

REGISTER TODAY FOR SCAG'S PREMIER ANNUAL EVENT

SCAG's 53rd Regional Conference and General Assembly will convene on May 3-4 at the Renaissance Indian Wells Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, CA. This year's program, themed "Southern California at a Crossroads," will feature a diverse slate of expert panels, keynote presentations and technical demonstrations designed to equip the region for navigating major changes. Nearly 1,000 of Southern California's most influential leaders and innovators are expected to attend, including local elected officials, CEOs, business and civic leaders, transportation and environmental stakeholders, local government staff and others. The conference will send attendees home with fresh insights and new resources to help them better address future challenges in their own communities. The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the region, and a special early bird is currently available. To register for the 2018 Regional Conference, visit scag.ca.gov/GA2018.

SHARE YOUR INPUT ON SCAG'S DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, SCAG released for public review and comment our new Draft 2018 Public Participation Plan. This updated plan was developed to reflect changes in communication technologies and public engagement best practices. In addition, the plan has been revised from previous to be more readable and accessible to a general audience, and more adaptable in anticipation of evolving technologies and practices. This plan is key to ensuring that our approach to public engagement is effective and inclusive, so please share your input!

SCAG's Draft 2018 Public Participation Plan is available for public review and comment period for 60 days, which will conclude on Saturday, April 21, at 11:59 p.m. (PST). The Draft Public Participation Plan is available on the [SCAG website](#). At the end of the comment period, staff will review, address and incorporate as appropriate all comments received. We anticipate bringing a draft final plan to the Regional Council for adoption in Summer 2018. To submit comments, or ask any further questions, please contact Margaret de Larios at delarios@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS LAUNCHES COLLABORATIVE OPEN-DATA MAPPING PROJECT

To assist with the development of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, SCAG has launched a new crowd-sourced data project calling on college and university students to help identify and map transit-supportive features in the region's neighborhoods. The programs and policies that will be mapped for this project will help identify how our region is meeting its climate change goals. Students will have the opportunity to contribute data that will aid SCAG in better understanding how neighborhood-oriented policies can encourage residents to take transit and to walk or bike more in their communities—thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the road and in traffic. A prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to the student with the highest number of confirmed data field entries. Submissions are due by May 31 - more information is available on the [RTP/SCS website](#).

UPDATE ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

On Feb. 21, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) shared an updated staff report that includes recommendations for regional targets for reducing per-capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Since Senate Bill 375 was passed in 2009, CARB has set targets at both the state and regional level for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. After an ongoing collaborative dialogue with SCAG and other agencies, CARB has proposed an updated target of a 19% per capita GHG reduction by 2035 in the SCAG region, which is consistent with the recommendation approved by the SCAG Regional Council in November 2017. This staff report makes recommendations for CARB Board actions at their March 22 meeting. In addition, CARB staff has proposed a broader target-update framework, with specifics to be further developed. The framework incorporates added reporting and tracking of investments, project performance analysis and implementation efforts related to the Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy. ARB staff is expected to convene working group meetings with the state's metropolitan planning organizations over the next several months to identify tools, incentives and tracking methodology, as well as to revise the SB 375 Program Guidelines. SCAG will continue to provide updates during this important process.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GOVERNOR BROWN'S RECENT TRANSPORTATION APPOINTEES

On Feb. 20, Governor Jerry Brown announced a set of new appointments to transportation leadership positions. SCAG sends hearty congratulations to the new appointees, including Secretary of Transportation Brian Annis, Caltrans HQ Director Laurie Berman, and CTC Commissioner (and chairwoman-elect) Fran Inman. Brian Annis, appointed secretary of the California State Transportation Agency, previously served as both acting secretary and undersecretary in the same agency. Laurie Berman, the incoming director of the California Department of Transportation, has served the agency for more than three decades, and served as director for Caltrans District 11 for eight years. Fran Inman was reappointed to the California Transportation Commission, where she has served since 2010. Inman has been founding president at Majestic Realty Foundation since 2002 and senior vice president at Majestic Realty Co. since 1996. We look forward to continuing our strong partnerships with California's transportation agencies and their leaders.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2018 SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SCAG is now accepting applications for its scholarship program through April 27. Our scholarship program offers financial support and professional development to the region's high school and community college students. Seven scholarships of \$4,000 will be awarded to eligible students across the six-county SCAG region. Winners will also complete a two-week internship with a local planning agency or council of governments, getting the opportunity to meet with elected officials and practicing planners to learn more about careers in public service. Community college students or high school juniors and seniors who live in the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino or Ventura are eligible to apply. Application materials and additional details are available at: www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship. If you have questions, contact Houston Laney at laney@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG HOSTED WEBINAR MANAGING RISKS FOR MUDSLIDES AND DEBRIS FLOWS

In response to the devastating fires and mudslides in the region, SCAG and the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society held a special webinar on Feb. 5 titled, "Rain after the Fire: Mudslides and Debris Flows." Dr. Lucy Jones, joined by weather forecasters and landslide scientists, shared detailed analysis on how hillsides move, especially when it rains after a fire. The special presentation drew 100 participants from approximately 60 different jurisdictions, providing valuable information for emergency managers, public works directors and other city officials. The webinar was recorded and presentation materials are archived on SCAG's [earthquake initiative webpage](#).

SCAG CLEAN CITIES COALITION 'RIDE AND LEARN' EVENT

In February, SCAG's Clean Cities Coalition team promoted and attended zero-emission vehicle "ride and learn" events in Torrance and Mission Viejo. The events were designed to educate attendees about a range of vehicle types, charging options and incentive programs that help provide rebates and other cost-reducing options for people who purchase zero-emission vehicles. Attendees were given the opportunity to test drive seven different vehicles, including: the Tesla Model S, Chevrolet Bolt EV, Nissan Leaf, BMW i3, Volkswagen e-Golf, Honda Clarity Electric and Honda Clarity Fuel Cell. Electrify America hosted the event as part of its \$2 billion investment plan in zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and education programs in the United States. Of this amount, \$800 million will be invested in California, in support of the state's goal to have five million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. For more information about the future of alternative fuel vehicles and SCAG's Clean Cities Coalition, visit the [program website](#).

SCAG SHARES RESEARCH WITH WESTERN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

In mid-February, the Western Regional Science Association (WRSRA) convened its annual meeting in Pasadena. Six SCAG staff joined the meeting to present research papers to the WRSRA community, which includes economists, geographers and planners who specialize in research on regions. SCAG's shared projects covered a range of topics including traffic safety, neighborhood income inequality and Census data applications. A number of these projects were in collaboration with faculty from U.C. Irvine, U.S.C., and Cal Poly Pomona. As the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, SCAG is a leading and respected figure in the field of regional analysis.

TRANSPORTATION TOWN HALL HOSTED BY ASM. LAURA FRIEDMAN

On Feb. 17, SCAG participated in a town hall discussion on the future of the region's transportation, hosted by California Assemblymember Laura Friedman. Sarah Jepson, SCAG's Manager of Active Transportation and Special Programs, joined a panel discussion to discuss our successful Go Human campaign and the importance of improving the accessibility of active transportation across the region. Other panelists included representatives from LA Metro, Move LA, Curbed LA, and the City of Glendale.

SCAG CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

On Feb. 15, SCAG hosted a joint conference with a delegation from South Korea, focusing on the application of big data in regional planning. The program featured research presentations from visiting Professor Myungjin Jun of Chung-Ang University and Professor Jaeik Kim of Keimyung University, as well as researchers from local universities including Cal Poly Pomona Professor Do Kim and U.S.C. professors Peter Gordon and Jim Moore. SCAG has also been hosting two volunteer interns from South Korea as part of an ongoing international partnership with Incheon National University. The visiting students developed practical planning skills through field study and guided research, learning how SCAG collaborates with key stakeholders to address diverse planning issues. Over the course of their internship, Yeongjin Seo conducted research on congestion pricing and Youngwoo Choi researched issues related to gentrification.

SCAG HOSTS FACULTY AND STUDENTS FROM UPENN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

On Feb. 13, SCAG hosted a discussion on infrastructure development strategy with a group of 20 faculty and graduate-level planning students visiting from the University of Pennsylvania. SCAG gave presentations on its overall mission and governance structure, innovative local development finance, goods movement issues and the recently completed transit ridership study. The half-day session generated a variety of ideas for continued collaboration, including further discussion of how to create public finance authorities and how to better link planning and financing mechanisms.