



Sustainable & Resilient Communities / Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Joint Working Group Meeting

August 24, 2023
10:00am – 12:00pm

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

Land Acknowledgment

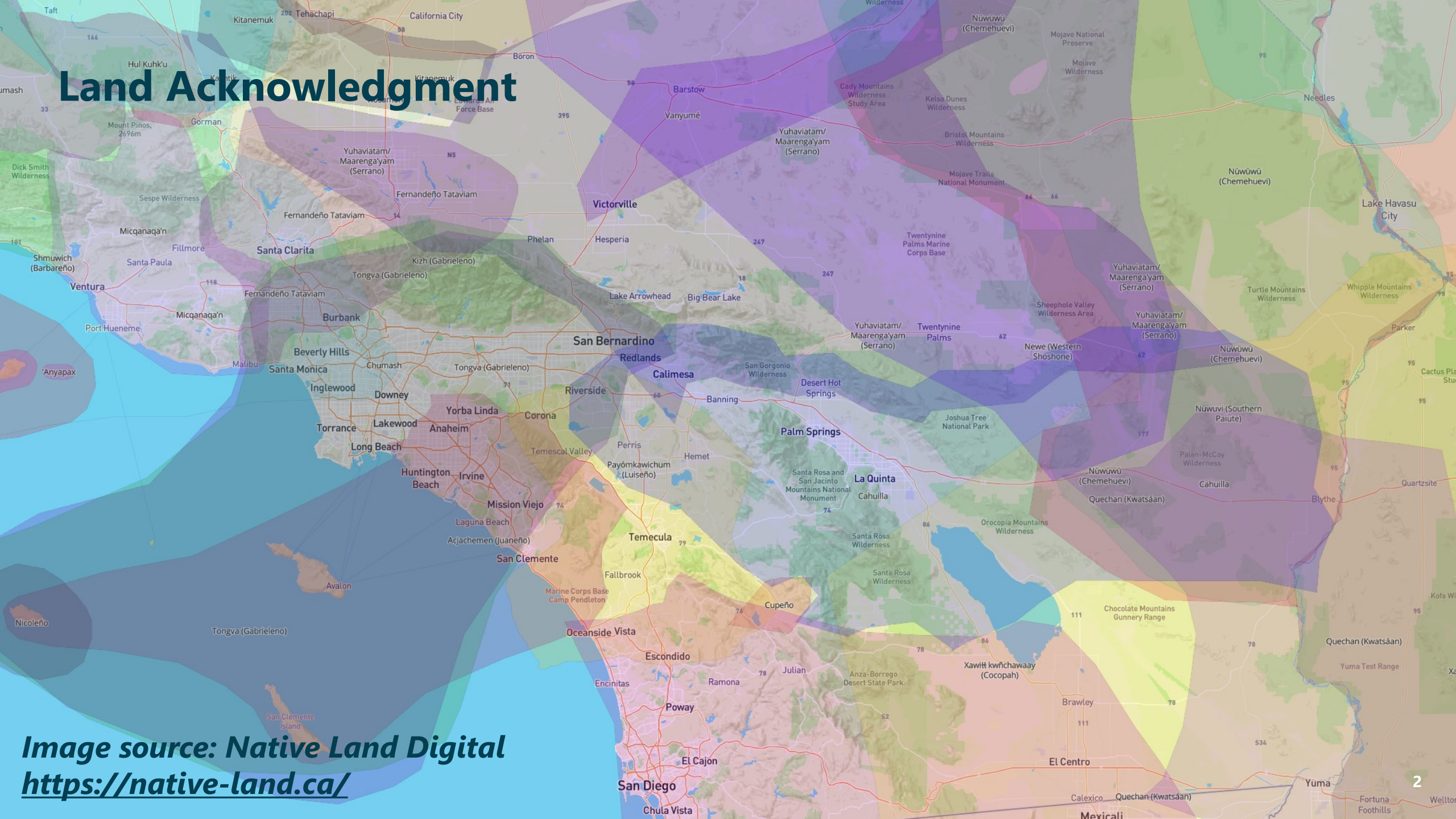


Image source: Native Land Digital
<https://native-land.ca/>

Housekeeping

- Meeting length: 2 hours
- This meeting is being recorded
- All participant lines will be muted
- There will be a Q&A session at the end of each presentation.
- Please use the "raise hand" function or type your question(s) into the chat to be answered during each Q&A segment.
- Materials will be posted to SCAG's Regional Planning Working Group webpage: <https://scag.ca.gov/regional-planning-working-groups>

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions

Kim Clark, SCAG

2. Connect SoCal 2024 Update

Leslie Cayton, SCAG

3. Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR Update

Ryan Bañuelos, SCAG

4. RAMP & SoCal Greenprint Update

India Brookover, SCAG

5. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update

Ryan Wolfe, SCAG

6. Regional Announcements & Adjourn

Kim Clark, SCAG



CONNECT SOCIAL 2024 UPDATE

Leslie Cayton (she/they/siya), Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

cayton@scag.ca.gov

THE 2024 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY
OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



Leslie Cayton

SRC/NFLCWG Joint Meeting

August 24, 2023

Outreach Summary

Spring 2023

What We Heard: Survey

*When you think about the **challenges** our region faces, please choose three (3) that are most important to you.*

**Shortage of affordable
and diverse housing
options (51%)**

**Limited reliable travel
options besides driving to
everyday destinations (37%)**

**Climate change impacts
(33%)**

What We Heard: Survey

*When you **envision our region in 2050**, which three (3) choices best describes what you'd like to see?*

**Healthy for all people
to live in (53%)**

**Prosperous, with
economic opportunity
for all residents (46%)**

**Safe for all modes of
travel (39%)**

What We Heard: Community Partnerships

Limited transportation options and the housing affordability affect quality of life, particularly in historically disinvested areas.

Infrastructure improvements should be coupled with direct benefits and protections for residents/small businesses at risk of displacement.

Desire for continued engagement with community partners on Connect SoCal implementation including updates on strategies and performance metrics.

Policy Framework

July 2023 Update

Policy Development Framework Background

- First adopted by the Regional Council on June 2, 2022
- Documented draft vision and goals
- Outlined policy priorities from Connect SoCal 2020, recent Regional Council actions, and emerging issues
- Established the special subcommittees
- **Regional Council adopted the updated Policy Framework with Regional Planning Policies on July 6, 2023**



What is included in the Regional Planning Policies?

- Priorities established with the *Core Vision* of Connect SoCal 2020
- Policy direction from SCAG's Policy Committees since 2020 and recommendations from Connect SoCal 2024 special subcommittees

What is the purpose?

- Articulate broad and established regional policies to achieve goals and realize the regional vision of Connect SoCal 2024
- Provide a resource for transportation agencies or local jurisdictions to demonstrate alignment with RTP/SCS when seeking funding from state or federal programs

Draft Vision: A healthy, accessible, and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

1. Build and maintain a robust transportation network. (MOBILITY)
2. Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving. (COMMUNITIES)
3. Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow. (ENVIRONMENT)
4. Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all. (ECONOMY)



Draft Vision: A healthy, prosperous, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

1. Build and maintain a robust transportation network. (MOBILITY)
2. Develop, connect, and sustain communities that are livable and thriving. (COMMUNITIES)
3. Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow. (ENVIRONMENT)
4. Support a sustainable, efficient, and productive regional economic environment that provides opportunities for all. (ECONOMY)



Draft Vision: A healthy, **prosperous**, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

3. Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow. (ENVIRONMENT)

- Develop communities that are resilient and can mitigate, adapt to, and respond to chronic acute stressors and disruptors such as climate change.
- Integrate the region's development pattern and transportation network to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions **and enable more sustainable use of energy and water.**
- Conserve the restore the region's natural agricultural resources.



Policy Categories by Goal

MOBILITY

- System Preservation
- Complete Streets
- Transit & Multimodal Integration
- Transportation Demand Management
- Transportation System Management
- Technology Integration*
- Safety
- Funding the System/User Fees

COMMUNITIES

- **15 Minute Communities** *
- Housing the Region *
- Priority Development Areas
- Equitable Engagement & Decision-Making*

**New policy area for Connect SoCal 2024*

ENVIRONMENT

- **Sustainable Development**
- Air Quality & Clean Technology
- Natural & Working Lands Preservation
- **Climate Resilience***

ECONOMY

- Goods Movement
- Broadband *
- Universal Basic Mobility*
- Workforce Development*
- Tourism

Communities Examples

Draft Regional Planning Policies



- **15 Minute Communities:** Promote 15-minute communities as places with a mix of complementary land uses and accessible mobility options that align with and support the diversity of places (or communities) across the region where residents can either access the most basic, day-to-day needs within a 15-minute walk, bike ride, or roll from their home or as places that result in fewer and shorter trips because of the proximity of complementary land uses.
- **Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making:** Advance community-centered interventions, resources, and programming that serve the most disadvantaged communities and people in the region, like Priority Equity Communities, with strategies that can be implemented in the short-to-long-term.

- **Sustainable Development:** Promote sustainable development and best practices that enhance resource conservation, reduce resource consumption, and promote resilience.
- **Air Quality:** Reduce hazardous air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and improve the air quality throughout the region through planning and implementation efforts.
- **Clean Transportation:** Accelerate the deployment of a zero-emission transportation system and use near-zero emission technology to offer short term benefits where zero emissions solutions are not yet feasible or commercially viable.

Environment Examples

Draft Regional Planning Policies



- **Natural and Agricultural Land Preservation:** Prioritize the climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and economic benefits of natural and agricultural lands in the region.
- **Climate Resilience:** Prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards to help the people, places, and infrastructure that are most at risk for climate change impacts, recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened.

- **Spring 2023:** SCAG shared draft Regional Planning Policies and solicited feedback from several stakeholder groups:
 - County Transportation Council (**CTC**) Planning Directors
 - Subregional Executive Directors
 - SCAG's Regional Planning Working Groups (**RPWG**)
 - Technical Working Group (**TWG**)
 - Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee (**RTTAC**)
 - Global Land Use & Economic (**GLUE**) Council



Connect SoCal Development Update



COMPLETED MILESTONES

- ✓ Draft Goals & Vision
- ✓ Draft Performance Measures
- ✓ Local Data Exchange
- ✓ Project List
- ✓ Public Outreach & Engagement
- ✓ **July 2023 Policy Framework Adopted**

REMAINING MILESTONES FOR 2023

- Plan Modeling, Analysis, Writing
- September 7: Plan Preview
- October 5: Draft Release
- October 23: PEIR Release
- December 22: Comment Deadline

Questions? Comments?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
SCAG.CA.GOV/CONNECT-SOCAL





CONNECT SOCIAL 2024 PEIR UPDATE

Ryan Bañuelos (he/him), Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

banuelos@scag.ca.gov



Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Status Update

Joint Sustainable & Resilient Communities/
Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

August 24, 2023

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV



Presentation Agenda

- 1 **Objective & Introduction**
- 2 **Major Outreach Efforts**
- 3 **PEIR Outline**
- 4 **Next Steps**

Presentation Objective

Provide an overview of the PEIR outline and draft contents in advance of Draft PEIR release (anticipated Fall 2023)

Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR and SCAG's Role

- SCAG is the CEQA Lead Agency for Connect SoCal 2024 (the Plan)
- PEIR is the appropriate type of CEQA document for a regional plan
- The PEIR includes a region-wide, first-tier, programmatic level environmental assessment



Major Outreach Efforts to Date

CEQA Noticing Requirements (October 17, 2022) ✓

Tribal Outreach Pursuant to AB 52 (December 22, 2022) ✓

2

Public Scoping Meetings

64

Tribal Consultation Initiation Letters

12

Presentations at SCAG's Existing Forums

7

Meetings with Targeted Stakeholders



PEIR OUTLINE



PEIR Outline & Contents

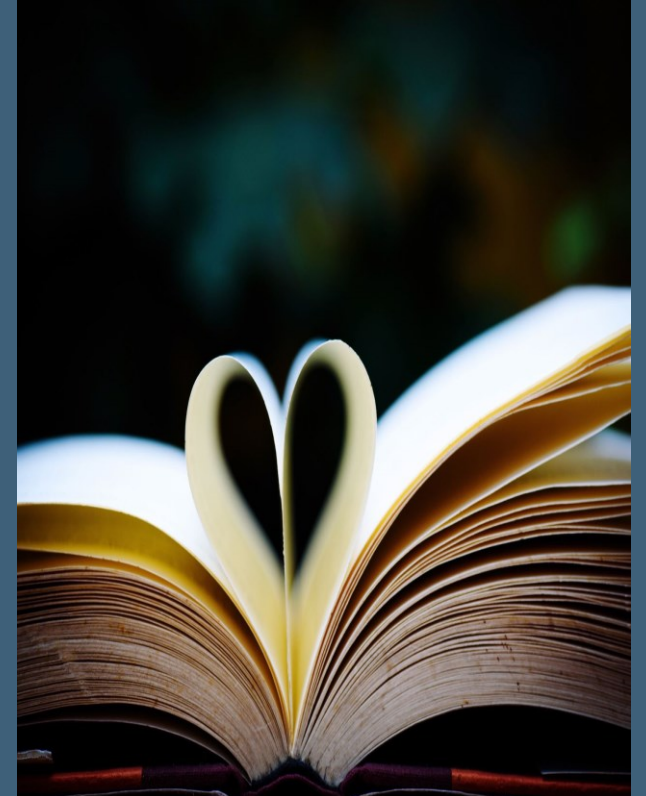
- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1.0 – Introduction
- Chapter 2.0 – Project Description
- Chapter 3.0 – Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures
- Chapter 4.0 – Alternatives
- Chapter 5.0 – Other CEQA Considerations
- Chapter 6.0 – Persons and Sources Consulted
- Chapter 7.0 - Glossary

Chapter 1.0 – Introduction

- Background information on CEQA process
- SCAG's roles and responsibilities
- Summarize the scoping process and describes the PEIR as programmatic environmental document

Chapter 2.0 – Project Description (the Plan)

- General information about the Plan (CEQA Guidelines Section 15124)
- Major changes since the 2020 Plan
- This chapter will capture major elements of the Plan such as Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies



Chapter 3.0 – Environmental Impacts Analyses by Topics

- Structure and topics consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines
- Incorporated recent regulatory changes and CEQA case law since the 2020 PEIR
- Enhancements to key topic areas (e.g., AQ, Bio)
- No major changes to significance determinations

Environmental Topics Covered in the 2024 Draft PEIR		
Aesthetics	Agriculture & Forestry Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Energy
Geology and Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Hydrology & Water Quality	Land Use & Planning	Mineral Resources
Noise	Population and Housing	Public Services
Recreation	Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources
Utilities & Service Systems	Wildfire	

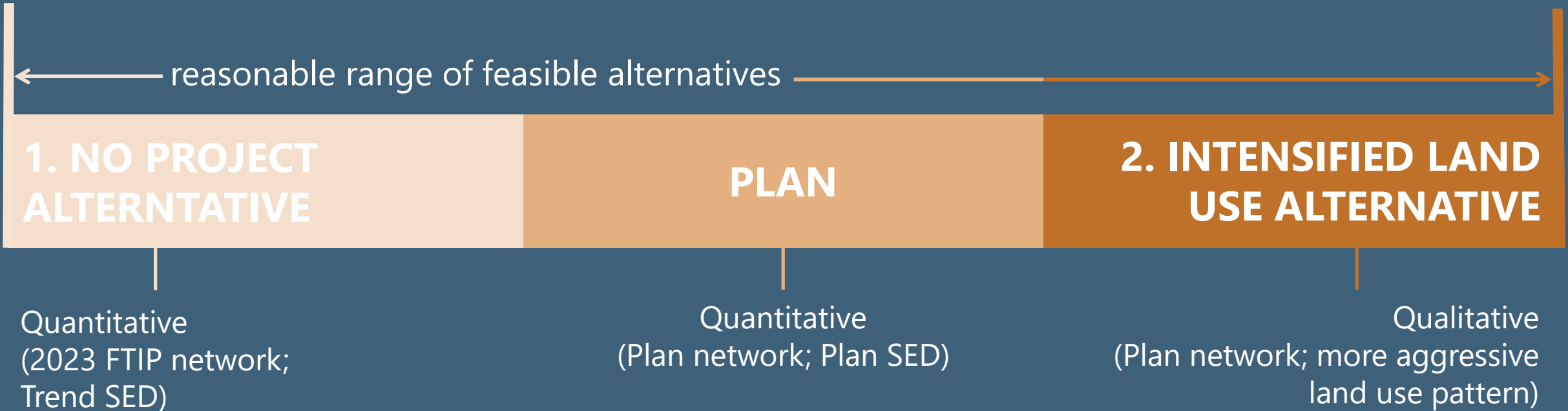
Environmental Setting (Part of Chapter 3.0)

- CEQA requirements
 - Typically, date of NOP release
 - CEQA allows Lead Agency discretion
- Selected 2019 as baseline year
 - Consistent with Plan base year
- Baseline may vary depending on resource topic

Mitigation Measures (Part of Chapter 3.0)

- **Bifurcated approach** given SCAG's lack of authority to require or implement project-level mitigation
- **SCAG Mitigation Measures**
 - Focus on SCAG's role as a convening agency (information/data sharing, etc.)
 - Remove CEQA mitigation included as Implementation Strategies
- **Project-Level Mitigation Measures**
 - Implemented by local agencies or developers, as applicable
 - Removed mitigation covered by existing regulations

Chapter 4.0 – Alternatives



Chapter 6.0 and Chapter 7.0

- Chapter 6.0 – Persons and Sources Consulted
 - Lists contributors involved in preparation of the PEIR
 - Includes a list of sources consulted
- Chapter 7.0 – Glossary
 - Acronyms used in the PEIR

Next Steps





THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit: <https://scag.ca.gov/peir>



REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PROGRAM & SOCAL GREENPRINT UPDATE

India Brookover (she/her), Senior Regional Planner, SCAG

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RAMP and SoCal Greenprint Update

August 24, 2023

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

What is the SoCal Greenprint?

A data tool of publicly available sources to help cities, counties, and transportation agencies make land use and transportation decisions and conserve natural and farm lands



Establishment of a **Technical Advisory Committee**

Following approval of the RAMP Policy Framework by the Regional Council, SCAG established a Technical Advisory Committee to advise on:

**Data
Policies &
User
Guidelines**

**SoCal
Greenprint
Tool's Data
Governance
Standards**

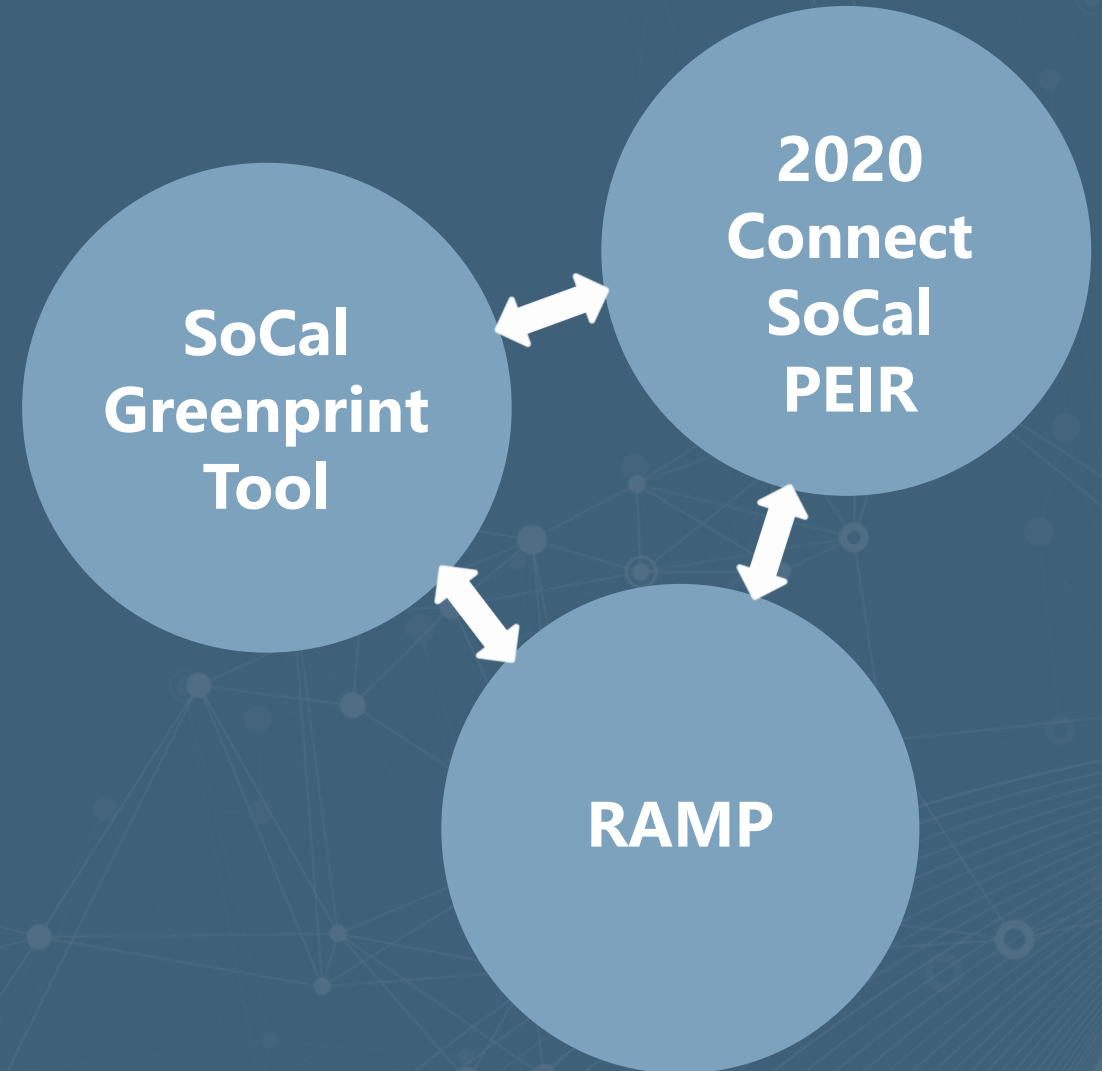
**Data
Selection
Criteria**

**Process to
Resolve Potential
Divergent
Perspectives on
SoCal Greenprint
Tool Data**

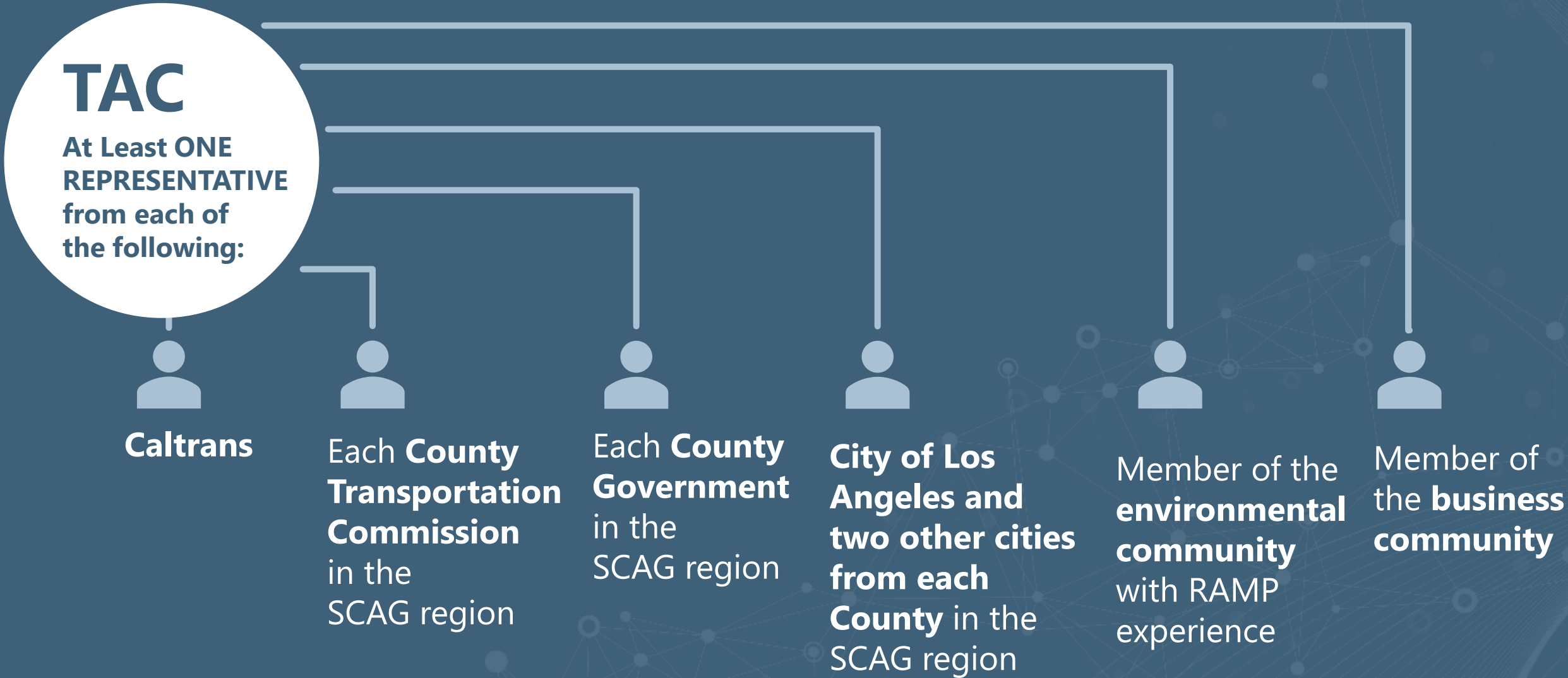
**Data
Parameters**

How are the SoCal Greenprint and RAMP related?

The SoCal Greenprint is a planned web-based tool, which will complement SCAG's RAMP Policy Framework, with data and scenario visualizations, **primarily intended to support project lead agencies** in pursuing RAMP or other environmental mitigations.



Structure of the Technical Advisory Committee



Purpose and Process for Greenprint TAC

- The GTAC will provide input and consultation for SCAG staff to develop data policies, governance standards, user guidelines, data selection criteria, and data parameters for the SoCal Greenprint tool.
- The GTAC will inform land use cases and analytical functionality of the tool.
- The GTAC is an advisory body.
- Feedback from the GTAC will be presented to the Energy & Environment Committee (EEC) and the Regional Council along with recommended data policies, governance standards, user guidelines, data selection criteria and data parameters for their review and approval. This will include a clear description of how GTAC feedback informed the recommendations.

TAC Meeting Schedule

Date	Topics Covered
7/26/20323	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project background• RAMP Overview• Greenprint Overview• Potential use cases and data
8/28/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• User guidelines• Governance standards• Data policies and parameters• Data selection criteria
9/25/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tool functionality• Finalize input, advice and counsel for staff consideration• Identification of Beta Testing group

Summary of TAC Meeting #1 Feedback

Data should be high quality, trusted, and for informational purposes only. Greenprint:

- Should not be creating or altering data
- Should be facilitating access to existing, available, and vetted data
- Data and tool should be for informational purposes only
- Data should be used, created, established, or recommended by public agencies

Summary of TAC Meeting #1 Feedback (Cont.)

The process for selecting data and updating the tool should be transparent and trusted.

- Greenprint data should be evaluated in accordance with adopted data standards
- Datasets should be evaluated based on utility
- Process for evaluating data and updating the tool should be transparent

Draft Data Standards & Examples

- **Data Policies:** Requirements for data so that the Greenprint aligns with the RAMP Policy Framework
 - Example: Data must be publicly available, meaning that existing datasets are available online or can be accessed if requested and/or licensed.
- **Governance Standards:** How the limitations of data usage will be conveyed
 - Example: The final version of the tool will include a “pop up” screen displaying disclosure language and will require acknowledgement of the data’s limitations.

Draft Data Standards Examples (Cont.)

- **User Guidelines:** Describe how the tool will be accessible
 - Example: The SoCal Greenprint will be web-based and easily accessible.
- **Data Selection Criteria:** How data is selected for inclusion in the tool
 - Example: Datasets will be selected based on their value in supporting land use and transportation decision-making for local agencies, and regional advance mitigation.
- **Data Parameter Requirements:** How the data will be documented & how user limitations for each data set will be conveyed.
 - Example: Metadata consistent with guidelines established by FGDC

Upcoming Meeting – Monday August 28th 2023

- 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Open to the public, both virtually and in person at SCAG's office
- Agenda and log-in information available at:
scag.ca.gov/socal-greenprint-technical-advisory-committee
- Public comment starts at 12 pm

Next Steps

- **September 2023:** Complete TAC meetings
- **November 2023:** Present recommendations to EEC
- **January 2024:** Present recommendations to RC
- **Early 2024:** Complete Beta Testing
- **Spring 2024:** Complete SoCal Greenprint



THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

www.scag.ca.gov/greenprint

www.scag.ca.gov/ramp-atg



CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) UPDATE

Ryan Wolfe (he/him), Department Manager, Sustainable & Resilient Development, SCAG

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Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update

Sustainable & Resilient Communities and Natural & Farm Lands
Conservation Working Group

August 24, 2023

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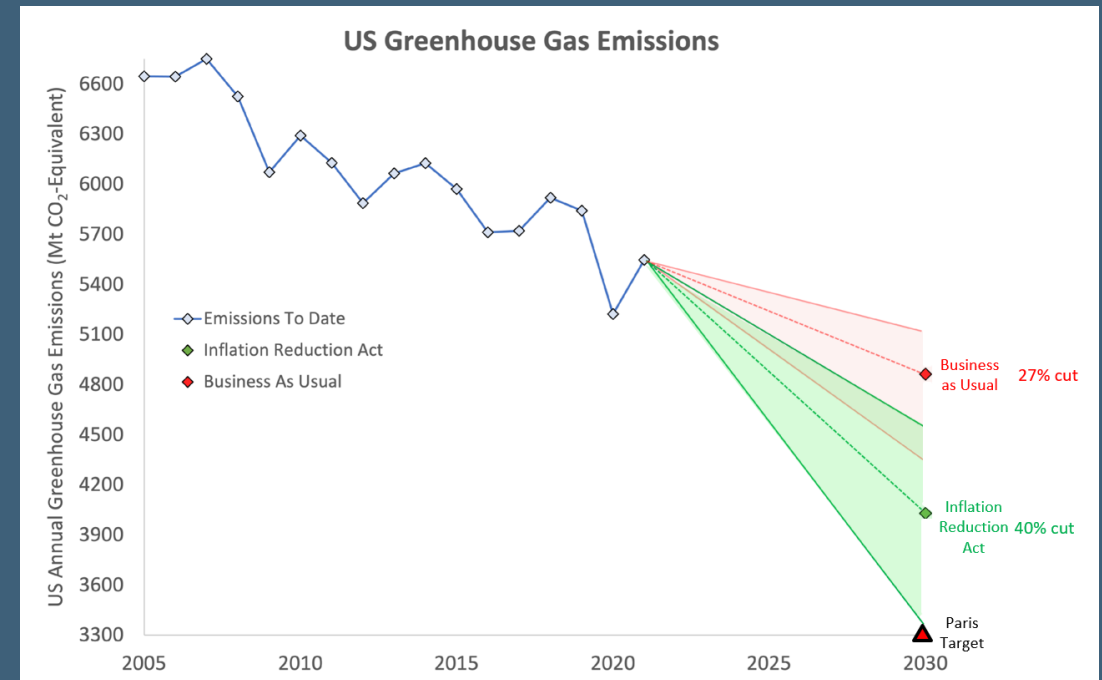


PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Building a clean energy economy

- **The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** makes historic investments in climate action that are expected to reduce U.S. emissions ~40% by 2030 while supporting disadvantaged communities and the clean energy industrial base.
- **IRA investments will drive significant emissions reductions** over the next decade while also laying the groundwork for long-term decarbonization in hard-to-abate sectors.
- **EPA will play a major role in delivering these programs.** The Agency received \$41.5 billion in appropriated funds and expects to receive an additional \$11.7 billion in future revenue from reinstating the Superfund Tax on oil and gas production.



Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)

Empowering state and local governments on climate action

**Climate Pollution
Reduction Grants**

\$5 billion

from the Inflation Reduction
Act to fund innovative projects
that tackle climate pollution



Of \$41.5B in IRA funds appropriated to the US EPA, \$5B is for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program.

- CPRG will provide grants at the state, local, and Tribal levels to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement the measures contained in such plans.
- At least one grant will go to an eligible entity in every state.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)

Empowering state and local governments on climate action

The broad objectives of the CPRG program are:

- Tackle damaging climate pollution while supporting the creation of good jobs and lowering energy costs for families.
- Accelerate work to address environmental injustice and empower community-driven solutions in overburdened neighborhoods.
- Deliver cleaner air by reducing harmful air pollution in places where people live, work, play, and go to school.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)

Empowering state and local governments on climate action

The CPRG program has two overlapping phases:

Phase 1:

Formula allocated planning grants to develop a **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)**, a **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)**, and a report.

Phase 2:

Competitive implementation grants based on State and/or MSA PCAP.

LA-OC MSA CPRG Program



The EPA awarded the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Area (LA-OC MSA) a grant to develop a PCAP and CCAP to reduce GHG emissions and air pollution in the region.

- The County of Los Angeles is the designated lead agency for the MSA
- The development of the plans is being facilitated by a regional Steering Committee, which is being led by SCAG.
- The State of California is concurrently developing plans for the CPRG program, with the Air Resources Board (CARB) as lead agency.

LA-OC MSA CPRG Program



The EPA awarded the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Area (LA-OC MSA) a grant to develop a PCAP and CCAP to reduce GHG emissions and air pollution in the region.

- LA County has secured a consulting firm to assist with the development of the plans, and work initiated in July 2023.
- Outreach to and participation by eligible local agencies, community-based organizations, industry, and the public will be a key component of the plans' development.
- Outreach is set to begin in September 2023.

LA-OC MSA Workplan Overview

Building on Existing Plans:

- Built upon State, regional, and local policies
- Utilizes existing GHG inventories and climate action plans
- Prioritizes existing and “shovel-ready” projects and programs

Regional emission reduction strategies will focus on key sectors of:

- Transportation
- Energy
- Waste Management



INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Regional Measures and Project/Program Examples

Transportation

Electrification

- EV charging for passenger and goods movement
- EV infrastructure
- Bus electrification

VMT Reduction

- Transit capital
- Mobility hubs

Building Energy

- Building electrification (appliances, heat pumps, etc.)
- Building decarbonization
- Stationary source emissions reductions

Waste

- Carbon farming
- Waste management vehicle fleets
- Waste diversion

Breakout Questions

1. **What are the GHG reduction priorities of your agency/organization?**
2. **Do you have any ongoing or upcoming projects or programs that you're interested in seeking CPRG funding for?**
3. **What other opportunities for CPRG funding applications might exist in your jurisdiction or area?**



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CPRG Process & Engagement Timeline



- Initiate conversations with stakeholders
 - Share grant application guidelines & eligibility
 - Share potential measures and strategies drawn from existing CAPs for feedback
 - Identify stakeholders' existing/new candidate projects/programs
- Reconnect with stakeholders
 - Report back on measures included in PCAP
 - Begin coordinating applications with stakeholders
- PCAP submission to EPA



THANK YOU!

For questions about the CPRG program, please reach out to

shetty@scag.ca.gov



REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kim Clark, Program Manager, Resource Conservation & Resilient Communities, SCAG

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SCAG's Regional Demographic Workshop

- **Wednesday, Sept. 20 – 9am**
- In-Person & Online
- Featuring a discussion by leading experts on the SoCal's changing demographics and implications for housing, transportation, and sustainability
- Keynote address on cutting-edge research about generational differences
- AICP credits available for in-person attendees

For more information and to sign up:
scag.ca.gov/34th-annual-demographic-workshop

34TH ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP

**THE SEISMIC
GENERATIONAL SHIFT**

Sept. 20, 2023 | 9 a.m.
In-Person & Online

SCAG

USC
Price
Sol Price School
of Public Policy

scag.ca.gov/demographics



THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

<https://scag.ca.gov/regional-planning-working-groups>

For additional questions, please contact SCAGgreenregion@scag.ca.gov