

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
Board of Directors**

**Thursday, April 17, 2008
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Firestone called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members Present: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Chair) Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Roger Horton, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria;; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Michael Bennett, Mayor, City of Goleta, Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton

Members Absent: Lupe Alvarez (SBCAG Vice-Chair) Mayor, City of Guadalupe

Staff Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Fred Luna, Transportation Planner; Aubrey Spilde, Transportation Planner; Terry Contreras, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel; Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative, Pat Mickelson, Caltrans District 5 Representative

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

A. Pending Litigation—Santa Barbara County Coalition Against Automobile Subsidies v. SBCAG.

B. Personnel Matter—Discussion with designated labor representative.

C. Personnel Matter—Executive Director employment agreement.

4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Kevin Ready, County Counsel, reported in regards to item 3A the Board directed County Counsel to provide legal representation for SBCAG. Item 3B no reportable action was taken. Item 3C the Board provided direction to County Counsel on changes in the Executive Directors employment agreement.

G. PROPOSITION 1B TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Approve Projects for the Fiscal Year 2007/08 Proposition 1B Transit Security Grant Program for Submittal to California Department of Homeland Security.

Motion to approve Consent items 6A-6G.

Motion: Carbajal Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried: 12-0 (Mayor Alvarez absent)

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark McGinnes addressed the board on the Cold Springs Bridge Safety Barrier Project and requested that the board schedule an agenda item to hear public input on the project..

Motion to schedule an informational only presentation by Caltrans on the Cold Springs Bridge Safety Barrier project for the May 15th board meeting.

Motion: Gray Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried 12-0.

Scott Wenz, Cars are Basic, addressed the board on SBCAG and their funding of programs requesting that bikeway funds be redirected to road improvements and expressed concerns about the MTD electric buses and lack of recent audit.

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager SBMTD stated that the agency is frequently subject to state and federal audits and copies of audits are available to the public.

ACTION ITEMS

8. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Receive presentation and provide comments on the draft 2008 Transit Needs Assessment and findings of "unmet need" and "reasonable to meet."

Alex Pujo addressed the board on transit ridership and recommended that all TDA funds should be directed to transit.

Motion to receive Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment .

Motion: Lavagnino Second: Centeno

Motion carried 12-0

9. REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION PLAN

Consider approval of draft Regional Housing Needs Allocation Methodology and Plan and authorize release for public review.

Motion to approved draft Regional Housing Needs Allocation Methodology and Plan and authorized release for public review.

Motion: Lavagnino Second: Gray

Motion carried: 9-3 (Carbajal, Wolf and Horton no)

10. SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (SBMTD) VALLEY EXPRESS SERVICE

Consider request by SBMTD for Regional Measure D funds to continue operation of Valley Express transit service and provide direction to staff.

Motion for staff to work with MTD on a revised Valley Express option and expenditure plan amendment for consideration in May.

Motion: Carbajal Second: Wolf

Motion carried: 11-0-1 (Gray absent)

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. US 101 MILPAS TO CABRILLO-HOT SPRINGS PROJECT

Receive a presentation on the Public Information Program for the project and the Curb Your Commute traffic mitigation program

Councilmember Skytt would like Ayars & Associates to contact the visitor centers in the North County and keep them informed on the status of the project.

Motion to receive presentation on the Public Information Program and the Curb Your Commute traffic program.

Motion: Carbajal Second: DeWees

Motion carried 12-0

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appointment of members Hicks and Firestone to executive committee by Chair (Existing members of committee include members Armendariz, Bennett and Alvarez)

At the direction of the Chair, members Hicks and Firestone were appointed to the executive committee.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Kemp reported the Highway 154 project over San Marcos Pass, solely funded by Measure D funds, has gone out to bid. If an acceptable bid comes in it will be awarded sometime in June and construction will begin in July. Project improvements are considered spot operational and safety improvements.

Supervisor Wolf suggested using CSBTv and radio station 1210 to get information out on the Highway 154 and the Milpas to Hot Springs projects.

Clean Air Express, operated by SBCAG, has been experiencing overloading which has caused riders to be turned away. The Clean Air Express will be considering a policy that will allow passengers to stand on the buses. Currently there is no standing permitted.

Mayor DeWees asked if there would be a Clean Air Express rate increase due to the high gas prices. Mr. Kemp reported that a fare increase was implemented in January and another has been approved by the board for January 2008 and he will look at the fuel costs and see if they are impacting the operation.

SBCAG and SLO partnered together to participate in a Blueprint Planning Grant application to the state. The Santa Maria Valley would serve as a pilot program and SBCAG and SLOCOG will work to incorporate local agencies in this effort. SBCAG and SLOCOG had requested almost \$500,000 to complete this Plan and were actually only awarded a total of \$270,000. Will have to discuss with SLOCOG how best to use the money awarded to accomplish the project objectives.

SBCAG just completed a Planning Certification Review with the Federal Department of Transportation.. Preliminary findings were positive there were no corrective actions that were identified. Within the next 3 months there will be a final report that SBCAG will share with the board.

14. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Director, reported that the Board received in their packet a copy of the Caltrans monthly report with information about ongoing and upcoming construction projects.

The week of April 7th Caltrans held memorial services around the state for the fallen Caltrans workers. Each April Caltrans tries to raise the public awareness of going slow in the cone zone.

There will be full closure of highway 192 in Santa Barbara expected to last until the end of June. The Highway will be closing in order to realign the highway. Total closure is required because Caltrans had to squeeze the project in between the rainy season and fire season.

The Las Vegas and San Pedro Creek project was funded by SHOPP funds for 17 million dollars because the County of Santa Barbara Flood Control department produced the environmental document.

Councilmember Skytt would like Caltrans to look into the possibility of adding stop signs at other intersections along highway 154 (ie., Roblar, Los Olivos)

Supervisor Carbajal would like to have a meeting with Caltrans and the Mission Canyon Committee regarding issues the committee has with the design of the project.

Supervisor Gray inquired about the status of the signal to be installed at highway 1 and 166.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Kemp reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the US 101 Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs Project has a tentative scheduled date of June 11, 2008. Have received confirmation that Caltrans Director Will Kempton will be available to attend . In response to the SBCAG board's invitation, the Governor's staff indicated that they are not able to confirm his attendance at this time. The ceremony date may have to be moved in order to accommodate the Governor.

16. ADJOURN

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Maria.