



**Council Meeting: October 19, 2010**

**SUBJECT: Appointment to South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project Stakeholder Forum and Appointment to the High Speed Train Policy Working Group**

### **BACKGROUND**

The City Council annually appoints members to a variety of intergovernmental agencies in order to represent the City's interests and to influence policies and regulations of other agencies. The City Council may also, on occasion, appoint a non-Councilmember to represent the City's interest on an intergovernmental body. Specific intergovernmental appointments are also sometimes made by other agencies; the appointments are then subject to Council ratification.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

Legislative Sub Element, Goal 7.3C: Participate in intergovernmental activities, including national, state and regional groups, as a means to represent the City's interest, influence policy and legislation, and enhance awareness.

### **DISCUSSION**

Since Council action in January to fill intergovernmental assignments, the City has received an inquiry from the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSRP) regarding interest in appointing a new representative to the SBSRP Stakeholder Forum. Additionally, the City received a second request from the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to appoint a representative to the High Speed Train Policy Working Group (PWG).

### **Appointment to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSRP) Stakeholder Forum**

Previously Councilmember Miller, and then Councilmember Howe had served in this role.

The purpose of the Stakeholder Forum is to provide ongoing, high level, publicly derived input to the Project Management Team of the Salt Ponds Project on three major components of the restoration plan: habitat objectives and actions, types and levels of public access, and integration of flood management and habitat restoration. This input is to be used to provide feasible and substantive design and plan management direction to the design team. The forum will also assist the Project Management Team and other

project team members to gain a broader understanding of public and interest group perspectives. Staff support for this assignment will be provided by Lorrie Gervin, Environmental Division Manager, Department of Public Works.

The Stakeholder Forum met monthly early in the project, and less frequently now that Work Groups have been established. Ideally Stakeholder members also serve on at least one Work Group. All meetings of the Forum and Work Groups are public. Public comment time is made available for any non-Committee members in attendance.

### **Appointment to the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) Policy Working Group (PWG)**

The goal in establishing the PWG is to ensure information flows between the HSRA project team and elected officials. The PWG includes one elected official from each city and county on the proposed high speed train's San Francisco to San Jose alignment. The High Speed Rail Authority does not have formal requirements for the appointment; some cities designate a member and an alternate to assure representation, but alternates are not required. Staff support for this assignment will be provided by Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager, Department of Public Works.

The PWG functions in an advisory role to the HSRA project team. The PWG provides policy direction and supports collaboration amongst the cities in the Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process. The High Speed Rail Authority seeks to have the EIR certified by September 2011.

The PWG generally meets on the third Thursday or Friday of each month from 7-9 p.m. Meeting locations rotate. Past meetings have been held in San Carlos, Redwood City and Mountain View.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact to this report.

### **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Appoint a Councilmember to the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project Stakeholder Forum.
2. Appoint a Councilmember and alternate to the High Speed Train Policy Working Group (PWG).
3. Council takes no action at this time.
4. Other action as directed by Council.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1 and No. 2: 1) Appoint a Councilmember to the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project Stakeholder Forum; and, 2) Appoint a Councilmember and alternate to the High Speed Train Policy Working Group (PWG).

Reviewed by:

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and Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbers  
City Manager