**For immediate release:**September 28, 2016

 **South Bay Cities Council of Governments Supports Three & Opposes Five**

**of the November Ballot State & County Propositions**

Torrance, CA -- The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) Board of Directors, comprised of elected officials from the city governments and the county in the South Bay, voted to support State Propositions 54 and 67 and oppose Propositions 53, 57, 64 and 65 on the November ballot. The Board also supported County Measure A and maintained its opposition to County Measure M. On the remainder of the propositions, they took no position.

SUPPORT POSITIONS:

* The Board concurred that they would support Proposition 54 because it is a step toward transparency in government and addresses the last minute votes on end of session legislation that don’t allow reasonable deliberation.
* They supported Proposition 67 because our region has lead the way in recycled carryout bags and the state should not get in the way of the local communities’ sustainability initiatives – especially when they advance state goals.
* And the Board supported County Measure A because funding for our parks is important and previous funding that is no longer available.

OPPOSE POSITIONS:

* The Board opposed Proposition 53 because it would restrict important large scale projects that local communities might support. They felt that this was state infringement on local control.
* Proposition 57 allows for early release of non-violent felons. While the Board understands the desire to reduce the prison population, local incidents of crime have increased with previous early release programs.
* Proposition 64 would legalize marijuana. The Board decided that this could create public safety issues.
* Supporting the use of recycled carry-out bags led the Board to oppose Proposition 67 which would overturn the ban on single-use plastic bags.
* At a previous meeting, the Board had voted to oppose County Measure M. While it is called the Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan, it would not provide traffic improvements to the South Bay until the 2040’s and it over-promises what can be accomplished. Additionally, it doesn’t provide the cities with adequate funds to address their local needs.

The SBCCOG is a joint powers authority comprised of 16 cities plus the County of Los Angeles that share the goal of maximizing the quality of life and economic vitality of the South Bay. Member cities include: Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, the Harbor City Communities of the City of Los Angeles, and the County of Los Angeles, Districts 2 & 4. For further information, contact Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director @ 310-293-2612.