



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Art Brown, President	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice President	<i>Long Beach</i>	Los Angeles County
Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President	<i>RCTC</i>	Riverside
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Luis Plancarte, Vice Chair, EEC		Imperial County
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC	<i>VCTC</i>	Ventura County
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President’s Appt.	Eastvale	District 4
Hon. Marshall Goodman, President’s Appt.	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative

Members Not Present

Sup. Curt Hagman, 1st Vice President		San Bernardino County
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Tim McOsker, President’s Appt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Art Brown called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. President Brown asked LCMC Vice Chair, Jose Luis Solache, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Brown opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

The Clerk of the Board acknowledged SCAG received one public comment related to agenda Item No. one, which had been posted and distributed to the members.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Brown closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. RHNA Reform - Legislative Action
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Adam Wood, with the Building Industry Association, addressed the EAC regarding Item No. 1. He stated they had submitted the letter [that had been posted and transmitted to the members]. He thanked SCAG staff for putting the proposal together. He stated there had been an excellent amount of outreach and they appreciated that. He noted that they did not have any substantive changes to the shortened version of the letter they submitted but rather had a procedural question they wanted to raise. He stated they wanted to see if language could be added to have the [Legislative] Committee review the specifics of the language before the bill is introduced.

There were no additional public comments.

Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager, provided background information on how the State Legislature required the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to work with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and local stakeholders to evaluate the RHNA program and recommend improvements to it. He explained this resulted in HCD assembling a "Sounding Board" of interested stakeholders to provide feedback and suggestions on how RHNA could be improved. Furthermore, he explained that in order to provide meaningful feedback to HCD, SCAG's Manager of Housing Department coordinated feedback from the SCAG region's cities, counties, and other housing stakeholders. He explained this resulted in a comment letter which included 14 concepts that could be implemented to improve the RHNA program, six of which would require state legislation to be implemented. He shared the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) had discussed the six concepts at the Committee's August and September meetings with the intention of identifying a path forward for sponsoring a legislative bill or two on this subject. He also explained that SCAG staff had met with housing stakeholders in Southern California to collect their feedback on the six proposals to identify which might have the best opportunity for success in Sacramento. He stated that at the November LCMC meeting, the Committee decided to move forward with sponsoring two legislative proposals and shared with the EAC what the recommendation was. He stated The LCMC recommended that the EAC and RC authorize SCAG staff to work with their lobbyists to sponsor two legislative bills in the 2024 legislative year. The first bill would be to (a) establish procedures for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to publicize its data sources, analyses, and methodology prior to finalizing the regional determination and (b) to require HCD to establish and convene a panel of experts that would advise HCD on its assumptions, data, and analyses prior to making its final determination to a region. The LCMC recommended a second bill that would (c) reinstate "trade and transfer" as an option to distribute RHNA units between two jurisdictions, with limitations, so that it also furthers state housing objectives, including affirmatively furthering fair housing. Mr. Gilhooley then proceeded to walk the EAC members through the six concepts to share how the LCMC landed where it did. Lastly, he walked the members through the next steps which concluded his remarks on the item.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting audio is also available on the SCAG website.

LCMC Vice Chair Jose Luis Solache, Lynwood, RC District 26, thanked Mr. Gilhooley for the report. He shared his thoughts stating he wanted SCAG to continue to push the conversation of housing specifically for RHNA forward.

LCMC Chair Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, RC District 68, thanked former LCMC Chair Solache who introduced this [item] as it came forward. She also thanked the members of the committee who worked hard on this item. She also thanked community partners like the BIA who had been willing to come to the table as this was how good legislation was developed. Lastly, she stated that as Chair of the LCMC she wanted to put her support behind this matter 100%.

Immediate Past President, Jan Harnik, RCTC asked Mr. Gilhooley how he would engage the LCMC on the matter. Mr. Gilhooley addressed Immediate Past President Harnik's question stating there was only one of him but 17 LCMC members and that he would be relying on those members to review the draft proposals, provide feedback and support the proposal.

A MOTION was made (Solache) to:

- (1) Authorize staff to work with SCAG lobbyists to sponsor a state legislative bill that would (a) establish procedures for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to publicize its data sources, analyses, and methodology prior to finalizing the regional determination and (b) require HCD to establish and convene a panel of experts that would advise HCD on its assumptions, data, and analyses prior to making its final determination to a region.
 - (2) Authorize staff to work with SCAG lobbyists to sponsor a state legislative bill that would reinstate a trade and transfer option of RHNA units between two jurisdictions, with limitations so that it also furthers state housing objectives, including affirmatively furthering fair housing.
 - (3) Authorize staff to develop draft legislative language, identify and obtain a legislative author, and advocate for the successful passage of the proposed legislative bills.
 - (4) Direct staff to pursue coalition building and partnership opportunities to support the successful passage of the SCAG-sponsored legislative bills.
 - (5) Direct staff to provide regular updates to the LCMC on the progress of the SCAG-sponsored legislative bills and future advocacy opportunities and efforts.
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Motion was SECONDED (Plancarte) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Brown, Goodman, Harnik, Judge, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, Masiel, McCallon, Plancarte, Sandoval, Shapiro, Solache and Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting – December 6, 2023
- 3. 2024 State & Federal Legislative Platform

Receive and File

- 4. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 External Financial Audit
- 5. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
- 6. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Lorimore) to approve the Consent Calendar Items 2 through 3; and Receive and File Items 4 through 6. Motion was SECONDED (Shapiro) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Brown, Goodman, Harnik, Judge, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, Masiel, McCallon, Plancarte, Sandoval, Shapiro, Solcache and Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported SCAG received notice from HCD that the “almost” last and final REAP 1 advance was approved. She stated SCAG currently had about \$11.5 million of REAP 1 funds outstanding from HCD and they would be holding about \$3 million until SCAG’s final report was complete. She stated that with the approval, they were expecting to receive about \$8.5 million within the next couple of weeks. Additionally, Ms. Giraldo reported SCAG had received its first advance payment of \$8.6 million for REAP 2.0, and the funds had been transferred to SCAG’s LAIF investment account. She explained they had incurred over \$7 million in REAP 2 expenses, therefore work had already begun toward completing the second advance payment. She reported that the past month, they had finalized SCAG’s SRP 2 MOU template, and were close to completing the MOU template for the Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice Call, and the next MOU template would be for the Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands Call. Lastly, she reported SCAG had been awarded \$12 million in federal funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. She shared these funds would be used to further three SCAG initiatives, including the Regional Safety Action Plan, the Go Human Safety Program, and Quick-Build Demonstrations.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Brown provided an Economic Summit recap sharing they had more than 500 guests in attendance overall. He shared the event included the publication of the “Regional Briefing Book,” which detailed the current state of the region’s economy, with benchmarks for tracking it over the coming year. Additionally, he provided an update on the Connect SoCal 2024 elected briefings. He shared SCAG had hosted 15 elected official briefings in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. He reported that at these briefings, SCAG leadership shared the details of the draft Connect SoCal 2024, focusing on how to implement the plan’s vision for a more resilient and equitable future. He stated the briefings also included dialogue with questions and feedback on the draft Connect SoCal 2024. Furthermore, President Brown reported that SCAG’s Executive Director, Kome Ajise, was one of 25 members appointed to California State Transportation Agency’s statewide Transit Task Force. He reported the Task Force would be meeting bimonthly to develop policy recommendations for growing transit ridership, improving the transit rider experience and addressing long-term operational needs. He noted that because transit recovery was a priority for the region, they were planning to share regular updates on this Task Force and opportunities to engage. Lastly, he stated the next regular meeting of the EAC was scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, provided an update on the Connect SoCal 2024 comment period deadline. He shared January 12, was the final day to submit comments and that after the end of the comment period, SCAG staff would review and consider all public comments, catalogue them and document any resulting revisions for the final version of Connect SoCal 2024. He shared they anticipated the final Connect SoCal 2024 RTP/SCC would be available for the Regional Council's consideration in April. Executive Director Ajise reported SCAG would begin accepting project nominations for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding on January 4. He stated the combined budget for this solicitation of project nominations was \$278 million across all three funding sources. He stated local agencies should confer with their county transportation commission for county-specific application deadlines and that SCAG would review project nominations against program criteria and develop a list of prioritized projects for approval by the SCAG Regional Council in June. Furthermore, Mr. Ajise reported that at the January 4, 2024 Regional Council meeting, the members would be voting on the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing Pilot Program (RUSH) for 12 projects totaling \$35 million. He shared SCAG had also received a \$500,000 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation grant from the California Department of Conservation. He stated this award would allow SCAG to study the economic benefits of natural and working lands in the areas of environment, tourism and recreation. Mr. Ajise also shared that on December 4, he had joined executive directors of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments, Sacramento Association of Governments and the California Association of Governments in Sacramento for a series of meetings with the California State Transportation Agency, Office of Planning Research and Caltrans to discuss how to better align state and regional planning policies, and leverage funding to meet shared climate, housing, equity and mobility goals. Mr. Ajise also discussed some Presidential priorities stating that last summer, President Art Brown hosted the annual Executive/Administration Committee retreat to discuss priorities for the year. The annual Strategic Work Plan was subsequently adopted by the EAC and Regional Council last fall. He stated the work plan focused on three policy issues for continued leadership and dialogue among the Regional Council: Transit Recovery, Goods Movement, and Clean Transportation Technologies. He then stated that they would be learning about challenges and opportunities around transitioning to Clean Transportation Technologies at the January 4, 2024 Regional Council meeting. He stated they would be joined by several partners from agencies leading the way to meet clean energy and transportation goals. Mr. Ajise also introduced Jeff Elder, who had been appointed new Chief Counsel. Lastly, he provided some personal remarks regarding SCAG staff member Leyton Morgan, who would be retiring after nearly 17 years of service to SCAG.



FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 3:42 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report

MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	2023-24													Total M Attend To Da	
			31-May	29-Jun	30-Jun	JULY	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		
Hon. Art Brown, President, Chair	Buena Park	District 21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					9
Hon. Curt Hagman, 1st Vice Chair		San Bernardino County	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0					8
Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1						7
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, Imm. Past President		RCTC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					9
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					9
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Vice Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					9
Hon. Deborah Roberston, Chair, EEC	Rialto	District 8	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0						5
Hon. Luis Plancarte, Vice Chair, EEC		Imperial County	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1						7
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	Pomona	District 38	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1						7
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC		VCTC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						9
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1						7
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1						6
Hon. Marshall Goodman, President's Appt.	La Palma	District 18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						9
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President's Appt.	Eastvale	District 4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						9
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.		Air District Representative	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1						7
Hon. Tim McOsker, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	District 62	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0						3
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1						5
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Ma	Business Representative	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						9
			16	15	13	15	16	16	15	13	15	0	0	0	0	0	0

Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2023-24 (Minutes of the Meeting - January 3, 2024)