

Open Space Conservation Working Group

Agenda

November 19, 2014 10:00am – 12:00pm

SCAG, 818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor, Policy Committee B, Los Angeles, CA, 90017

- I. Welcome & Self-Introductions
Peter Brandenburg – SCAG
- II. Overview of SCAG Conservation Planning (including links to 2012 and 2016 RTP/SCS)
Kristen Pawling – SCAG [Verbal Update]
- III. Purpose of Group
Kristen Pawling – SCAG [Attachment-Preliminary Purpose & Objectives]
- IV. Timeline/Subcommittee Structure (Data and GIS)
India Brookover and Jung Seo/Ping Wang – SCAG [Attachment – Timeline]
- V. Combined Habitat Assessment Protocol Overview
Tom O'Neil and Jennifer Bohanan – Northwest Habitat Institute
- VI. Potential Uses for SCAG Data and Assessment
Kristen Pawling – SCAG [Attachment – Potential Uses Summary]
- VII. Next Meeting- Agenda and Date
Proposed Next Date – December 17
- VIII. Adjourn

Join meeting via webinar:

<http://scag.adobeconnect.com/openspace/>

Audio:

Conference Number: United States: +18008320736

MeetingOne Conference Room Number: 7334636

Open Space Conservation Working Group Preliminary Purpose and Objective

For discussion and revision as group feels is appropriate.

Purpose: To gather a breadth of stakeholder input into the development and ongoing success of SCAG's Regional Open Space Planning efforts.

Objectives:

- Involve stakeholders in the development of open space recommendations for the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Gather and disseminate best practices from agencies across the region
- Provide specific direction for continuing SCAG Open Space Planning efforts.

Open Space Conservation Working Group Timeline

For discussion and revision as group feels is appropriate.

Phase I

Goal: Develop Open Space Recommendation for 2016-2040 RTP/SCS.

November 2014

- Overview of SCAG conservation planning and purpose of Open Space Working Group.
- Overview of Combined Habitat Assessment Protocol (CHAP).
- Discuss potential uses for SCAG Data and Assessment.

December 2014

- Presentation from NHI: Continue Framework & Assessment discussion. Overview of other habitat analysis methodologies.

January 2015

- Overview of current county-level transportation mitigation programs
- Develop subgroups.
 - Data
 - RTP/SCS Open Space policy recommendations

February 2015

- Overview of “Small Scale” Comprehensive Mitigation.

March 2015

- Present first draft of Best Practices Manual, receive feedback from group.

April 2015

- Overview of Climate Mitigation Framework options

May 2015

- Develop Open Space Recommendation for 2016-2040 RTP/SCS.

June 2015

- Finalize Open Space Recommendation for 2016-2040 RTP/SCS.

Phase II (Optional)

Goal: Develop Implementation Tools for 2016-2040 RTP/SCS Open Space Policy.

Potential Uses

SCAG asks the Open Space Conservation Working Group for feedback on these and any other potential uses for SCAG's open space efforts.

- *Compendium of existing local/other governmental open space practices:* SCAG would develop a comprehensive listing of every type of open space policy or program employed by local governments throughout the region. Additionally or instead of, SCAG could also develop a comprehensive listing of every type of open space policy or program used by other governmental entities, including transportation agencies. These lists would also include a comprehensive mapping exercise to identify the range of existing open space and opportunities. This would be the most basic of regional efforts in comparison to other proposed options.
- *Best practices manual (Local/Other Governmental Agency):* SCAG would build on the previous compendium described above to highlight best practices within the SCAG region.
- *Identification of priority conservation areas:* Similar to the land use scenario framework used by MTC, SCAG could pursue a priority conservation area framework and identify priority development areas.
- *Advanced transportation mitigation:* This direction would mirror and help to expand the advanced transportation mitigation programs as established by OCTA's Measure M. These policies hinge on a dedicated pool of funding and involve large-scale acquisitions as mitigation to a suite of transportation projects in order to achieve more cost-effective and habitat-conscious mitigation.
- *High Speed Rail advanced mitigation:* High Speed Rail will likely impact some of the region's open space areas and the Authority will be seeking programmatic mitigation opportunities. SCAG could develop a framework to prepare mitigation opportunities for High Speed Rail and other major transportation projects with regional impacts.
- *Climate mitigation framework:* The AB 32 Scoping Plan Update outlined the potential role of habitat conservation in mitigating climate change, along with the importance of exploring the types of habitats that can better capture carbon. The objective of this avenue would be to establish baselines and conduct scenario analysis for mitigating GHG emissions through land conservation.