

Energy and Environment Committee
of the
Southern California Association of Governments
October 4, 2012

Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG’S OFFICE.

The Energy and Environment Committee held its meeting at the SCAG Los Angeles Office. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Hon. Sylvia Ballin, San Fernando	District 67
Hon. Lisa Bartlett, Dana Point	TCA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	District 32
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake	WRCOG
Hon. David Gafin, Downey	District 25
Hon. Ed Graham, Chino Hills	District 10
Hon. Keith Hanks, Azusa	District 33
Hon. James Johnson, Long Beach	District 30
Hon. Phil Luebben, Cypress	OCCOG
Hon. Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates	District 40
Hon. Sam Pedroza, Claremont	SGVCOG
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro	District 1
Hon. Diane Williams, Rancho Cucamonga	SANBAG
Hon. Edward Wilson, Signal Hill	Gateway Cities
Hon. Dennis Zine, City of Los Angeles	District 50

Members Not Present

Hon. Denis Bertone, San Dimas	SGVCOG
Hon. Brian Brennan, San Buenaventura	VCOG
Hon. Larry Forester, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Rafi Manoukian, Glendale	SFVCOG
Hon. Thomas Martin, Maywood	GCCOG
Hon. Jeffery Prang, West Hollywood	WSCCOG
Hon. Lupe Ramos Watson, Indio	District 66
Hon. Ed Scott, Rialto	SANBAG
Hon. Jack Terrazas	Imperial County
Hon. Sam Toles, Cathedral City	CVAG
Hon. Mark Waldman, La Palma	OCCOG

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of July 5, 2012 Meeting
2. Minutes of September 6, 2012 Meeting

A motion was made (Johnson) to approve the Consent Calendar with an amendment to the EEC Attendance Sheet reflecting that the Hon. Mark Waldman of La Palma represents Orange rather than Los Angeles County. The motion was seconded (Gafin) and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Support of the SCAG/Metro Joint Work Program Resolution and the Metro Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy

Grieg Asher, SCAG Staff, stated that Item #3 was brought to the EEC in September 2012, for consideration but due to the lack of a quorum an action could not be taken.

Diego Cardoso, Executive Officer, Metro Countywide Planning and Development, discussed the robust program for implementing transit and transportation projects in the County of Los Angeles. Metro is working on the issues of sustainability by connecting Metro's investments with the investments and programs of local cities. Mr. Cardoso stated that the leadership SCAG has demonstrated with the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) is now recognized beyond the counties within the SCAG region, and Metro is looking to further collaborate on sustainability programs between the agencies.

Hon. James Johnson, Long Beach, asked how the status of products would be provided to the EEC or the Regional Council (RC), and in what timeline? Mr. Cardoso responded that Metro staff would return to the EEC as well as to Metro's Board to inform each body on how Metro is progressing with the specific projects. Grieg Asher, SCAG staff, stated that a quarterly update would be provided to the EEC for the next two to three years on the eleven action items included in the Joint Work Program Resolution.

A motion was made (Johnson) to recommend that the Regional Council support Metro's Resolution authorizing collaboration between Metro and SCAG to implement the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS (SCAG/Metro Joint Work Program Resolution) and support the Metro Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy. The motion was seconded (Pedroza) and unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Update on Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) ExpressLanes Demonstration Program

Stephanie Wiggins, Executive Officer, Congestion Reduction Initiative, Metro, presented an update on the Metro ExpressLanes Demonstration Project. Ms. Wiggins noted that the concept of congestion pricing is addressed not only in SCAG's RTP/SCS but also in the SCAG/Metro Sustainability Plan. Metro has partnered with Caltrans and a number of municipal transit operators, including Foothill Transit, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Gardena Transit, and Torrance Transit to improve traffic flow and travel choices for those who have to use the I-110 and I-10 freeway corridors in Los Angeles County. The one-year demonstration program is comprised of an east/west corridor and a north/south corridor. The 11-mile north/south corridor utilizes the I-110 Harbor Transitway between Adams Boulevard (near downtown Los Angeles) and SR-91. The 14-mile east/west corridor utilizes the El Monte Busway between Alameda Street (at Los Angeles Union Station) and I-605 (El Monte).

The pilot project involves the conversion of existing carpool High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, commonly known as express lanes. Working with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol, Metro has been able to restripe the existing I-10 roadway between I-605 and I-710 for approximately nine (9) miles in each direction which will open up to a second ExpressLane, without eliminating any general purpose lanes. In addition to lane conversions, the \$210 million Congestion Reduction Demonstration Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation funds sixty new clean-fuel buses and provides an operations subsidy for better quality transit service on the corridors. Additionally, Metro is making significant investments in security and lighting improvements along the I-110 Harbor Transitway and expansion of the El Monte Station.

Express lanes have worked in fourteen other cities across the nation (including Orange County, San Diego County, and the Bay Area) but are new for Los Angeles County. Metro will monitor, evaluate, report on the performance of the program to the general public, agencies such as SCAG, as well as the legislature by December 2014. The net toll revenues will be reinvested in transit and carpool lane improvements in the corridor where they are generated.

The key performance measures that are being tracked for the demonstration program include:

1. Changes in traffic flow, speed, and delay in the overall corridor and between the ExpressLanes and general purpose lanes
2. Reliability of adequate travel flow in the ExpressLanes
3. Sustainability measures
4. Transit ridership increases
5. Access for everyone regardless of income
6. Traffic flow on non-freeway, parallel arterials
7. Emissions reductions

All vehicles that use the ExpressLanes need a FasTrak[®] transponder. The transponder is portable but ExpressLanes users that intend to use the transponder in multiple vehicles should list all vehicles plates on their account to avoid receiving a toll violation notice. The toll system is an automated system, without any toll booths. The FasTrak[®] transponders are available on-line, by phone, or by mail. Metro also has a relationship with the Automobile Club of Southern California,

which is offering a 20% discount when members open a FasTrak[®] account. In the near future, the transponders will also be available at Costco stores.

The presentation generated numerous questions from EEC members with responses by Ms. Wiggins. Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker requested that Ms. Wiggins provide a copy of the ExpressLane rules to the EEC members.

5. I-710 (South) Corridor Project Update

Frank Quon, Executive Officer, Highway Program, Metro, stated that the project was initiated mainly to address the goals of reducing congestion on the I-710 and adjacent arterial system and improve the air quality associated with the corridor. A partnership was formed among Metro, Caltrans, Gateway Cities Council of Governments, I-5 Joint Project Agency, Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles, and SCAG. In early 2001 a corridor study identified project alternatives.

Metro has developed a community participation framework to work on the technical aspects of the project with community members and local agencies. The project's review is by subject working groups and advisory committees, and eventually by the I-710 Project Committee and Executive Committee.

Metro is currently going through the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for CEQA and Environmental Impact Statement for the NEPA process. The public comment period closed on September 28, 2012. The next step will be to identify a preferred alternative. Metro will continue to seek community participation including workshops to help community members understand the program and process. Metro anticipates having a final environmental document in 2013.

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Hon. James Johnson, Long Beach, stated that the importance of Metro's environmental document is clearly so that the innovative clean freight movement concepts will be a pilot demonstration for the nation. Councilmember Johnson asked how SCAG might advocate for federal funding and demonstrate that such funding will benefit not just Southern California but the nationwide goods movement system. Jonathan Nadler, SCAG staff, responded that the new MAP-21 reauthorization law contains a freight component that may provide an opportunity to get federal recognition and funds for I-710 project.

Hon. Keith Hanks, Azusa, asked if the project proponent considered how the I-710 clean freight component will interact with other goods movement corridors including those outside of the region, and whether the environmental document was going to drive whatever system was selected region wide. Mr. Quon responded that the region was pioneering something that had never been done before and will need to identify the best and most reliable system that can deliver zero-emissions. He noted that there are various technologies that are evolving. Annie Nam, SCAG staff, clarified that SCAG and Metro are working together so that any technology selected will be able to serve the larger regional system, including the East-West Freight Corridor.

Hon. Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates, informed the EEC that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and partners lost out on a grant funding opportunity from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to demonstrate a heavy duty truck catenary system, but did receive

grant funding to study truck electrification. AQMD is still pursuing grant funding to do a pilot using a catenary system.

Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead, asked if the proposal includes a carpool lane. Mr. Quon responded that there was a plan for an additional general purpose lane, not a high-occupancy vehicle lane. Mr. Quon responded that he did not have the specific reason at this time, but would return with more information for the committee at a later date.

6. Solicit Input on the State Draft Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) Action Plan

Marco Anderson, SCAG Staff, stated that in March 2012, Governor Brown released Executive Order B-16 2012 and the goals were to achieve over 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2025; provide Californians easy access to zero-emission vehicles infrastructure; and ensure that zero-emission vehicles will be a strong and sustainable part of California's economy. California's clean emission vehicles will displace at least 1.5 billion gallons of petroleum fuels. The Governor formed an Inter-Agency Working Group on zero-emission vehicles and recently released the 2012 ZEV Action Plan. The plan identifies strategies that cover Battery Electric Fuel Cell Vehicles and Plug-in Electric Vehicles. The plan was presented and discussed on November 28, 2012 at a summit in Sacramento. Members of the EEC can direct their staff to provide input by e-mailing zevfeedback@opr.ca.gov. The deadline for comments is November 1, 2012. SCAG staff will be preparing a comment letter in the near future to the Inter-Agency Working Group.

In summary the 2012 ZEV Action Plan identifies four strategy areas:

1. Complete needed infrastructure and planning;
2. Expand consumer awareness and demand;
3. Transform the fleets; and
4. Grow jobs and investments in the sector

The plan is comprehensive, and SCAG agrees with many of its goals. There are a few areas noted by SCAG that could improve the plan. There are some local concerns such as barriers to charging in multi-family dwellings, the upfront cost of vehicles and charging infrastructure for both the consumer and to lease holders, and energy cost recovery for land owners and employers who want to provide charging at work. SCAG is currently in the process of completing work that is funded by the U.S. DOE and California Energy Commission. As part of this project, SCAG will prepare a Draft Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan that is scheduled to be completed in December 2012. By June 2013 the final plan is anticipated to be finished as well as detailed sub-regional maps for the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) subregion and Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), as both COGs were applicants/sub-recipients on the two (2) grants awarded to SCAG.

Hon. Sam Pedroza, Claremont, stated that SCAG should be cognizant that since a portion of funding comes from gas tax, there will be decreased revenues as the vehicle fleet electrifies or otherwise becomes more fuel efficient. SCAG should consider that although there are many positives with zero-emission vehicles, there are also some financial negatives. Jonathan Nadler, SCAG staff, responded that SCAG considered this important issue in the 2012 RTP/SCS financial plan and will again take into consideration as part of the 2016 RTP/SCS financial plan.

CHAIR'S REPORT - None

STAFF REPORT - None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG staff, announced scheduled public hearings for the proposed 2012 Air Quality Management Plan for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on November 13, 2012 in Cerritos; November 14, 2012 in Buena Park; November 15, 2012 in San Bernardino; and November 15, 2012 in Riverside. SCAG staff has more information available.

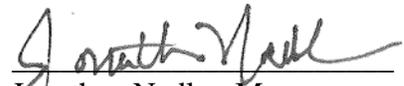
In addition, on October 12, 2012 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, SCAQMD is hosting their 24th Annual Clean Air Awards. This event honors individuals, organizations, communities, and businesses that have made significant contributions to clean air. Elected Officials may register for free and Jonathan Nadler will facilitate registration for those interested in attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

The next meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2012 at the SCAG Los Angeles Office.

Action Minutes Approved by:



Jonathan Nadler, Manager
Compliance & Performance
Monitoring

Energy and Environment Committee Attendance Report

2012

Member (including Ex-Officio) LastName, FirstName	Date Appointed if after 1/1/12	Representing	X = County Represented					X = Attended Black Shading = Dark NM = New Member												Total Mtgs Attended		
			Imperial	Los Angeles	Orange	River side	San Bernardino	Ventura	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		Dec	
Ballin, Sylvia*	9/6/2012	San Fernando		X														NM	X			2
Bartlett, Lisa*		OCCOG			X					X	X	X			X				X			5
Bertone, Denis		SGVCOG		X						X	X	X	G	X	X	X						6
Brennan, Brian		VCOG						X		X	X	E										2
Clark, Margaret*		Rosemead		X						X	X	X	N	X	X	X		X	X			8
Duclos, Jeff	5/14/2012	SBCCOG		X									E	NM								
Ehrenkranz, Jordan		WRCOG					X			X		X	R			X			X			4
Englander, Mitchell*		Los Angeles		X									A									
Forester, Larry		Gateway Cities		X						X	X	X	L	X	X			X				6
Gafin, David*		Downey		X						X	X			X	X	X			X			6
Graham, Ed	5/3/2012	Chino Hills						X						NM	X	X		X	X			5
Hanks, Keith		Azusa		X							X	X	A	X	X	X		X	X			7
Johnson James		Long Beach		X						X	X	X	S		X	X			X			6
Luebben, Phil		Cypress			X					X	X		S	X	X	X			X			6
Manoukian, Rafi	5/3/2012	SFVCOG		X								NM	E		X							1
Martin, Thomas		GCCOG		X						X	X	X	M		X			X				5
Mitchell, Judy*		SBCCOG		X						X	X	X	B	X		X			X			6
Pedroza, Sam		SGVCOG		X						X	X	X	L	X	X	X			X			7
Prang, Jeffery	3/1/2012	West Hollywood		X								NM	Y		X							1
Ramos Watson, Lupe		CVAG					X				X	X		X	X	X						5
Scott, Edward		SANBAG						X														
Terrazas, Jack		Imperial County	X							X		X		X	X	X						5
Viegas Walker, Cheryl*		El Centro	X							X	X	X		X	X	X			X			7
Waldman, Mark		La Palma			X					X	X	X										3
Williams, Diane	9/6/2012	SANBAG						X										NM	X			2
Wilson, Edward		Signal Hill		X						X				X	X			X	X			5
Zine, Dennis*		Los Angeles		X						X	X	X			X	X			X			6
TOTALS			2	16	3	2	3	1														