach to planning and said he thinks staff tries to respond to the board. He said they should look at what is entailed in regional planning to do on their own and said he was a little concerned about the blueprint process. He said that it seems since Santa Barbara County is the only county in the state that hasn't done this that SBCAG is being forced and has no other choice if funding is going to be made available from the state.

Supervisor Rose said she sat on the Jobs/Housing Balance Committee and that there had been dialogue and discussion with VCOG. She said she also felt there were other opportunities to be explored to become eligible for additional funding. She said she appreciated what SLOCOG is doing and it provides an opportunity for other agencies to be part of the dialogue. She stated the current legislation punishes agencies for not producing housing.

Mayor Wallis pointed out that the two issues should be separated. One is cooperating with SLOCOG for a grant from Caltrans for examining regional transportation issues between south San Luis Obispo and north Santa Barbara Counties and the other is whether or not to move forward with the Regional Growth Blueprint Plan. Relative to the blueprint plan, Mayor Wallis reminded the board that they did not want to move forward with this at first but then SLOCOG provided the board with additional information the board questioned their decision. She said that she would like to know what the processes are that need to be followed and how it will be achieved. She stated that local planning control can be overcome by a blueprint that allows transportation to dictate direction.

Supervisor Carbajal said that decisions do not need to be made at this time whether or not to move forward with a blueprint plan. He said it would behoove the board to explore what can be done to keep in line with that framework and the board can decide at a later date about joining the funding effort. He said that he does not want SBCAG to fall behind if this is going to be a tool counties will need to have in place.

Mayor Alvarez moved to authorize the chair to sign a letter of support for the SLOCOG grant application for the state partnership planning grant to include Santa Maria Valley in San Luis Obispo's Regional Vision 2050 planning area. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Skytt and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Mariscal said that the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe have jurisdictions with land use issues and that Nipomo does not. He said that there has not been good interaction with the County of San Luis Obispo and expressed the hope that this process will bring the two counties a little closer since each of those cities can impact the other. He said that he was not opposed to participating but suggested that they keep their eyes wide open.

Mr. Devencenzi said that one of the things they will be discussing is how to have an exchange flow of information between the counties.

Mayor Wallis moved that staff monitor the blueprint procedure and return to the board with any information that will help SBCAG be in a better position. Supervisor Carbajal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Wallis requested a copy of whatever has been drafted relative to this to date.

#### **11. TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS FY 05-06 ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Epperson presented the staff report and turned it over to Steve VanDenburgh to discuss CMAQ funding.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated that Traffic Solutions has relied on CMAQ funding for its on-going traffic congestion relief and demand reduction programs. CMAQ funding for SBCAG is scheduled to come to an end with the 04/05 fiscal year since Santa Barbara County has attained clean air status. He said that SCBAG and the Monterey Bay region had worked with other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the State to get their agreement to share a percentage of their CMAQ funding with SBCAG and the Monterey Bay area. The agreement in

SB 1587 is that SBCAG will receive 1.27 million dollars in 06/07 and \$635,000 but the funds must be obligated in whatever year they are received or they will lapse. TTAC reviewed the projects that would be eligible for this CMAQ funding and TTAC is recommending that Traffic Solutions receive all of the available funding. He stated that other potential projects that were discussed would not be able to make use of the funds quickly enough.

Mr. Epperson said that funding will pay for all the existing TDM programs as well as the 101 in Motion early action projects for congestion relief, such as carpool and vanpool incentives, FlexWork, extensive employer outreach and individualized marketing. The funding will also pay for a SLO/Santa Maria/Lompoc rideshare promotion and a North County reverse commute vanpool program.

Ron Lafrican with Cottage Health System said that he had worked for Cottage Hospital for five years and that he turned to Traffic Solutions as a partner to develop a program for their employees. He said it was a pleasure adding their logo to many of the programs Traffic Solutions has initiated and said they had provided some funding for some of the programs also.

Sister Janet recommended that the board adopt the Traffic Solutions annual report and a resolution to receive CMAQ phase-out funding. She said it was good for SBCAG/Traffic Solutions to have more of a presence in the North County and noted that most importantly vehicular emissions have been reduced. She stated that Traffic Solutions has conducted a bicycle skills class for Marian Medical and Santa Maria residents, conducted a recent Marian Medical commuter survey and has been appointed to the Partners for the Environment Committee.

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager of the SBMTD, said she supported the Traffic Solutions program and appreciated all of the connections they have generated to provide information to the community. She requested that they receive CMAQ funding also.

Eva Inbar said she supported the Traffic Solutions program and recommended that the board approve the funding that is being requested, and noted they do a terrific job and are very deserving.

Theresa Duer from the County Human Resources Department expressed her appreciation to Traffic Solutions for helping to solve their employees' needs

Mayor DeWees noted that the funding level appears to be higher than the current program and asked how the 1.9 million dollars breaks out.

Mr. Epperson said that the CMAQ funds will enable the implementation of several new programs that will be phased in over the next three years, such as the 101 early action items and North County programs.

Mayor DeWees requested an expenditure plan be prepared to see how the additional rideshare funds will be spent.

Supervisor Carbajal said he was supportive of the Traffic Solutions programs and said he had recently started working with Mr. Epperson on a much more comprehensive approach, more importantly as it relates to the Cabrillo/Hot Springs project. He said that Mr. Epperson has been extremely helpful in providing the tools for employers to consider.

Mayor Blum stated this program is a wake up call to the board and should be part of what SBCAG does on a consistent basis. She asked how funding could be made available on a regular basis and incorporated into the SBCAG budget.

Mayor Wallis said that this was a good report and said she would like to see an intense effort made to educate the large businesses in Goleta on the programs available.

Councilmember Jordan asked if the Coastal Express was fully funded through Measure D funds and asked to be provided with the number of daily riders there are on that service.

Supervisor Carbajal moved to receive the status report on the activities and performance of the Traffic Solutions program during FY 2005-06 and to adopt a resolution amending the 2007 FTIP to program \$1.9 million in CMAQ phase-out funding to the Traffic Solutions Program to provide operational funding for FY 2006/07 through FY 2009/10. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Gray and carried unanimously following a roll call vote.

The board took a five minute break at 11:10 a.m.

## **12. SBMTD STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Kemp stated that in 2004 CMAQ funds were awarded to MTD for a new pilot program for a service from the Santa Ynez Valley to Santa Barbara and as a stipulation they were requested to provide an annual report on this service.

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager with SBMTD, provided an update. She stated that the Valley Express service had met its first year goal with a fare box ratio of 44 percent with 25,000 passenger trips made in the first year.

Supervisor Gray asked if anyone had used the Emergency Ride Home option.

Ms. Fisher responded that they had not.

Supervisor Rose asked if MTD had surveyed their riders on whether they were taking the service due to the high cost of fuel.

Ms. Fisher said that it was time to ask that question and they have seen an increase in passengers. Ms. Fisher also reported on the Old Town Shuttle in Goleta and the Isla Vista shuttle.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Supervisor Centeno said he wanted to comment about the articles in the newspaper relative to Measure D. He said that all the board members were very concerned about what is distributed to our citizens. The concern expressed in the article was spending tax dollars inappropriately for the distribution of a Measure D brochure. He explained that any brochures or material distributed to the public was sent to county counsel to insure that SBCAG is operating within the parameters of the law.

Mr. Powers reported on the Coast Rail Coordinating Committee meeting. He said they had initiated efforts to promote the Coast Daylight service consistent with the board resolution adopted at the September meeting in support of that service and noted that there was legislative interest in identifying revenues to support this service. However, he added that there were issues with the Union Pacific railroad relative to the impact of new service on freight traffic.

Mayor Alvarez said he had attended this meeting and that there were about 30 participants present. He said that Senator Maldonado had attended this meeting and would support this if Propositions 1A and 1B pass.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kemp presented a status report on the sale of the Measure D revenue bonds and said that Lehman Brothers was the lowest bidder at about 25 basis points lower than what SBCAG's financial advisor estimated would be received. He noted as a result of that 8.2 million dollars will be placed in that fund.

Mr. Kemp said that several of the board members will be attending the CSAC meeting in November and therefore will not attending the November SBCAG board meeting. He said that a workshop on the regional blueprint has been planned on November 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

#### **CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Aileen Loe, the new Deputy Director for Planning at Caltrans, presented the Caltrans District Director's report. She noted that the 101 Castillo project completed its construction at the end of the previous month and that stop signs along with flash signs will be installed at Baseline/Edison on Hwy 154 beginning the following Monday

Supervisor Centeno asked the status of Hwy 166 in Cuyama Valley.

Ms. Loe said that the project was delayed due to complications with how the asphalt will be laid out but hoped the project would be completed this fiscal year.

Mr. Kemp commented that there has been a spike in the number of fatal accidents on Hwy 166 and that a task force has been implemented to work with the CHP to look at reducing those fatal accidents. He said they were in the process of developing a proposal for federal earmark funding to complete a safety improvement project and added with the reauthorization of Measure D there would be some funding available for a project to reduce accident rates.

Mayor Alvarez said he had some concerns about Hwy 166 west and said that recently they had lost one of their firefighters on this highway. He requested that Caltrans initiate a lights-on policy during daylight hours and add extra highway patrol units on this portion of the highway.

Councilmember Jordan asked what the reason was for the delay to 2007 on the Casitas/Linden Overpass project.

Ms. Loe said that she would respond to that question at the next board meeting.

Supervisor Carbajal requested that a status update on SR 192 be included in the next Caltrans report due to safety concerns. He stated the EIR has been completed and would like to know what comes next to allow the public who have an interest the status of this project on an ongoing basis.

Supervisor Centeno asked what was happening on the widening project in Santa Maria.

Ms. Loe stated that the construction project began in September.

Ms. Mickelson further responded that they were currently working on the soundwalls and removing brush at Donovan Road. She said that they would be sending out a semi-monthly newsletter on the status of that project and that they may do a blanket e-mail to the board to access that information.



Councilmember Mariscal expressed concern about the number of accidents that happen at intersections and said he looked forward to working with Caltrans to utilize cameras at those intersections where accidents occur.

Supervisor Gray asked what the reason was for installing a soundwall on Hwy 101 was and if it had to do with the widening project and also asked what the retaining wall was for on Hwy 192.

Ms. Mickelson stated that this was the Serena soundwall and has nothing to do with the widening.

Supervisor Carbajal said that before SBCAG and Caltrans restructured their funding program for soundwalls this project has been on the burner. He said now they have downshifted soundwalls to local programs.

Mayor Blum stated that the retaining wall on Hwy 192 was being constructed due to landslide concerns.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.