



Agenda Report

February 5, 2018

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Terry Tornek
SUBJECT: Future Participation in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council consider the value of the City's membership in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and select one of the options below:

1. Continue the current membership. If this option is chosen, the City Council may want to adopt a resolution approving the 4th Amendment to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which fully integrates the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) into the SGVCOG;
2. Withdraw from the SGVCOG; or
3. Continue current membership for the short-term and begin to transition the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority into a separate Council of Governments.

BACKGROUND:

In the mid-1990s there was a movement by cities in the San Gabriel Valley to create an organization for joint advocacy of common interests. The SGVCOG was borne from this movement. Recently, however, several developments have arisen which may cause Pasadena to reconsider the value of the City's continued membership and participation in the SGVCOG. The following provides a brief history of the SGVCOG and describes the current issues.

In March 1994 the City of Pasadena officially joined the SGVCOG through a City Council approved Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Councilmember Bill Crowfoot served as the City's first appointed governing Board Member. The original purpose of the SGVCOG was to provide a vehicle for the Members to engage in regional and cooperative planning and coordination of government services. Today, the SGVCOG is a JPA made up of representatives from 31 cities within the San Gabriel Valley as well as the three Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts and the three Municipal Water Districts located in the San Gabriel Valley. Currently, the primary concerns of the SGVCOG includes seeking regional ways to address transportation, housing, economic development, the environment, and water.

Pasadena is situated on the western most boundary of the San Gabriel Valley. As such Pasadena tends to also share common interests with the cities of Glendale and Burbank on our west and the three cities collectively are known as the "Tri-Cities". For many years Pasadena has been a member of the Arroyo Verdugo Subregion (AVS) Steering Committee which allows us to partner with neighboring cities to the west on important transportation related-issues. Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge and South Pasadena are members of both the AVS and the SGVCOG while Burbank and Glendale are members of both the AVS and the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG).

With recent concerns raised regarding the adequacy of representation and understanding toward the transportation needs of the AVS communities by the respective San Gabriel Valley and San Fernando Valley COGs, a new Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority (AVCJPA) was formed with members including the original five cities of the Arroyo Verdugo plus a seat was given to the Los Angeles County Supervisor of the 5th District. The AVCJPA allowed these member cities to receive future Measure M funds through the AVCJPA, rather than their respective COGs. Measure M is a sales tax measure approved by the voters in 2016 to fund an ambitious infrastructure program for transportation projects and a legal entity (either existing or new) must be identified to receive and expend these funds.

In the future the AVCJPA could transition into a true Council of Governments, but that is a decision that the six participants would need to make.

One topic that has generated much debate at SGVCOG meetings is the future of the ACE Construction Authority. In 1998, the SGVCOG established the ACE Construction Authority to complete a significant goods movement infrastructure construction program in the San Gabriel Valley. The ACE Project consists of multiple infrastructure efforts including center median and crossing arm improvements, traffic signalization, and grade separations along two 35-mile freight rail mainline routes from downtown Los Angeles through the San Gabriel Valley to San Bernardino County. To date, ACE has secured more than \$1.6 billion in federal, state and local funds for the ACE and has gained a reputation for completing projects on time and within budget. It was intended that ACE sunset once the identified projects were completed, estimated at five years.

With the approval of Measure M and its funding, there is the thought that ACE could become the construction entity for smaller San Gabriel Valley cities that do not have the expertise to complete large transportation construction projects. In December 2017, nineteen SGVCOG member cities voted to approve a new JPA which transitions ACE into the SGVCOG. This change will alter the mission and culture of the COG and could subordinate the planning function to the construction activities.

Future Consideration

Given the changes that are about to occur with the SGVCOG due to the approval of the JPA which merges ACE and the transitions of the AVCJPA, it is timely that Pasadena reflect and consider its continued participation in this regional San Gabriel Valley association.

Continuing membership in the SGVCOG would allow Pasadena to have a vote in a group representing the San Gabriel Valley while City staff participates in various committees and is kept abreast of issues regarding homelessness, storm water, and transportation issues. However, their work activities are focused on Edison related energy issues like community aggregation, PACE, very initial homeless strategies, ACE projects and SGVCOG Measure M funding allocations. Pasadena's top priorities tend to align more closely with those of Burbank and Glendale. The tri-cities share numerous similarities including:

- Own and operate water and electric utilities and local transit systems;
- Are investors in the Magnolia Power Plant in the City of Burbank;
- Are members of the Burbank Airport Authority; and
- Dispose the majority of the cities' refuse at the Scholl Canyon Landfill in Glendale.

Additionally, the tri-cities tend to align on legislative matters. More recently, along with South Pasadena and La Canada Flintridge the tri-cities united in efforts to end the extension of the SR 710 Freeway. Contrary, to the SGVCOG position.

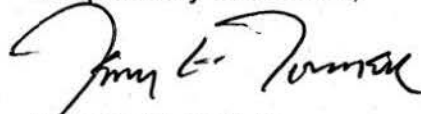
With this in mind, we are in a unique position to consider options that may take Pasadena in a different direction. The options include:

1. Continue the current membership. If this option is chosen, the City Council may want to adopt the recent Joint Power Agreement (JPA) which consolidates the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) into the SGVCOG;
2. Withdraw from the SGVCOG; or
3. Continue current membership for the short-term and begin to transition the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority into a separate Council of Governments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For fiscal year 2018, the annual dues for SGVCOG is \$32,843 and is included in the City Council's adopted operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Tornek", written in a cursive style.

TERRY TORNEK
Mayor

Attachment:

Resolution approving the 4th Amendment to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).