



# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

### ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 7, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: PASO ROBLES LIBRARY/CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Downstairs Conference Center

**ROLL CALL** Councilmembers Steven Martin, John Hamon, Ed Steinbeck, Fred Strong, and Mayor Duane Picanco

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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#### 1. 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

E. Gallagher, Community Development Director

For the City Council to conduct a noticed public hearing and decide which activities are to be approved for funding with the City's 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public were:

- Pearl Munak
- Karl Hansen
- Julianne McAdam
- Raye Fleming
- Gary Jordan

There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Hamon and seconded by Councilman Martin to Adopt the attached Resolution 13-026 to allocate the City's allotment of 2013 CDBG funds as follows:

Public Facilities (2013 CDBG Funds allocated as shown below) .....	\$109,609
Turtle Creek Sidewalk .....	\$ 99,609
Handicap Ramps .....	\$ 10,000

Public Services Activities (2013 CDBG funds allocated as shown below)	\$ 25,166
Transitional Food and Shelter (TFS).....	\$ 25,166 *

- \* Subject to the condition that TFS contracts with a sponsoring agency with capacity to operate TFS' program per Federal regulations no later than July 1, 2013. Should TFS fail to accomplish this, the grant will be given to El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO).

Capacity Building (an administrative use of CDBG funds).....	\$ 16,500
Administration.....	\$ 16,500
Total .....	\$167,775

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Martin, Steinbeck, Strong, Picanco  
 NOES:  
 ABSTAIN:  
 ABSENT:

## 2. 2013 Consolidated Plan and Federal Grant Programs

E. Gallagher, Community Development Director

For the City Council to conduct a noticed public hearing and make a recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the 2013 Annual Action Plan with respect to those activities to be funded with the County's 2013 allotments of Federal Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Steinbeck to adopt Resolution 13-027 to recommend the County Board of Supervisors adopt the Draft 2013 Annual Action Plan and its recommended allocations of 2013 HOME and ESG Funds.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Steinbeck, Hamon, Martin, Picanco  
 NOES:  
 ABSTAIN:  
 ABSENT:

## ADJOURNMENT:

- OAK PARK REDEVELOPMENT PHASE I PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AT 10:30 AM.
- JOINT CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING - GREENHOUSE GAS/CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013, AT 7:00 PM. IN THE CITY HALL/LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012 IN THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- GOLDEN HILL WATER TANK PROJECT KICK-OFF – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013, 2:00 PM MEET AT CITY HALL, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES
- CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING – SUPPLEMENTAL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS – 6:00 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013, IN THE CITY HALL/LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- RIVER TRAIL RIBBON CUTTING AND SCULPTURE UNVEILING - 10:00 AM ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013. MEET AT SOUTH RIVER ROAD AND UNION.

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**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** Any individual, who because of a disability needs special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, may request assistance by contacting the City Clerk's Office (805) 237-3960. Whenever possible, requests should be made four (4) working days in advance of the meeting.

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# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

## JOINT CITY COUNCIL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING/WORKSHOP

#### Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: PASO ROBLES LIBRARY/CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Downstairs Conference Center

**ROLL CALL** Councilmembers Steve Martin, John Hamon, Ed Steinbeck, Fred Strong, and Mayor Duane Picanco

**ROLL CALL** Doug Barth, Al Garcia, Steve Gregory, Margaret Holstine, Rob Nash, Bob Rollins, and Chairman Vince Vanderlip

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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- Vince Vanderlip – Spoke regarding the Oak Park Redevelopment Groundbreaking

### DISCUSSION

1. [Joint Study Session – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan](#)

E. Gallagher, Community Development Director

The State legislature adopted State Assembly Bill 32 (2006) which requires cities and counties to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The State also determined that GHG emissions can result in environmental impacts. As such, evaluation of GHG emissions has been incorporated into the environmental procedures of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Since it is a part of CEQA, development projects that require a CEQA review must evaluate potential GHG impacts. Without a GHG Reduction Plan in place that demonstrates how GHG emissions will be reduced, it would not be possible to adequately measure and evaluate GHG impacts and could potentially expose development projects to CEQA litigation. Therefore, it is necessary for the City to adopt a GHG Reduction Plan to comply with State law and so that future development is not imperiled by this mandate.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public were:

- Janice Nelson
- Cody Ferguson
- Keith Iaia
- Laura Mordon
- Sheila Heely
- Jim Reed
- Jeanette Watson
- Dale Gustin
- Ted Gilbert
- Gwen Pelfry

There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

The Council directed staff to remove certain items from the proposed list of mitigation measures and to provide additional detail on other measures to be reconsidered by Council at a future date. Staff was also asked to prepare an economic analysis of potential costs for staff time and city funding, and source of funds for improvements for each action to be selected.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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- GOLDEN HILL WATER TANK PROJECT KICK-OFF – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013, 2:00 PM MEET AT CITY HALL, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES
- CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING – SUPPLEMENTAL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS – 6:00 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013, IN THE CITY HALL/LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- RIVER TRAIL RIBBON CUTTING AND SCULPTURE UNVEILING - 10:00 AM ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013. MEET AT SOUTH RIVER ROAD AND UNION.
- REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING – 7:30 PM ON **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013** IN THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.

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# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

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## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, February 19, 2013 7:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION: PASO ROBLES LIBRARY/CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET

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PLEASE SUBMIT ALL CORRESPONDENCE FOR CITY COUNCIL PRIOR  
TO THE MEETING WITH A COPY TO THE CITY CLERK

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM CELL PHONE USE DURING THE MEETING - PLEASE TURN RINGER OFF

### 7:30 PM – CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER** – Downstairs Conference Center

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**ROLL CALL** Councilmembers John Hamon, Steve Martin, Ed Steinbeck, Fred Strong, and  
Mayor Duane Picanco

**STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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- Janice Nelson spoke on three topics; proposed Buena Vista apartments, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, and Acting Police Chief Burton. A summary was submitted to Council (attached).
- Julie Dahlen invited everyone to the opening of the new trail(s) this weekend February 23, 2013.

### AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DEFERRED (None)

### PRESENTATIONS

1. [Spay Day USA - Proclamation](#)

Cathy Enns from North County Paws received the proclamation from Mayor Picanco and spoke about the work being done to control the population of cats and dogs in a humane way.

### PUBLIC HEARING (NONE)

### CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE, NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION. However, if discussion is wanted or if a member of the public wishes to comment on an item, the item may be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. Councilmembers may ask questions of clarification without removing an item from the Calendar. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS ARE APPROVED BY THE VOTE THAT APPROVES THE CONSENT CALENDAR, UNLESS AN ITEM IS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION.

2. [Approve City Council Minutes from February 5, 2013](#)  
D. Fansler, City Clerk
3. [Approve Warrant Registers No. 107617-107711 \(2/01/13\), 107712-107868 \(2/08/13\), and other payroll services](#)  
J. Throop, Administrative Services Director
4. [Approve Advisory Body Minutes](#)  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Minutes from January 8, 2013  
Youth Commission Minutes from January 9, 2013  
Senior Citizen Advisory Minutes from January 14, 2013
5. [Adopt Resolution No. 13-024, extending the length of the Community Demonstration Garden Project for an additional year.](#)  
J. Dahlen, Director of Library and Recreation Services

6. **Item 6 pulled for discussion.**

Consent Calendar items 2 thru 5 were approved on a single motion by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilman Strong.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Martin, Strong, Steinbeck, Hamon, Picanco  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT

## DISCUSSION

7. [2013 - 2017 Financial Forecast Update](#)  
J. App, City Manager/J. Throop, Administrative Services Director

For the City Council to receive and file a financial forecast update for the five fiscal years 2013 - 2017.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong, seconded by Councilman Hamon, to receive and file February 2013 financial forecast report

Motion passed by the following VOICE vote:

AYES: Strong, Hamon, Martin, Steinbeck, Picanco  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

8. [Professional Service Contract - Big Red Marketing](#)  
M. Williamson, Assistant City Manager

For the City Council to consider authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a professional service contract with Big Red Marketing (Amanda Collins) on behalf of the Travel Paso Robles Alliance (TPRA).

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public was Matt Masia, a hotel owner, who spoke in favor. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilman Steinbeck to adopt Resolution No.13-025 authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a one year professional service contract with Big Red Marketing on behalf of the Travel Paso Robles Alliance (TPRA).

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Martin, Steinbeck, Strong, Hamon, Picanco

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**9. Annual Review of Investment Policy**

Mike Compton, City Treasurer

For the City Council to undertake its annual review of the City's Investment Policy.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. Speaking from the public was Janice Nelson who inquired about the three advisors mentioned in the report. There were no other comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve the recommended changes to the Investment Policy as noted in the staff report.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Martin, Steinbeck, Hamon, Picanco

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**10. Housing Authority Board Interviews**

E. Gallagher, Community Development Director

For the City Council to consider options for replacing two vacant positions on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Strong and seconded by Councilman Hamon to re-appoint Bob Fonarow and Nancy Rakowitz to four year terms that will expire on February 28, 2017.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Strong, Hamon, Martin, Steinbeck, Picanco

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**11. Planning Commission Appointment Expiration Date**

E. Gallagher, Community Development Director

For the City Council to adopt an ordinance to change the expiration date of Planning Commission appointments.

Mayor Picanco opened the public discussion. There were no comments, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilman Strong to introduce for first reading Ordinance No. 990 N.S. amending Section 2.20.010 of the Municipal code to change the date of expiration of Planning Commissioners' terms from December 31 to February 28.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Martin, Strong, Steinbeck, Hamon, Picanco

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

## ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

### 6. Receive and file ISO Public Protection Classification Report

K. Johnson, Emergency Services Chief

Consent Calendar item #6 was approved on a single motion by Councilman Hamon and seconded by Councilman Strong.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Strong, Martin, Steinbeck, Picanco

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT

## CITY MANAGER (NONE)

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Councilman Strong submitted a written report about his February trip to Washington D.C. (attached).

## CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- **Meet and Confer**  
**Conference with Labor Negotiator**  
Government Code Section 54957.6  
City Negotiator: William Avery & Avery Associates  
  
**Employee Organizations:** Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Police Officer's Association (POA)  
International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)  
Unrepresented Management  
Unrepresented Part-time Employees.

## ADJOURNMENT AT 8:38PM TO:

- CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING – SUPPLEMENTAL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS – 6:00 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013, IN THE CITY HALL/LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
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- CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING – SUPPLEMENTAL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS – 6:00 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013, IN THE CITY HALL/LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.
- REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 IN THE LIBRARY/CITY HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET, PASO ROBLES.

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City Council Meeting:

1. The Arjun Buena Vista Apt. project proposed before the Planning Commission on Jan. 22 this year: The agenda stated the item is a consideration to approve the project but what I saw was consideration for rezoning (residential single family, 1 acre lot to R3 Residential Multifamily 12 units per acre). I was at that Public Hearing for the entire length. In my observation, rezoning was not formally discussed, if at all. In the end the Planning Commission appeared to discuss how to make the project itself more palpable to the surrounding single family resident owners as a development plan. I understand Mayor Picanco was at the same meeting and he can verify to you the massive opposition from neighbors within and beyond the 300 ft. notice area. I'm asking that you consider public comment and rezoning if the project reaches your council chamber. I think it's the rezoning from R1-B4 to R3 that is the over riding issue. I don't understand rezoning being one option and a development plan being another in the same hearing.

2. I attended the Feb. 12 Joint City Council & Planning Commission Meeting. My husband and I are very pleased that all of you and the Commissioners were reluctant to amend or modify the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. The public input was in the same court, as I am. I thought the questions and comments you all and the Commissions gave were very representative of the public at large and I thank you for that. The "Toolbox" is full of undo and unfair controls, especially in SLO County. I believe it was Councilman Martin who was able to lead the Consultants to admit that these Toolbox mandates for California are based on factors and measurements distilled from around the world. This includes third world countries who are environmentally clueless and industrial pollutants from major countries. Just bizarre we have to consider these mandates at all.

3. My husband and I really like the idea of Acting Police Chief Burton being the one who is given the position of permanent Chief of Police. The City has been through a lot with this process and he has been here the whole time. He has good reason and qualification to have put his application in the process this time around and if selected the transition is about as seamless as one could ask for. Because I sometimes volunteer for wonderful Norma Moye at Paso Robles Downtown Main Street I have had the opportunity to get to know Acting Chief Burton at Main Street functions. He is very personable, knowledgeable, and approachable and loves Paso Robles so I hope you will make a decision in his favor.

Janice (Steve) Nelson  
2427 Traditions Loop P.R.  
Feb. 19, 2013

# **Fred Strong's Report on Conferences in Washington D.C. February 10 - 13, 2013**



The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) opened its regular session at 8:30 a.m. on Monday with an update on sequestration and various issues related to NARC and its future.

We heard opinions from regional leaders that sequestration could bring many projects to a halt. We must be prepared to move ahead with less money from the Federal government.

During the session on community and economic development we heard from Daria Daniels of the National Association of Counties (NAC) that they are seeking an increase to \$3.3 billion for CDBG funding and to restore affordable housing (HOME) block grants to \$1.6 billion rather than the \$1 billion they have been cut to. He said the EDC which creates private sector jobs is being threatened with elimination.

During the Q&A period I mentioned the changes in procedure on reporting and CDBG minimum amounts with paperwork costs of \$5,000 per grant for our city and \$8,000 per grant on the average in California. I asked that this be addressed in their efforts to keep capacity building from being impacted and also keeping necessary local programs from being eliminated from funding.

Mike Wallace, a staff program director for the National League of Cities (NLC) noted that housing and transportation are now under the same cap so that housing funds must now compete with transportation funding. He also said that transportation has the higher national priority.

The first noon keynote address was given by the Honorable W. Craig Fugate, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He spoke extensively about the mapping of flood prone areas and complaints received from developers and jurisdictions about the restrictive nature of its maps. He said that as much territory as FEMA maps to cover 100 year floods, "They have proved to be inadequate." Recent weather patterns are proving climate change is happening and a whole new set of criteria is in order.

He asked, "Who pays for Federal Flood Insurance?" He answered, "You do! It is only for those who can't get insurance privately. It must be actuarially sound pricing."

Due to recent resignations from the President's Cabinet we had numerous speaker substitutions. One of those was the appearance of Ms Polly Trottenberg, Under Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT). She spoke to us about MAP-21 and its underlying principles. She said that there is not a lot happening right now as the department waits for the appointment of a new secretary. She did have a Q&A period. During that time I asked four questions:

Is it possible to update and index the gas tax from its last amount set 20 years ago? She said that a national sales tax might get more traction. I asked if the blended approach to transportation might be broad enough to include ports, rail, highway and passenger needs? She said that it could and should. I asked if that included a freight component to high speed rail. She did not have an answer at this time. However, when I asked if transportation include pipelines for resources, she said it did.

Following lunch I chaired the Transportation Committee meeting with speakers from the DOT, NLC and NAC. I was assisted, regarding speaker introductions, by Co-Chairs Lyle Wray, Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in Hartford, Conn., and Michael Parks, Executive Director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments which covers seven counties in East-Central Texas. I also introduced the chairs of my sub-committees which include Eric Anderson of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Sharon Neely of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Mell Henderson of the Mid-America Regional Council, and Page Scott of the Yakima Valley COG.

This meeting was held in the main conference room rather than a side room due to the extreme interest in this topic by all regions of the nation. Approximately 2/3 of the total attendees stayed for this session.

DOT speakers Joanna Turner and Beth Osborne both stressed the cooperation between their agency, HUD and the EPA in developing application standards and process under MAP-21. They stressed that the window of opportunity for determining this criteria will take place over the next six months. Q&A centered around methods of participation and answers included workshops, webinars and written testimony.

Julia Pulidindi of the NLC and Ed Rosado of NAC stressed the cooperation they are giving to NARC with NRC staff taking a major role in determining the direction of joint efforts. Our policies at the moment are truly joint efforts

toward the same goal of retention of funding levels and establishment of sustainable long term funding for the Highway Trust Fund. Both a national sales tax and indexing of a per gallon fee were mentioned as possible avenues to seek agreement on.

That evening the Board of Directors had a dinner and social networking session at the HQ for the National Democratic Women's Club.

Tuesday morning's keynote speaker was Secretary Shawn Donovan of HUD. His message was that the President was going to stress regional and local involvement in fixing the nation's infrastructure and housing opportunities in his State of The Union address to be held that night. He said that HUD will be looking for more opportunities to help local efforts in the future.

During the Q&A I had the opportunity to thank the Secretary for the assistance HUD provided in getting the redevelopment of Oak Park initiated and requested further cooperation in the future phases of that redevelopment.

Secretary Donovan was followed by the recently hired Executive Director of the NLC Clarence Anthony. Mr. Anthony stated that he is still getting his footing and asked that we be somewhat tolerant as he settles in. He said that he is looking forward to continued cooperation with NARC and asked for more cross fertilization between the NLC, NAC and NARC on issues of mutual interest. Matthew Chase, Executive Director of NAC, stated that the cooperation between our three organizations is an important ingredient in the future success of each of us. He reiterated the importance of united action regarding MAP-21 implementation and the writing of the next reauthorization legislation.

My NARC staff Transportation Director moderated the panel on "liveability" in an adjacent salon following the keynote addresses on Tuesday. Meanwhile, a second panel discussion took place in another salon under the moderation of Sean Dey, Chairman of the Executive Director's Council. That discussion dealt with the future look of regional councils and the NARC organization. For those interested in that primarily internal discussion I will be pleased to prepare a second report.

Following these panels the conference heard an address by Dr. Mark Funkhouser, Director of The Governing Institute. Dr. Funkhouser stated that he believed that sequestration is going to happen which the administration is not happy with. According to him, sequestration was designed to be so undesirable and hated that it would motivate people to solve the problems. "It didn't work."

Neither side is willing to alter its position and it looks like they are going to intentionally create an unsustainable fiscal situation so that they can compete as to who gets the credit for pulling the country out of the mess that will result.

Marsha Howard, Executive Director of The Governing Institute, called what we are facing, "More of the same on steroids!"

She went on to say that this is an ongoing failure of government. She said that we are not "customers" and this is not Walmart. This is our method of living together and it must be fixed.

She pointed out that during this recession our citizens have lost 40% of their total wealth.

She quoted Senator Mike Enzi (R) of Wyoming as saying that we need to rise the gas tax now because the Highway Trust Fund is broke.

A discussion was held regarding our expectations for implementation of MAP-21, lead by Erika Young my staff person for the Transportation Committee.

That discussion was followed by the Board of Directors meeting. Other than continuing to have discussions with the American Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) about a possible merger in the future, the board approved the budget for 2013 and the Sheraton Society Hill as the location for its Philadelphia Annual Conference and elections. Los Angeles area was also approved for the next board meeting following that conference.

The following day the Board of Directors honored a request from the White House for a briefing and workshop at the White House Office Building.





The Indian Treaty Room of the White House Office Building just before our briefing and workshop.

We met with Director David Agnew of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and his deputy Jay Williams followed by Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones of HUD; Deputy Administrator Theresa McMillan of the Federal Transit Administration; Assistant Secretary Joanna Turner of DOT; and three associate directors of the White House Council on Environmental Quality: Jay Jensen, Rohan Patel and Susan Ruffo.

David Agnew said the administration's primary goals for the next four years are to build the middle class, perform infrastructure maintenance, build the economy with "fair share" taxes and teach leaders the art of "The Deal."

I asked Mr. Agnew if he intended to do these things by creating larger circles that include more people rather than smaller circles that will exclude people. He indicated that attempts would be made to include as many people as possible.

Maurice Jones of HUD is a former editor/publisher who believes in providing technical assistance to regions and local governments for sustainable communities, partnerships with the private sector for comprehensive community and regional planning to provide housing, transportation and jobs.



I thanked Mr. Jones for HUD's assistance in the redevelopment of Oak Park and urged him to make sure that his regional staffs are on the same page as he is on the policies of his department.

Theresa McMillan stressed the goal of her area as safety and MAP-21 planning. She said the performance standards being developed must be complied with and that long range planning is a key element.

I brought to her attention the current situation in California and other states that are implementing pension reform. I asked that she do something at the national level to restore the frozen funding for transit projects being held up by unions claiming that pension reform violates their right to collective bargaining. I asked that projects wholly within a single state only be required to meet current State law as a matter of State's rights. I also asked how MAP-21 intended to deal with mega-region and cross region planning and projects with the performance standards being developed. She said that these things would be looked into.

Jay Jensen spoke primarily about storm water runoff, green infrastructure and green build projects. Susan Ruffo addressed climate change.

I related the fact that some rails along the coast of California are currently only two inches above sea level and asked if her department is prepared to address this need now, before it is too late.

Her response was that we need to turn up the heat on a bi-partisan basis because the President is on board but needs support.

Our delegation met after the workshop and spent a few hours in the Sam Rayburn Office Building having conferences with our congressional delegation past and present as well as staff for the Transportation Committee and its rail subcommittee. Alliances were begun. Differences surfaced but some ideas were well received.

Staff people were anxious to share ideas and have a continuing dialog.

Contacts for State and Federal Issues  
Obtained in January and February of 2013

State of California:

Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian, Craig Swaim, Chief of Staff  
Senator Bill Monning, Ryan Guillen, Senior Legislative Aide  
Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Julie Giordano, Ass't Director Public Finance  
Secretary for Environmental Protection Matthew Rodriquez

Regions:

Hassan Ikhata, SCAG  
Gary Gallegos, SANDAG  
Carlos Yamzon, STANCOG

Others:

Executive Director Bill Higgins, CALCOG  
Transportation staff & Legislative Representative Jennifer Whitting, League  
of California Cities  
Jarry Wilmoth, General Manager Network Infrastructure, Union Pacific RR

U.S. Government:

Majority Whip Rep. Kevin McCarthy, James Min, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Lois Capps, Aaron Shapiro, Legislative Assistant  
Kimberly Moore, Counsel for Investigations and House Oversight  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
Mike Friedberg, Director Rail Subcommittee, House Transportation Policy  
Committee  
Beth Osborne, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, DOT  
Peter Gould, Associate Director for Governmental Affairs, DOT  
Sarah Pallone, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental  
Relations, EPA  
Michael Brown, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Relations, HUD

Others:

President Maria Lopez Rogers, National League of Cities (NLC)  
Michael Wallace, Program Director Federal Relations, NLC  
Julia Pulidindi, Senior Associate Infrastructure Program, NLC  
Daria Daniel, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of  
Counties (NACO)