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Energy and Environment Committee  
of the  
Southern California Association of Governments  
January 5, 2012

*Minutes*

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Energy and Environment Committee held its meeting at the SCAG office, in Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. Margaret Clark, Chair. There was a quorum.

**Members Present**

Hon. Lisa Bartlett, Dana Point	TCA
Hon. Denis Bertone, San Dimas	SGVCOG
Hon. Brian Brennan, San Buenaventura	VCOG
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	District 32
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake	WRCOG
Hon. Larry Forester, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. David Gafin, Downey	District 25
Hon. James Johnson, Long Beach	District 30
Hon. Phil Luebben, Cypress	OCCOG
Hon. Thomas Martin, Maywood	GCCOG
Hon. Dan Medina, Gardena	SBCCOG
Hon. Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Sam Pedroza, Claremont	SGVCOG
Hon. Jack Terrazas	Imperial County
Hon. Cheryl Viegas Walker, El Centro	District 1
Hon. Mark Waldman, La Palma	OCCOG
Hon. Edward Wilson, Signal Hill	Gateway Cities
Hon. Dennis Zine, City of Los Angeles	District 50

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Mark Calac	Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
Hon. Keith Hanks, Azusa	District 33
Hon. Lupe Ramos Watson, Indio	CVAG
Hon. Ed Scott, Rialto	SANBAG
Hon. Sam Toles, Cathedral City	CVAG

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Hon. Margaret Clark, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **Approval Items**

#### 1. Minutes of November 16, 2011 Special Meeting

A motion was made (Pedroza) to approve the Consent Calendar with a correction to reflect Hon. Phil Luebben being present and minor grammatical errors were clarified. The motion was seconded (Forester) and unanimously approved.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### 2. Green Region Initiative

Grieg Asher, SCAG Staff, reported to the EEC that SCAG anticipates it will submit the “call-for-projects” small grant program and release the applications and explanation package next month. The goal of the program is to provide a member service for communities in the area of sustainability including climate action plans, energy plans, and other environmental resources and transportation issues. There is \$150,000 in the current budget to start this round of funding. Staff’s intent is to increase this amount over future years.

#### 3. 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Goods Movement Environmental Strategy

Alison Linder, SCAG Staff, informed the EEC that over the past four years SCAG has been involved in a comprehensive regional planning strategy for goods movement, in partnership with a variety of stakeholders. As a result, SCAG developed an environmental strategy which is now in the 2012 RTP. SCAG would like to see a world-class goods movement system that improves the economic vitality of the region, helps the region attain clean air standards, and improves the quality of life.

The majority of the SCAG region is currently in non-attainment of Federal air quality standards and the deadline for Ozone attainment is 2023, with stricter deadlines to follow. Mobil sources, in particular on-road trucks, are one of the key contributors to NOx emissions in the region which is a precursor to Ozone. Previous solutions to reduce NOx have included engine replacements or retro fits. Staff research shows that by 2023 these solutions will no longer help achieve the dramatic reductions necessary to meet the attainment deadlines. Therefore, the RTP calls for advancement in technologies needed for the region within goal for a zero emissions goods movement system. SCAG does not anticipate that the system will necessarily be ready by 2023 yet believes is important that SCAG lay the foundation to have the system in place by 2035 if technology is available.

The goods movement environmental strategy is two-pronged, with a focus on near-term and long-term efforts. In the near-term the focus is obtaining the existing and available technologies as quickly as possible and, expanding their use. In the long-term we the focus on a more fundamental shift in technology and to take steps towards a phased implementation of a zero emissions goods movement system. This includes planning for infrastructure that can incorporate technologies as they evolve. The emphasis on near-term and long-term is to allow a simultaneous promotion of existing technologies while accelerating the development of even more advance technologies that are not yet ready for full commercialization.

SCAG has created a four-phase Action Plan to roll out the strategy:

- 1) Project scoping and evaluation of existing work
- 2) Evaluation, development and prototype demonstrations
- 3) Initial deployment and operation demonstration
- 4) Full scale demonstrations and commercial deployment

An important part of the strategy is a near-term focus on what is already currently available. Two types of trucks that are currently available are natural gas and hybrid-electric. Natural gas trucks are already in use at the ports and have comparable ranges to diesel trucks. However, one obstacle is the lack of range due to limited refueling infrastructure and small on-board storage on the trucks. Hybrid-electric trucks do contain an internal combustion engine as well as a battery that absorbs energy through a regenerative braking. The incremental cost of this truck is the largest barrier to its market penetration, but some of this has the potential to be offset through incentive programs. Hybrid-electric trucks are estimated to reduce between 8-62% of NOx and between 4-45% of PM 2.5. Trucks that are still under development include battery-electric, fuel cell, and plug-in hybrids. These trucks can reduce up to 100% of NOx and between 58-98% of PM 2.5.

Honorable Margaret Clark opened the public comment period.

Mr. Peter Greenwald, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), stated that SCAQMD wanted to express its support for the air quality approach to goods movement which is included in the Draft RTP. In particular, the SCAQMD wants to support the strategic plan objective of transitioning to broad use of zero and near zero emission technologies in the coming decade. Transition to such technologies will be necessary for the SCAG region to attain Federal air quality standards and maintain Federal transportation funding. The SCAQMD also supports the inclusion of steps to move toward this strategic goal, such as near term actions to conduct technology evaluations and demonstrations to support infrastructure decisions that would go into the next RTP.

Mr. Max Pike, California Environmental Associates, consultants on behalf of the American Association of Railroads (AAR), stated that AAR appreciated SCAG's interest in pursuing goods movement zero emission technology. He cautioned the Committee that some of this technology is not necessarily yet in existence. When it is in development, there are a number of steps that have to be taken before it can actually be deployed by the railroads. There are significant safety measures required on the Federal level as well as requirements in terms of tractive efforts. While a continued study is important the region needs to be realistic about what is achievable.

Hon. Margaret Clark closed the public comment period.

#### 4. Status Report on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, informed the EEC that SCAG posted and circulated the Draft PEIR on December 30, 2011. The complete Draft PEIR is now posted on SCAG's website and can be downloaded in multiple formats. Posting the Draft PEIR begins the formal public review period. Public comments for the Draft PEIR will close on February 14, 2012. SCAG is encouraging all of its stakeholders to comment on the Draft PEIR and Draft RTP with any pertinent issues they would like SCAG to consider prior to bringing the planning process to a close in early Spring.

**5. Draft 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Process – Next Steps**

Douglas Williford, SCAG Staff, stated that SCAG would be focusing on a series of twelve workshops throughout the region, two in each county, as well as public hearings on the Draft RTP/SCS and PEIR. Dates and locations have been posted on SCAG's website. The workshops are intended to be specifically focused for the benefit of elected officials. SCAG is also directing its outreach to the public. The workshops take place within the public review time frame and will be concluded by the first week in February. The public review period ends February 14, so there is substantial time after the workshops conclude for people to hear, consider, and comment before the period closes. In the month of March SCAG will hold a joint policy committee to consider the Draft RTP/SCS and to make a formal recommendation to the Regional Council (RC) for the April RC meeting. At that time the RC will be asked to adopt the final RTP/SCS to certify the final PEIR.

**CHAIR'S REPORT** - None

**STAFF REPORT** – The nomination process for the sixth annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards Program, that is part of the General Assembly, is now open. Nomination packets are now available.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hon. Margaret Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

The next meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at the SCAG Los Angeles Office.

Action Minutes Approved by:

  
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Jacob Lieb, Manager  
Environmental and Assessment  
Services

**Energy and Environment Committee Attendance Report**

2012

Member (including Ex-Officio) LastName, FirstName	Date Appointed if after 1/1/12	Representing	X = County Represented						X = Attended Black Shading = Dark NM = New Member												Total Mtgs Attended		
			Imperial	Los Angeles	Orange	Riverside	San Bernardino	Ventura	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
Bartlett, Lisa*		OCCOG			X					X													1
Bertone, Denis		SGVCOG		X						X			G										1
Brennan, Brian		VCOG							X	X			E										1
Calac, Mark*		Pechanga					X						N										
Clark, Margaret*		Rosemead		X						X			E										1
Ehrenkranz, Jordan		WRCOG					X			X			R										1
Englander, Mitchell*		Los Angeles		X									A										
Forester, Larry		Gateway Cities		X						X			L										1
Gafin, David*		Downey		X						X													1
Hanks, Keith		Azusa		X									A										
Johnson James		Long Beach		X						X			S										1
Land, Abbe		Westside Cities		X									S										
Luebben, Phil		Cypress				X				X			E										1
Martin, Thomas		GCCOG		X						X			M										1
Medina, Dan		SBCCOG		X						X			B										1
Mitchell, Judy*		SBCCOG		X						X			L										1
Pedroza, Sam		SGVCOG		X						X			Y										1
Ramos Watson, Lupe		CVAG					X																
Scott, Edward		SANBAG						X															
Terrazas, Jack		Imperial County	X							X													1
Toles, Sam		CVAG					X																
Viegas Walker, Cheryl*		El Centro	X							X													1
Waldman, Mark		La Palma		X						X													1
Wilson, Edward		Signal Hill		X						X													1
Zine, Dennis*		Los Angeles		X						X													1
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>															