

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

September 2013

RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting



Center: Robert J. Leo, Ph.D., of CSUSB's Palm Desert Campus poses with, from left, SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhtrata, John Kawczynski, Bill Gray and SCAG 1st VP Carl Morehouse following presentation to Regional Council.

INFORMATION – STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN TRANSPORTATION & SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

The Regional Council received a presentation on a successful program testing the concept of youth participation in transportation and environmental sustainability planning and the program's transferability to other jurisdictions. Robert J. Leo, Ph.D., of the Palm Desert Campus of California State University, San Bernardino, outlined the campus' EXPO on Environment and Sustainability in Coachella Valley, where middle school students had the opportunity to present science and environmental projects and participate in sessions geared to sustainability planning, enabling them to assist in developing a Transportation and Environmental Sustainability component of their city's General Plan. The program allows students to see how decisions made in their municipality relate to the environment and helps them assist in the general planning process of a city. Learn more about student participation in Transportation & Environmental Sustainability Planning at <http://bit.ly/15VMKmw>.

ACTION – SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM PROJECT LIST APPROVED

The Regional Council approved SCAG's Sustainability Program list of projects and authorized the Executive Director to fund Phase I projects this year and seek additional state/federal funding for Phases II and III for FY 2014–15. The Sustainability Program builds on the success of SCAG's Compass Blueprint effort to provide services for communities and partners with two new components: Active Transportation and the Green Region Initiative. The 76 projects total \$10,024,300. Funds for projects being completed this fiscal year are in SCAG's Overall Work Program Budget, which include grant funds from federal, state and local sources. View the project list at <http://bit.ly/1d9f7Ne>.

ACTION – RC SUPPORTS VENTURA COUNTY'S UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM TEST SITE APPLICATION

The Regional Council voted to support Ventura County's application to the Federal Aviation Administration to become one of six civilian Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) test sites in the country. If selected, Ventura County would become a center of innovation for UAS and a significant number of jobs and economic benefit would be added to the SCAG region.

From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month

CITY MANAGERS MEETINGS – During the past month, several members of SCAG's Executive Team and I have been traveling throughout the region to meet with city managers to discuss items of mutual interest. I've been briefing them on topics such as activities taken to implement the approved 2012–2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), milestone input from the cities for RTP/SCS plan update, SCAG's legislative priorities, potential grant opportunities and getting their feedback on how we can continue to be of service to our members. During this period, we've met with the Imperial County cities, Western Riverside Council of Governments and member cities, San Bernardino Associated Governments and member cities, Coachella Valley Association of Governments and member cities and Orange County Council of Governments and member cities. During the upcoming months, I look forward to meeting with city managers in Los Angeles and Ventura counties to discuss similar topics.

HOUSING ELEMENT COMPLIANCE STATUS

SCAG completed its 5th Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) cycle with the adoption of the Final RHNA Allocation Plan by the Regional Council on Oct. 4, 2012 and approval of the Final Allocation Plan by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on Nov. 26, 2012. Local jurisdictions are required to adopt updated Housing Elements for the 5th planning cycle by Oct. 15, 2013. According to HCD, as of early last month, less than 50% of the 197 local jurisdictions in the SCAG region had submitted draft Housing Elements for review. Jurisdictions are advised to submit their updated 5th cycle Housing Elements to HCD as early as possible to ensure pre-review opportunity by HCD. Some jurisdictions do not yet have a certified 4th cycle Housing Element update. It is critical to ensure a certified 4th cycle Housing Element before the 5th cycle due next month. SCAG staff is available to facilitate this process.

SAVE THE DATE: 2014 SCAG REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SCAG will host the 49th Annual Regional Conference & General Assembly on May 1–2, 2014, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells Resort & Spa. Please mark your calendars for this important regional event that will feature high-profile keynote speakers, engaging panel discussions, live entertainment and more. Additional details and registration information will be available in the coming months.

GIS SERVICES PROGRAM

SCAG's GIS Services program welcomes the cities of San Dimas and La Puente. In San Dimas, 18 staff participated in customized training with curriculum that included data specifically drawn from their jurisdiction using the new version of ArcGIS software. In La Puente, SCAG staff restored the city's ArcGIS license and data sets which had been lost. SCAG staff is arranging to conduct approximately 20 trainings region-wide through December. For more information about the GIS program, visit <http://www.scag.ca.gov/mappingGIS.htm>.

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EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 17th Active Transportation Elected Official Breakfast
Toolbox Tuesdays: Parking Systems Management
- 18th 2013 League of California Cities Annual Conference & Expo
- 30th 2013 National Association of Regional Councils Executive Director's Conference

OCTOBER

- 3rd Regional Council & Policy Committee Meetings
- 15th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee Meeting
- 16th 2013 SCAG/Orange County Jobs & Labor Summit