

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Workshop on Regional Issues

MEETING DATE: January 15, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 15

STAFF CONTACT: Jim Kemp

RECOMMENDATION:

Schedule a board workshop for Thursday February 19 to discuss implementation of SB 375 and SBCAG's role in regional issues.

DISCUSSION:

At its November 20, 2008 meeting the board briefly discussed the attached letter from Supervisor Carbajal suggesting that the board consider an expanded role for SBCAG in regional planning issues affecting its member jurisdictions. The board directed staff to place an item on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Staff is recommending that the board schedule a workshop at its February 19 meeting to discuss the issues raised in Supervisor Carbajal's letter. At a minimum, the board needs to gain an understanding of SBCAG's new responsibilities mandated by the passage of SB 375 last year. SB 375 is intended to help California meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in the state's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) through regional transportation and land use planning strategies. The bill adds new requirements to SBCAG's existing regional transportation planning and regional housing needs allocation processes.

Staff is suggesting that the board schedule a workshop which could be incorporated as an agenda item on the board's regular February 19 meeting agenda. Alternatively, the board could schedule a special workshop meeting on the afternoon of the 19th (there is no APCD board meeting scheduled in February). At the workshop, staff would make a presentation on SB 375 and time would be allowed for board questions, discussion and direction to staff. In addition, the board may wish to allow time for a discussion of other regional issues where SBCAG might play a role.

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

ATTACHMENTS:

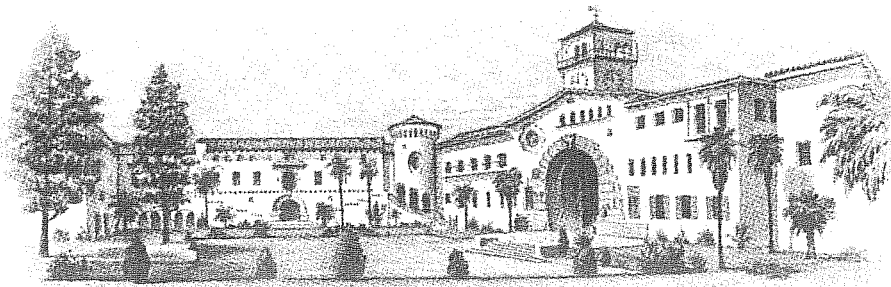
November 18, 2008 letter from Supervisor Carbajal

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

November 18, 2008

Honorable Brooks Firestone, Chairman
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Dear Chairman Firestone and fellow SBCAG Members:

Now that our transportation sales tax has been renewed by the overwhelming passage of Measure A, I believe there is an opportunity to refocus and expand the role of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to work on major challenges and opportunities which face our County region including its municipalities, schools, non-profits, special districts and County government itself.

When voluntary councils of government were originally established back in the 1960's the concept was much broader than transportation planning and allocation of transportation grants. In fact, the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations issued a study entitled *Metropolitan America: Challenge to Federalism* in October 1966 which was received by the Congress. This study became an impetus for many of the major federal and state programs which developed over the subsequent decades. The report in part stated: "The Commission recommends the adoption of legislation by states authorizing the formation of metropolitan councils of public officials. These voluntary associations of elected public officials provide a forum for consideration of common problems, and to development of coordinated approaches to solutions. They help to develop a consensus among public officials regarding metropolitan needs and served to develop regional leadership. The councils are increasingly assigned additional functions – particularly planning responsibility.

Councils can be established on a strictly voluntary basis, pursuant to specific statutory authorization, or under general inter-local cooperation legislation."

In fact SBCAG was established in 1966 as a voluntary council of governments through a joint powers agreement. It has been designated as the regional transportation planning authority, the airport land use commission, the local transportation authority,

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

November 13, 2008

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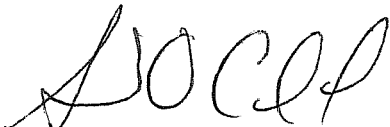
the metropolitan planning organization, the congestion management agency and other transportation related intergovernmental functions.

I would like to propose that the Board consider adding a strategic planning role to allow the member agencies and public the ability to focus on the large issues which impact each agency and all citizens including subjects such as SB 375, AB 32 (green house gas regulations) and other emerging laws and regulations which may reduce local control.

As we all know, these matters are often discussed in fragmented conversations about a particular problem or function. Moreover, such discussions often take place in the form of community based forums where civic groups, interest groups and governments are represented but there is no real product which can be adopted. SBCAG is different since it consists of actual elected government officials who have the power and authority to collectively plan and adopt solutions and then seek to adopt them. SBCAG is well positioned to take on this additional regional strategic planning function and could do so within its current existence as a Joint Powers Authority governed by the Brown Act.

Accordingly, I request that this matter be agendized for a full discussion of the Board at a meeting in the near future. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salud Carbajal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Salud Carbajal, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, and
Member of SBCAG Board of Directors

cc: Jim Kemp, Executive Director, SBCAG