

Western Riverside Council of Governments

4.A

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Monday, September 14, 2020

2:04 PM

Zoom Platform

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Bash at 2:04 p.m. on September 14, 2020, on the Zoom virtual platform.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Jurisdiction	Attendee Name	Status	Arrived / Departed
City of Banning	Daniela Andrade	Present	1:55 PM
City of Beaumont		Absent	
City of Calimesa	Jeff Cervantez	Present	1:55 PM
City of Canyon Lake		Absent	
City of Corona	Jason Scott	Present	1:55 PM
City of Eastvale	Brandon Plott	Present	1:55 PM
City of Hemet		Absent	
City of Jurupa Valley	Micheal Goodland	Present	1:55 PM
City of Lake Elsinore	Brian Tisdale	Present	1:55 PM
City of Menifee	Matt Liesemeyer	Present	1:55 PM
City of Moreno Valley	Victoria Baca	Present	1:55 PM
City of Murrieta	Kelly Seyarto	Present	1:55 PM
City of Norco	Kevin Bash	Present	1:55 PM
City of Perris	Rita Rogers	Present	1:55 PM
City of Riverside	Rusty Bailey	Present	1:55 PM
City of San Jacinto	Crystal Ruiz	Present	1:55 PM
City of Temecula	Maryann Edwards	Present	1:55 PM
City of Wildomar	Ben Benoit	Present	1:55 PM
District 1		Absent	
District 2	Karen Spiegel	Present	1:55 PM
District 3	Chuck Washington	Present	1:55 PM
District 5	Jeff Hewitt	Present	1:55 PM
EMWD	Ronald Sullivan	Present	1:55 PM
WMWD	Brenda Dennstedt	Present	1:55 PM
Office of Education (ex-officio)	Dr. Judy White	Present	1:55 PM
TAC Chair	Andy Okoro	Present	1:55 PM
Executive Director	Rick Bishop	Present	1:55 PM

Note: Times above reflect when the member logged in; they may have arrived at the meeting earlier.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sparky Abraham spoke on the PACE Program with regard to mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures.

Kathleen Eagen Murray spoke on the PACE Program with regard to practices of Renovate America.

Helen Divlak spoke on the PACE Program regarding a PACE assessment on her mother's property.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Moreno Valley
SECONDER:	Wildomar
AYES:	Banning, Calimesa, Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 2, District 3, District 5, EMWD, WMWD
ABSENT:	Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Hemet, District 1

A. Summary Minutes from the August 3, 2020, Executive Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration

Action: 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the August 3, 2020, Executive Committee meeting.*

B. 4th Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

Action: 1. *Approved the 4th Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.*

C. Finance Department Activities Update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Regional Streetlight Program Activities Update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Western Riverside Energy Partnership Program Activities update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

F. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

G. Report out of WRCOG Representatives on Various Committees

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**A. Report from the League of California Cities**

Erin Sasse, League of California Cities representative, reported on a number of bills it would like to see vetoed.

Senate Bill (SB) 1159 (Hill. Workers' compensation: COVID-19: critical workers.) codifies the Governor's Executive Order of a few months ago. This bill requires a rebuttable presumption that all public safety and health care workers would have contracted COVID-19 from their employment.

SB 1383 (Wieckowski. Planning and zoning: general plan: zoning regulations: charter cities.) extends paid family emergency leave for an additional 12 weeks.

Assembly Bill (AB) 685 (Reyes. COVID-19: imminent hazard to employees: exposure: notification: serious violations.) would require cities to provide notification within one day if an employee were to contract the Coronavirus.

The League is asking the Governor to support and sign AB 992 (Mullin. Open meetings: local agencies: social media.) which would allow elected officials to conduct correspondence with constituents via social media.

The League supports SB 1441 (Ridley-Thomas. Healing arts practitioners: substance abuse.), which extends the ability for a city to collect utility user taxes until the year 2026.

The League's annual conference is scheduled virtually for October 7 – 9, 2020.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. Update on Exploring the Formation of a Riverside County Economic Development Corporation

Elisa Laurel, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that in 2012 this Committee identified six pillars in which WRCOG's programs are based upon, one of which is Economic Development.

A Subregional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) would deliver a regional benefit, focuses on WRCOG core programming, and is a key element of WRCOG's Economic Development and Sustainability Framework. The lack of funding, however, puts this initiative at a medium level difficulty in terms of pursuing this initiative.

Staff are conducting outreach with stakeholders on best practices statewide and nationally. Three common themes include operating as a region is paramount to success, provide a full suite of services to businesses, and regional branding and identity.

An example of a successful EDC is the Economic Development Collaborative which consists of the Counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. This Collaborative was founded in 1996 and has assisted over 9,200 businesses, supported and/or created over 41,600 jobs, and has attracted \$15M in venture capital.

A subregional EDC for Western Riverside County would not replace existing business activity efforts associated with Chambers of Commerce, nor would it replace any existing city or county economic development efforts. Rather, it would serve to complement these activities ongoing in

the economic space.

An EDC Board and governance options include the potential formation of a Joint Powers Authority, a non-profit, or a Benefit Corporation. A Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee will be formed to examine governance and other related issues further. Contingent on funding and governance formation, a subregional EDC could be launched by April 2021.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is making available \$1.6M to WRCOG for programs that can increase the production of housing. WRCOG will be asking SCAG to approve the use of some of this funding for the EDC.

Committee member Karen Spiegel asked if staff have had discussions with any of the local cities or county departments.

Mrs. Laurel responded that staff have met with a majority of WRCOG's member jurisdictions, specifically with city managers and economic development staff.

Committee member Matt Liesemeyer asked what the cross section of the stakeholders would be in forming Steering and Technical Advisory Committees by October 2020.

Mrs. Laurel responded that the hope is that the Committees include a representative from each of WRCOG's member jurisdictions. The Committees would meet on a monthly basis and work to prepare a work program.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Future Forward Webinar Series Activities Update

Elisa Laurel, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that this monthly webinar series launched in April 2020 and focuses on innovation during times of disruption. The series serves as an innovative platform to distribute information relevant to WRCOG's member jurisdictions in the current COVID-19 climate. The upcoming September episode will be a conversation with up-and-coming young professionals on what young professionals want. The October episode will focus on opportunity zones.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Activities Update from the Eastern Municipal Water District / Western Municipal Water District

Tim Barr, Western Municipal Water District Deputy General Manager, reported that Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a class of man-made, water-repellent chemicals that do not break down easily and can build up over time. The production of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic acid (PFOS) has voluntarily ceased in the United States.

PFOS and PFOA are found in fabric protectants such as Scotch Guard, cookware, food packaging and wrappers, and Fire extinguishers. The production and use of these substances have resulted in environmental and human exposure. At high concentration levels these substances are dangerous. The effects of minor doses are currently unknown.

Maximum Contaminate Levels (MCL) of PFAS and PFOA are enforceable by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of California. The State's notification level is set at 5.1 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 6.5 ppt for PFOS. This is the lowest level at which technology can detect these substances. The EPA's Lifetime Health advisory combined level of PFOA and PFOS is 70 ppt. In contrast, the current response level for water providers in the state is at 10 ppt for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS.

A part per trillion is defined as a single drop of water in the equivalent of 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools, or more than 13M gallons.

Potatoes contain 70 ppt of PFAS. Household dust and carpet fibers contain anywhere between 10k to 50k ppt of PFAS. Butter contains 1,070 ppt of PFAS. There are hundreds of other products humans are exposed to which contain PFAS. Solid, fact-based science is necessary in decision-making before passing expensive drinking water treatment processes on to the water customers. It should be noted that removing these substances from water does not remove it from food packaging and fabrics.

Paul Jones, Eastern Municipal Water District General Manager, reported on a number of bills that the water districts support, such as Assembly Bill (AB) 2560 (Quirk. Water quality: notification levels and response levels: procedures.) which will allow for a public hearing process before the state and state water boards set response and notification levels.

AB 2762 (Muratsuchi. Cosmetic products: safety) prohibits the sale, manufacturing, and delivery of certain cosmetics with a number of contaminants, including PFAS.

Senate Bill 1044 (Allen. Firefighting equipment and foam: PFAS chemicals.) prohibits the sale and use of Class B fire fighting foam for training purposes, and requires notification on fire protective equipment which includes PFAS.

The water districts are tracking federal legislation, such as House Rule (H.R.) 6395 (Smith. William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.) which would require the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide more funding to address PFAS issues. Given the significant differences between the federal and state standards, this bill would require that the federal government and DOD mitigate any contamination it has caused to the locally applicable standard; the water districts are in support of this initiative.

Water districts have concern with and are opposing H.R. 7608 (Lowey. State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021.) which would designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and has implications in that it creates a chain of liability. If there are trace amounts of PFAS in water which passes through a wastewater plant and into biosolids, then the water agencies would be in the chain of liability even though it did not produce the product.

PFAS-related regulations need to be scientifically based and need to correlate with health effects. PFAS should be addressed through the regulatory process, not by a legislative vehicle. The focus of PFAS reduction efforts need to be on producers of the chemicals, not the water districts.

Committee member Jason Scott asked if bottled water companies are required to follow similar guidelines.

Mr. Jones responded that these types of companies are regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and therefore have different requirements than public water systems.

Committee member Kelly Seyarto asked why it is so expensive to remove PFAS and/or PFOA from water and what the process is.

Mr. Jones responded that the typical process is granular activated carbon treatment. The cost of this treatment would add approximately 60% to 70% to the average cost of water produced.

Committee member Brenda Dennstedt added that any decision made to improve the process of delivering water to customers is based upon specific science. Humans have been exposed to these chemicals for generations. The water districts are trying to understand what the health affects are to remove that one drop out of 20 Olympic-sized pools.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Activities Update from the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Judy White, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, reported that the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) received and distributed more than 1.7M masks and thousands of gallons of sanitizer to students and staff at all school districts.

All schools have opened in a distance learning capacity. Most districts have the capacity to provide teachers with the option of teaching from home or from the school classroom. Live instruction is mandated by the state. Testing and assessments are required to occur on a regular basis. Teachers are now required to log the time they are spending with parents, which is different from the initial school closure of this past spring.

Moving forward, schools cannot reopen for face-to-face instruction if they are within a county that is within the purple tier of the State's color-coded, four-tier system. School districts can apply for a waiver for elementary school students to attend in person.

Schools can bring in multiple cohorts of no more than 16 students and teachers combined without a waiver, but with communication with the State Public Health Department. The schools are not allowed to have more than 25% campus capacity. Masks, face shields, and/or draping's are required. Districts are asked to prioritize students with special needs.

Dr. White thanked the Committee members for their participation in the "All For One" campaign. All students should have a device by November 1, 2020; computers are on back-order.

The current challenge is connectivity. Some areas still need cell towers. RCOE is engaging in conversations with partners, local agencies, and the state to build towers.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

6. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Andy Okoro reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) received a presentation on the formation of an Economic Development Corporation. The TAC is generally in support of this initiative; however, the one item of concern was securing funding to ensure this initiative is sustainable.

7. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Micheal Goodland, Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee representative, reported that SCAG's Regional Council adopted Connect SoCal and approved the 2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Guidelines.

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rick Bishop had no report.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee member Crystal Ruiz would like an update on the PACE Programs regarding the issues raised today.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Micheal Goodland announced that the City of Jurupa Valley has hired a new Economic Development Manager.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.
