



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
May 6, 2021

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY – ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The General Assembly of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its Business Session telephonically and electronically, given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

Delegate and/or Alternate Representatives from the following Cities, Counties and County Transportation Commissions were in attendance:

Imperial County: El Centro, Imperial and the County of Imperial

Los Angeles County: Alhambra, Bell, Bellflower, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Calabasas, Claremont, Covina, Culver City, Diamond Bar, Downey, Duarte, El Monte, Gardena, Glendale, Glendora, Irwindale, La Mirada, Lomita, Long Beach, Monrovia, Norwalk, Palmdale, Pomona, Rolling Hills Estates, Rosemead, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, South Pasadena, Temple City, Torrance, West Covina, West Hollywood and Westlake Village

Orange County: Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Placentia, San Clemente, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, Yorba Linda and the County of Orange

Riverside County: Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Coachella, Corona, Desert Hot Springs, Eastvale, Hemet, Indio, Jurupa Valley, La Quinta, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar and the County of Riverside



San Bernardino County: Big Bear Lake, Chino Hills, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Montclair, Needles, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Twentynine Palms and the County of San Bernardino

Ventura County: Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and the County of Ventura

County Transportation Commissions: Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC)

Staff Present

- Kome Ajise, Executive Director
- Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
- Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
- Justine Block, Acting Chief Counsel/Director Legal Services
- Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
- Basil Panas, Chief Financial Officer
- Sarah Jepson, Planning Director
- Art Yoon, Policy and Public Affairs Director
- Julie Shoyer, Chief Information Officer
- Tess Rey-Chaput, Office of Regional Council Support
- Peter Waggoner, Office of Regional Council Support

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SCAG President Bill Jahn, representing Big Bear Lake, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. President Jahn welcomed attendees to SCAG’s 55th General Assembly meeting. He stated that this is the first General Assembly meeting to be held online. He provided further background on SCAG, its composition and its mission.

President Jahn asked Councilmember L. Dennis Michael, Rancho Cucamonga, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Jahn introduced Speaker of the California Assembly Anthony Rendon to provide opening remarks. Speaker Rendon thanked President Jahn and acknowledged the role of SCAG. He continued by reflecting on ongoing activity in 2020 and discussing the COVID-19 pandemic. He reviewed past and present economic conditions in the state. He elaborated on past work of the legislature, including the creation of a rainy day fund, which will now be tested. He talked about upcoming work of the legislature, related to the State budget and COVID-related costs. He noted the impact of COVID-19 on workers and residents, and he explained relevant funding priorities. He encouraged that political will

be used to address social problems, like homelessness. He expressed the importance of implementing programs on a local level. He touched upon politics at a national level and spoke about citizens' relationship with government. In closing, he remarked on the importance of working together.

President Jahn thanked Speaker Rendon for his remarks. President Jahn provided instructions to participate in the meeting and asked the Clerk to call roll. A quorum was confirmed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Jahn provided instructions for public comment. SCAG staff confirmed that there were no public comment speakers.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEM/S

There was no reprioritization of agenda items.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment Schedule

President Jahn requested that SCAG staff provide background information on Agenda Items Nos. 1 and 2 and that the motion be for Agenda Items Nos. 1-4 combined in the essence of time. No representatives objected.

President Jahn introduced Executive Director Kome Ajise to provide background information on Agenda Item No. 1. Mr. Ajise reviewed past action on the 2020-21 General Fund Budget, including the Regional Council's recommendation. He explained the General Fund and provided examples of activities that the General Fund covers. He outlined changes in this year's General Fund Budget compared to last year's budget, such as RHNA costs and membership assessments. He explained that, in light of current economic difficulties, staff is recommending approving assessments with 20 percent waiver of dues per member, which will be offset by savings from the consolidation of the General Assembly. In closing, he stated that the membership schedule is attached in the agenda packet.

2. Ratification of the 2020-21 SCAG Board Officers

President Jahn introduced Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, for background information on Agenda Item No. 2. Mr. Duran reviewed the process of the Nominating Committee and he provided details of the Nominating Committee meeting on April 15, 2020. He stated that the individuals recommended to the Regional Council were Hon. Rex Richardson, Long Beach, District 30, for the position of President; Hon. Clint Lorimore, Eastvale, District 4, for the position of Vice President; and Hon. Jan Harnik, RCTC, for

the position of Second Vice President. On May 7, 2020, the Regional Council voted to recommend these individuals to the General Assembly.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Item

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Assembly – May 2, 2019

Receive and File

4. COVID-19: Leading and Learning in Uncertain Times

President Jahn asked for a motion for Agenda Item Nos. 1-4 together.

A MOTION was made (Goodland, Jurupa Valley) to approve Agenda Item Nos. 1-4.

Councilmember Steve Tye, Diamond Bar, commented on Agenda Item No. 1, Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment Schedule. He offered that reductions should be applied on an “as requested” basis, as he expressed concern about the General Fund. He proposed a friendly amendment to the motion that reductions be applied by request only.

The friendly amendment by Councilmember Tye was accepted.

Executive Director Kome Ajise expressed appreciation for the amendment and remarked that the assessment schedule shows the 100 percent payment and the 20 percent waiver, so cities are welcome to address that as they see fit.

Councilmember Jess Talamantes, Burbank, asked if there was a timeline that cities have to respond, and he asked for more details on the process for assessments. Kome Ajise said that letters are generally sent out as soon as possible, and President Jahn postulated that it would be at the time that cities receive the invoice. Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, offered that invoices will go out upon approval and would include language reflecting the motion. He stated that the Bylaws inform timeline for dues and impact to representation.

Councilmember Cynthia Sternquist, Temple City, requested the discount for Temple City.

Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, asked for clarification that the invoices will show both the 20 percent reduction and the full amount, and she suggested that the invoice should clearly articulate the difference. Kome Ajise stated that this would be clear in the invoice.

Councilmember Toni Momberger, Redlands, proposed a friendly amendment to the motion that the 20 percent reduction be charged, rather than making cities request it.

The friendly amendment by Councilmember Momberger was not accepted.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, stated that SCAG will make sure the invoice is clear based on the motion and that only one invoice will be sent out.

Ruben Duran confirmed that this complies with the motion that he heard. Mr. Duran offered instructions for the roll call vote.

Councilmember Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita, asked if cities would be allowed to pay either amount, or if they would have to request that they receive the discount. Kome Ajise stated that, when cities receive the invoice, it will be clear that they have the choice to pay either amount. Both numbers will be included.

The motion as amended for Agenda Item Nos. 1-4 was approved by the following votes.

FOR: Maza, Alhambra; Chun, Aliso Viejo; O'Neil, Anaheim; Wallace, Banning; Santos, Beaumont; Saleh, Bell; Hamada, Bellflower; Mirisch, Beverly Hills; Jahn, Big Bear Lake; Simonoff, Brea; Brown, Buena Park; Springer, Burbank; Smith, Calimesa; Smith, Canyon Lake; Marquez, Chino Hills; Leano, Claremont; Jacinto, Coachella; Navarro, Colton; Scott, Corona; Plancarte, County of Imperial; Wagner, County of Orange; Parks, County of Ventura; Spiegel, County of Riverside; Marquez, Covina; Erikssen, Culver City; Betts, Desert Hot Springs; Tye, Diamond Bar; Ashton, Downey; Finlay, Duarte; Lorimore, Eastvale; Viegas-Walker, El Centro; Morales, El Monte; Holmgren, Fillmore; Warren, Fontana; Nagel, Fountain Valley; Silva, Fullerton; Nguyen, Garden Grove; Henderson, Gardena; Wilson, Grand Terrace; McCallon, Highland; Semeta, Huntington Beach; Ortiz, Indio; Ortiz, Irwindale; Goodland, Jurupa Valley; Espinoza, La Habra; De Ruse, La Mirada; Evans, La Quinta; Minagar, Laguna Niguel; Moore, Laguna Woods; Manos, Lake Elsinore; Voigts, Lake Forest; Gazeley, Lomita; Richardson, Long Beach; Pearce, Long Beach; Grose, Los Alamitos; Deines, Menifee; Kelley, Mission Viejo; Shevlin, Monrovia; Ruh, Montclair; Pollock, Moorpark; Baca, Moreno Valley; Paget, Needles; Perez, Norwalk; Dorst-Porada, Ontario; Ramirez, Oxnard; Kelly, Palm Desert; Woods, Palm Springs; Hofbauer, Palmdale; Smith, Placentia; Sandoval, Pomona; Berg, Port Hueneme; Michael, Rancho Cucamonga; Harnik, RCTC; Momberger, Redlands; Robertson, Rialto; Bailey, Riverside; Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates; Clark, Rosemead; Valdivia, San Bernardino; Ward, San Clemente; Pacheco, San Fernando; Ruiz, San Jacinto; Bacerra, Santa Ana; McLean, Santa Clarita; Trujillo, Santa Fe Springs; Wapner, SBCTA; Surstarsic, Seal Beach; Copeland, Signal Hill; Mahmud, South Pasadena; Schwank,

Temecula; Sternquist, Temple City; Furey, Torrance; Puckett, Tustin; O’Gilvie, Twentynine Palms; Judge, VCTC; Collacott, Villa Park; Shewmaker, West Covina; Meister, West Hollywood; Davis, Westlake Village; Ta, Westminster; Benoit, Wildomar; and Rodriguez, Yoba Linda (102)

AGAINST: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Woods, Palm Springs (Item 3 only); Ward, San Clemente (Item 3 only); Surstarsic, Seal Beach (Item 3 only); Callacott, Villa Park (Item 3 only); and Ta, Westminster (Item 3 only) (5)

RECOGNITION OF 2019-2020 POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

President Jahn recognized Community, Economic and Human Development Chair Peggy Huang, TCA, and Vice Chair Stacy Berry, Cypress; Energy and Environment Chair Linda Parks, Ventura County, and Vice Chair David Pollock, Moorpark; and Transportation Committee Chair Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, and Vice Chair Jess Talamantes, Burbank.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Jahn recognized outgoing Regional Councilmembers Stacy Berry, Cypress; Margaret Clark, Rosemead; Jose Huizar, Los Angeles; Cecilia Iglesias, Santa Ana; Dan Medina, Gardena; Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates; Jeannine Pearce, Long Beach; Teresa Real Sebastian, Monterey Park; Emma Sharif, Compton; Jess Talamantes, Burbank; Herb Wesson, Los Angeles; and Tri Ta, Westminster.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Jahn announced that the President’s Report was included in the agenda packet. He provided closing comments, while reflecting on accomplishments, including Connect SoCal, and challenges, notably COVID-19, during the past year of service. He commented on SCAG’s resiliency and its ability to adapt to crisis. He expressed thanks to members, SCAG leadership and SCAG staff. He concluded his speech by speaking about the nature of long-term planning and the need for innovation. He wished incoming President Richardson and SCAG Officers well. Finally, he talked about the human spirit in terms of recent social movements and opportunities to listen, consider issues and change the status quo.

Executive Director Kome Ajise thanked President Jahn for his leadership during a crucial time and for his speech. Mr. Ajise introduced a video which highlighted President Jahn’s accomplishments and included remarks about President Jahn from SCAG staff and Regional Councilmembers. Mr. Ajise presented President Jahn with a proclamation from Speaker of the California Assembly Anthony

Rendon. Mr. Ajise concluded his comments by noting President Jahn’s emphasis on housing and leadership during the pandemic. Mr. Ajise stated that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to work with President Jahn.

Mr. Ajise introduced Incoming President Rex Richardson, Long Beach, RC District 29. Incoming President Richardson provided remarks, beginning by expressing thanks to Outgoing President Jahn, acknowledging the honor of serving as SCAG President and acknowledging his peers. Incoming President Richardson continued by describing his work in Long Beach and his family’s history spanning various jurisdictions across the region. He noted the connected fabric of the region and this critical time given the pandemic, the housing crisis, homelessness, unemployment and social injustice. He considered approaches to addressing such issues and providing a vision for the future. He noted the importance of resiliency in local government, given fiscal issues for local cities, and the importance of inclusive economic development in COVID-19 recovery. He expressed that SCAG, as the metropolitan planning organization for the six county region, is in the position to lead such efforts. He commented on SCAG’s relevant work on Connect SoCal, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), health, safety and data. He discussed charting a course for a more inclusive region. He outlined his workplan for the upcoming year, Framework for Recovering and Reimagining a Resilient Region, and he described the three phases of his plan: listen, convene and catalyze. In closing, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as SCAG’s President, and he stated that he looks forward to the year ahead.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Incoming President Rex Richardson adjourned the General Assembly at 11:46 a.m., while encouraging representatives to continue following SCAG’s work, funding opportunities, resources and programs.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY]

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