

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700 Los Angeles, CA 90017 **T:** (213) 236-1800 www.scag.ca.gov

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Transportation Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

# **REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

To Participate on Your Computer: https://scag.zoom.us/j/317727062

*To Participate by Phone:* Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 317 727 062

# Please see next page for detailed instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

#### **PUBLIC ADVISORY**

Given recent public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Peter Waggonner at (213) 630-1402 or via email at waggonner@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1402. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



# **Instructions for Public Comments**

You may submit public comments in two (2) ways:

1. Submit written comments via email to: <u>EECPublicComment@scag.ca.gov</u> by 5pm on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

All written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

2. If participating via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function on your computer or \*9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

If unable to connect by Zoom or phone and you wish to make a comment, you may submit written comments via email to: <u>EECPublicComment@scag.ca.gov</u>.

In accordance with SCAG's Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is "willfully interrupted" and the "orderly conduct of the meeting" becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.



# **Instructions for Participating in the Meeting**

SCAG is providing multiple options to view or participate in the meeting:

### To Participate and Provide Verbal Comments on Your Computer

- 1. Click the following link: <u>https://scag.zoom.us/j/317727062</u>
- If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click "Download & Run Zoom" on the launch page and press "Run" when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
- 3. Select "Join Audio via Computer."
- 4. The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, "Please wait for the host to start this meeting," simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
- 5. During the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function located in the participants' window and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

### To Listen and Provide Verbal Comments by Phone

- 1. Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully.
- 2. Enter the Meeting ID: 317 727 062, followed by #.
- 3. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing **#** to continue.
- 4. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
- 5. During the Public Comment Period, press \*9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.



#### EEC - Energy and Environment Committee Members – April 2021

- 1. Hon. David Pollock EEC Chair, Moorpark, RC District 46
- 2. Hon. Deborah Robertson EEC Vice Chair, Rialto, RC District 8
- **3. Hon. Cindy Allen** Long Beach, RC District 30
- 4. Hon. Victoria Baca Moreno Valley, WRCOG
- 5. Hon. Ana Beltran Westmorland, ICTC
- 6. Hon. Daniel Brotman Glendale, AVCJPA
- 7. Hon. Margaret Clark Rosemead, SGVCOG
- 8. Hon. Robert Copeland Signal Hill, GCCOG
- 9. Hon. Maria Davila South Gate, GCCOG
- **10. Hon. Ned Davis** Westlake Village, LVMCOG
- **11. Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz** Canyon Lake, WRCOG
- **12. Hon. Julian Gold** Beverly Hills, WSCCOG
- **13. Hon. Shari Horne** Laguna Woods, OCCOG
- 14. Hon. Britt Huff Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG
- **15. Hon. Dan Kalmick** Huntington Beach, OCCOG

#### **OUR MISSION**

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.



- **16. Hon. Joe Kalmick** Seal Beach, RC District 20
- **17. Hon. Elaine Litster** Simi Valley, VCOG
- **18. Hon. Diana Mahmud** South Pasadena, SGVCOG
- **19. Hon. Cynthia Moran** Chino Hills, SBCTA
- 20. Hon. Oscar Ortiz Indio, CVAG
- **21. Sup. Luis Plancarte** Imperial County
- 22. Hon. Randall Putz Big Bear Lake, RC District 11
- 23. Sup. Carmen Ramirez Ventura County
- 24. Hon. Greg Raths Mission Viejo, OCCOG
- 25. Hon. Richard Rollins Port Hueneme, VCOG
- **26. Hon. Rhonda Shader** Placentia, Pres. Appt.(Member at Large)
- **27. Hon. Jesus Silva** Fullerton, Pres. Appointment (Member at Large)
- **28. Hon. Sharon Springer** Burbank, SFVCOG
- **29. Hon. Connor Traut** Buena Park, OCCOG
- **30. Hon. John Valdivia** San Bernardino, SBCTA
- **31. Hon. Edward Wilson** Signal Hill, GCCOG

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Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:30 AM

The Energy and Environment Committee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

#### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (The Honorable David Pollock, Chair)

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments by sending an email to: <u>EECPublicComment@scag.ca.gov</u> by 5pm on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. Such comments will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to verbally address the Energy and Environment Committee will be allowed up to 3 minutes to speak, with the presiding officer retaining discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting. The presiding officer has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of comments received and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

#### **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **ELECTION OF EEC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – February 4, 2021

#### Receive and File

- 2. Quarterly Update on Climate Change Action Resolution Activities
- 3. Updated Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program Subregional Allocation Amounts Based on Final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation
- 4. Sustainable Communities Program Housing & Sustainable Development Applications



#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

5.	2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Framework	Development 20 Mins.
(Ja:	son Greenspan, Manager of Sustainability)	
6.	Accelerated Electrification Key Connection Workplan	15 Mins.
(Al	ison Linder, Senior Regional Planner)	
7.	San Gabriel Mountains Access Program	30 Mins.
(Br	yan Matsumoto, Nature For All)	
СН	AIR'S REPORT	
(Th	e Honorable David Pollock, Chair)	
ST/	AFF REPORT	
(Gr	ieg Asher, SCAG Staff)	
FU	TURE AGENDA ITEM/S	
AN	NOUNCEMENT/S	

ADJOURNMENT



Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only April 1, 2021

#### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <<u>http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/></u>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) held its meeting telephonically and electronically given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

#### Members Present

Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Chair)	District 46
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto (Vice Chair)	District 8
Hon. Cindy Allen, Long Beach	District 30
Hon. Victoria Baca, Moreno Vallery	WRCOG
Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland	ICTC
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake	WRCOG
Hon. Julian Gold, Beverly Hills	WSCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio	CVAG
Sup. Luis Plancarte	Imperial County
Hon. Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake	District 11
Sup. Carmen Ramirez	Ventura County
Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG

### REPORT



Hon. Rhonda Shader, Placentia Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill President's Appointment SFVCOG SBCCOG GCCOG

<u>Members Not Present</u> Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate Hon. Laura Hernandez, Port Hueneme Hon. Jesus Silva, Fullerton

GCCOG District 45 President's Appointment

#### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair David Pollock called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair David Pollock and SCAG staff provided instructions for public comment. Chair Pollock opened the Public Comment Period.

SCAG staff announced that 11 public comments were received prior to the deadline for written public comments on Wednesday, February 3 at 5pm, and those comments have been transmitted to members. No public comments were received after the deadline.

Seeing there were no public comment speakers, Chair Pollock closed the Public Comment Period.

#### **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

#### **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### 1. 2021 FTIP Conformity Determination

Rongsheng Luo, Air Quality and Conformity Program Manager, provided a presentation, beginning with background on the FTIP. He reviewed past steps, including the Regional Council's authorization of the Draft 2021 FTIP's release for a 30-day comment and review period. He outlined comments received, noting all comments were technical in nature and did not affect conformity. He stated that summary of comments and SCAG staff's responses are included in the packet, and he



confirmed that the proposed Final 2021 FTIP continues to demonstrate transportation conformity. He elaborated on the five conformity tests sustained. In conclusion, he stated staff's recommendation and outlined next steps.

Councilmember Rhonda Shader, Placentia, President's Appointment, thanked staff for their work and noted the importance of this document.

A MOTION was made (Shader) to Recommend that the Regional Council approve the transportation conformity determination for the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program; and direct staff to submit it to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval at its March 4, 2021 meeting. Motion was SECONDED (Valdivia) and passed by the following votes:

- AYE/S: Allen, Baca, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Ehrenkranz, Gold, Horne, Huff, Kalmick, Litster, Mahmud, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Raths, Robertson, Rollins, Shader, Springer and Valdivia (24)
- NOE/S: None (0)
- ABSTAIN/S: None (0)

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

#### Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting - January 7, 2021

#### Receive and File

- 3. Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities
- 4. Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) Program Summary and Status

A MOTION was made (Plancarte) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Huff) and passed by the following votes:

AYE/S: Allen, Baca, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Davis, Ehrenkranz, Gold, Horne, Huff, Litster, Mahmud, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Raths, Robertson, Rollins, Shader, Springer and Valdivia (25)



NOE/S: None (0)

ABSTAIN/S: None (0)

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### 5. SoCal Greenprint Update

India Brookover, Associate Regional Planner, provided a presentation on SoCal Greenprint, covering progress made and background information. She began by describing the Greenprint as a tool to help users make better land use and transportation infrastructure decisions to support conversation investments based on the best available scientific data. She demonstrated how the tool will appear to users, and she stated that it will be freely available, requiring no special training. She noted that The Nature Conversancy and its subconsultant were selected given their experience developing similar platforms, including a comparable tool for the Bay Area.

Ms. Brookover continued by highlighting goals of the SoCal Greenprint, which were developed in conjunction with stakeholder outreach. She described the SoCal Greenprint's alignment with Connect SoCal, the recently adopted resolution on climate change and the Governor's 30x30 Executive Order. She further addressed stakeholder engagement, listing engaged stakeholders such as Audubon, Native American Land Conservancy and UCLA. With input from stakeholders, data was organized into six themes, such as agriculture and water. She continued by noting key users and synergy with SCAG's housing efforts. In conclusion, she presented the project timeline, reviewed accomplishments in the past year and projected next steps.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, commented on balancing growth with conservation, and she described relevant housing bills that impede local control.

Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, thanked staff for their work and commented on the work of The Nature Conservancy, specifically in terms of conservation easements which protect use. She continued by highlighted a wildlife corridor project in Ventura County, and concluded by noting the need for housing, while balancing this need with conservation.

Councilmember Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, asked for details on the online outreach campaign. Ms. Brookover described webinars and training sessions planned. Abby Ramsden of The Nature Conservancy elaborated on outreach strategies and plans.

Councilmember Julian Gold, Beverly Hills, WSCCOG, asked about metrics for success and whether there are measures for user experience or impact. Abby Ramsden, The Nature Conservancy, commented on the importance of balancing transparency with trackability. Ms. Ramsden spoke



about intentions of developing case studies which illustrate use and guide development.

Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, commented about the 30x30 goal and asked for current statistics on open space and areas to be prioritized for open space and water use. Ms. Brookover clarified that this goal is a Governor's initiative, and this is not a goal of the Greenprint itself, although the Greenprint can be used to find land to prioritize for conservation. Ms. Ramsden spoke about The Nature Conservancy's advocacy around the 30x30 goal, and she specified that the Greenprint shares relevant information relevant to the goal.

Councilmember Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, asked a follow-up question about the percentage of habitat land currently conserved. Ms. Brookover commented that this is being determined by the Governor's Office.

#### 6. GO-Biz Market Development Strategy

Joseph Cryer, Associate Regional Planner, introduced Tyson Eckerle of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Mr. Cryer reviewed the five implementation strategies for Connect SoCal and highlighted the key connection of accelerated electrification. He elaborated on relevant ongoing projects which SCAG is spearheading, such as a regional roadmap for truck infrastructure, grants to bring electric and hydrogen buses to the region, a last-mile freight delivery program study and the annual sustainability awards.

Mr. Eckerle began his presentation on the Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Market Development Strategy by providing an overview on GO-Biz's overarching efforts. He then provided background on Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20 and policy directives which determined roles of various agencies. He continued by displaying Governor's Newsom's budget proposal, highlighting funding towards ZEVs and relevant initiatives. He explained that the ZEV Market Development Strategy was due on January 31 and updates will occur every three years. He discussed the organization of the strategy effort, based upon core principles such as equity and resilience. He then spoke about the pillars of the strategy, including vehicles, infrastructure, end users and workforce, and he followed by noting intended outcomes of the strategy.

Mr. Eckerle shared an overview of agencies included in the ZEV Market Development Strategy and their respective objectives. He then identified stakeholders and highlighted relevant objectives of each. He continued by outlining objectives of cities and counties, such as reducing car dependence, streamlining permitting and creating emissions free zones. He closed by speaking about objectives of metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), like including ZEV policies in Sustainable Community Strategies and Regional Transportation Plans and developing regional readiness plans. In closing, he underscored GO-Biz's website as a source for additional information.



Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, commented on difficulties for renters to install ZEV infrastructure, as installation is dependent on property owners. She asked about incentives for property owners of older buildings, where the cost of installing infrastructure may be significant. Mr. Eckerle acknowledged these difficulties and talked about a relevant tax credit program, the CALeVIP program. He elaborated on efforts to install charging plazas and hydrogen fueling stations, while noting that overnight charging options are more convenient and that work in this area is ongoing. Councilmember Mahmud recommended considering a property tax deduction tied to installation of ZEV infrastructure.

Councilmember Julian Gold, Beverly Hills, WSCCOG, commented on the importance of the topic and asked if transmission capacity has been considered by the administration. He noted concerns of potential overload and associated costs. Mr. Eckerle stated that this issue was being considered and that key agencies like the California Energy Commission and California Public Utilities Commission were analyzing both charger need and back-end grid. He spoke about vehicle-grid integration through managed charging, which can decrease the amount of energy consumed, and he also addressed hydrogen charging, touching upon the medium- and heavy-duty sectors.

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, asked about available resources for planning and conversions of municipal fleet to ZEVs. Mr. Eckerle shared ZEV-readiness plans and mentioned possible funding through the California Energy Commission. He also remarked on resources from the Department of General Services pertaining to vendor agreements. Joseph Cryer highlighted the Alternative Fuels Data Center as a resource, and he noted shared purchase agreements from the City of Los Angeles as an additional resource. Mr. Cryer also spoke about relevant policy initiatives planned by SCAG, and he offered to further discuss via email.

#### 7. Food Waste Recycling Program (SB1383/AB1826)

Ms. Maria Rosales-Ramirez of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District presented a Virtual Tour of the Food Waste Recycling Program. She began her presentation with a video clip from the movie "Back to the Future," in which waste was used to fuel a vehicle, and she compared this to current efforts at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. She provided background on the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, including its mission and its operations, spanning material recycling to green energy production. She reiterated the ability of the Sanitation District to turn waste into resources. She provided statistics on local waste which ends up in landfills, noting that nine million tons of waste in the county is buried in landfills annually, and one-third of such waste is organic. She reviewed state regulations which require organics to be diverted from landfills, highlight AB 1826 and SB 1383. AB 1826 requires composting or anaerobic digestion for establishments if more than two cubic yards per week is generated, and SB 1383 sets reduction requirements in landfilled organic waste.

### REPORT



She showcased the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF), which handles recycling, and the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant, where wastewater is treated. She spoke about anaerobic digesters in the Joint Water Pollution Control (JWPC) Plant and its connection to food waste recycling. She delineated steps of food waste recycling, from intake to output. She explained that, at Los Angeles Sanitation District, food waste recycling begins with collecting source-separated food and delivering it to the PHMRF. She explained that 30 tons per day of food waste is "slurried" at PHMRF, she displayed a video of the process, which she compared to a "food press." She noted the ability of the PHMRF to separate plastic products, like bags and utensils, from the food waste. Food waste is then "slurry" and put into tanks prior to being pumped into tanker trucks and taken to JWPC, where anerobic digestion occurs. She described the process of food waste and wastewater solids digestion, in which bacteria eat this content and release methane gas. The gas that is produced is used to generate power via jet engines. She stated that the plant produces 20 megawatts of energy, enough to power 20,000 homes. This energy powers the plant and is put onto the grid. Surplus biogas is used as vehicle fuel, and she explained the refining process prior to storage and distribution. Los Angeles County Sanitation District's existing fueling station is now supplied by this surplus biogas, so trash collection trucks are fueled by the trash that is collected. In total, Los Angeles Sanitation District processes about 300 tons per day of slurry, and slurry is received from a variety of disposal companies and services. She explained the goal of doubling production, and she hypothesized future uses for the biogas, like injection into natural gas pipelines. She closed by announcing scheduled virtual tours to provide more technical information.

Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, asked for background on why waste sources are combined in household receptacles, and he suggested separation as a way to reduce waste. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez suggested that this is a question for jurisdictions, who determine what trash service is provided.

Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, thanked Ms. Rosales-Ramirez for her presention and commented on a company in Oxnard, Gil's Onions, which recycles 100 percent of their onion waste into electricity through an anaerobic process.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, commented on her work as a part of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Taskforce, and she spoke about SB 1383 penalty mandated. She complemented the program and asked if metals can also be separated from waste. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez explained that the machine can become stuck, and she talked about the importance of education in terms of separating waste sources.

Councilmember Sharon Springer, Burbank, SFVCOG, asked about leftover pulp from the process. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez stated that the residual pulp is landfilled.



Councilmember Elaine Litster, Simi Valley, VCOG, asked if specific portions of green waste can be processed similarly to food waste. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez responded that it can be done, but she noted concern about green waste dulling the blades of the system in place, as the machine is not designed to handle this material. She specified that the PHMRF does handle green waste, but in a different manner.

Chair David Pollock asked about food waste from homes, and whether it should be disposed of through the trash or through the garbage disposal system, which reaches the sewer system. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez postulated that it may be better to use the garbage disposal into the sewer system, as food waste in landfills could release methane for 30 years, while anaerobic digestion can occur in 14 days.

Chair Pollock thanked Ms. Maria Rosales-Ramirez for her presentation. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez thanked members and shared contact information for Los Angeles County Sanitation District staff.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pollock welcomed new EEC members Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Regional Councilmember Laura Hernandez, Regional Councilmember Randall Putz, Regional Councilmember Cindy Allen, and Regional Councilmember Joe Kalmick, who provided brief introductions.

Chair Pollock announced that there with be a Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees in March, and there will not be an EEC meeting in March.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

There was no Staff Report provided.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:08 a.m.





Respectfully submitted, Peter Waggonner Energy and Environment Committee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC] //

#### **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT**

2020-21														
MEMBERS	Representing	Jun (GA)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Allen, Cindy	Long Beach, District 30									1				1
Baca, Victoria	Moreno Valley, WRCOG								1	1				2
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC		0		0	0	0		1	1				2
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, AVCJPA		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, SGVCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Davila, Maria	South Gate, GCCOG		0		0	0	0		0	0				0
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Ehrenkranz, Jordan	Canyon Lake, WRCOG		0		0	0	1		0	1				2
Gold, Julian	Beverly Hills, WSCCOG								1	1				2
Hernandez, Laura	Port Hueneme, District 45									0				0
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG						1		1	1				3
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, District 20									1				1
Mahmud, Diana	So. Pasadena, SGVCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Moran, Cynthia	Chino Hills, SBCTA	D	1	D	1	0	1	D	1	1				5
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, CVAG	Α	1	Α	1	1	1	Α	1	1				6
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County	R	1	R	1	1	1	R	1	1				6
Pollock, David (CHAIR)	Moorpark, VCOG	Κ	1	Κ	1	1	1	Κ	1	1				6
Putz, Randall	Big Bear Lake, District 11									1				1
Ramirez, Carmen	Oxnard, RC District 45		1		1	1	1			1				5
Raths, Greg	Mission Viejo, OCCOG		1		1	1	0		1	1				5
Robertson, Deborah (VICE CHAIR)	Rialto, RC District 8		1		1	1	0		1	1				5
Rollins, Richard	Port Hueneme, VCOG		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Shader, Rhonda	Placentia, President's Appointment		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Silva, Jesus	Fullerton, President's Appointment				0	1	1		1	0				3
Springer, Sharon	Burbank, SFVCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Valdivia, John	San Bernardino, SBCCOG		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Wilson, Edward H.J.	Signal Hill, GCCOG		1		0	1	1		0	1				4

Packet Pg. 16



Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only April 1, 2021

То:	Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD) Transportation Committee (TC)				
	Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)				
From:	Kimberly Clark, Program Manager I				
	(213) 236-1844, clark@scag.ca.gov				
Subject:	Quarterly Update on Climate Change Action Resolution Activities				

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Apise

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Receive and File** 

#### STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On January 7, 2021, the Regional Council adopted Resolution 21-628-1 affirming a climate change crisis in Southern California and called on SCAG and other local and regional partners to join together to further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve regional resilience, and reduce hazards from a changing climate. The Regional Council's action will help to promote climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience in support of the 197 jurisdictions in Southern California and the 19 million residents who call the SCAG region home. This report serves as an update on the agency's progress for implementing the Resolution. Quarterly updates will be provided to the Energy and Environment Committee, which will oversee the work through the next several years.

#### BACKGROUND:

Resolution No. 21-628-1 calls on SCAG to pursue a number of activities to address climate change in order to strengthen regional resilience. These actions emphasize both adaptation to emerging climate-related hazards, as well as mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions to reduce the region's impacts from a changing climate. Importantly, the Regional Council's action underscores the need to strengthen partnerships amongst local governments with resources, technical assistance and other support for jurisdictions' climate-related planning initiatives. It also advances several goals, policies, and key connections from Connect SoCal.



Over the last several months, SCAG has been working to:

- Develop a regional resilience framework to help the region plan and prepare for a changing climate and other potential near- and long-term disruptions to Southern California;
- Initiate a regional climate planning network that will provide technical assistance for local climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives;
- Provide resource support and technical assistance for local jurisdictions to integrate climate planning in their local planning activities;
- Initiate a regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP) as described in the Connect SoCal PEIR;
- Develop a work plan to advance the Accelerated Electrification strategy envisioned in Connect SoCal;
- Evaluate the economic and job creation benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation practices for inclusion in regional planning efforts; and
- Develop climate adaptation and mitigation analysis and strategies for the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

Additionally, SCAG will continue to develop programs and outreach strategies to support near-term adaptation to address regionally significant vulnerabilities and long-term regional resilience planning.

#### **Recent Initiatives**

**Regional Resilience**: SCAG staff implemented a cross-departmental Resilience Policy Lab that has been developing the foundations of a regional resilience framework to explore pressing issues and potential near- and long-term disruptions to Southern California, such as extreme weather, drought, wildfires, pandemics, earthquakes and economic shocks. The regional resilience framework will also consider the potential degree of disruption to the region that could result from land based, atmospheric, public health and geologic natural hazards. Overall, it will help identify pathways for developing future regional and local plans, including those addressing resilience, emergency preparedness and health equity. Opportunities for being better prepared for climate change and public health impacts may be prioritized, and implementation tools for local jurisdictions and partner agencies will be established. Moreover, understanding that climate adaptation infrastructure and mitigation practices will have economic and job creation benefits and that regional resilience will be an important element in post-pandemic activities region-wide, SCAG is developing an inclusive economic recovery strategy for Southern California that will consider these factors.

*Climate Planning Network:* SCAG staff have been engaging with local jurisdictions and other stakeholders to initiate a regional climate planning network that will complement existing regional



collaboratives and provide technical assistance for local jurisdictions' climate planning initiatives – including consensus building exercises and an information hub featuring a framework of effective mitigation strategies for cities and counties to use in climate action plans (CAPs) as well as a library of model policies that collectively foster climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. In these engagements, local jurisdictions have emphasized the need for resources to support climate adaptation and mitigation activities, including identifying funding resources to support climate action plans, general plan safety element updates, local hazard mitigation infrastructure financing plans, electric vehicle permitting, urban heat mitigation plans, organic waste reduction plans, wildlife corridor restoration plans, greenway connectivity master plans, among other efforts. SCAG staff have been monitoring emerging state and federal opportunities to this end and have been working to advance the allocation, distribution, and expenditure of resources to meet the region's needs.

**Regional Advance Mitigation:** Since the conservation and management of natural and farm lands serves as an important strategy to mitigate climate change-inducing greenhouse gas emissions, SCAG staff have partnered with The Nature Conservancy to develop options for the establishment of a RAMP. Work in this regard has involved stakeholder interviews with organizations in the region that have established habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, and multiple species habitat conservation plans. Overall, the RAMP will establish and/or supplement regional conservation and mitigation banks to offset impacts of transportation and other development projects.

Accelerated Electrification: Looking further into opportunities for climate mitigation, staff have been working to advance the Accelerated Electrification strategy adopted in Connect SoCal to provide a holistic and coordinated approach to decarbonizing or electrifying passenger vehicles, transit, and goods movement vehicles to go beyond benefits achieved through state mandates alone.

*Climate Adaptation Framework:* SCAG recently completed the <u>Southern California Regional Climate</u> <u>Adaptation Framework</u>, which serves as a resource for local planning that identifies the range of climate change hazards the SCAG region is likely to face in the coming decades. It also includes adaptation principles geared to the region, and it outlines a general process of adaptation planning that can be applied by any agency, no matter where they fall across the spectrums of funding, available resources, knowledge of vulnerabilities, and planning sophistication. It provides local agencies, including towns, cities, counties and subregional organizations with a compendium of tools, resources, and best practices to efficiently advance their adaptation planning using the best resources available. SCAG has been rolling out these tools to hundreds of stakeholders through one-one engagements with jurisdictions, subregional meetings, Toolbox Tuesday trainings, and presentations to the State of California's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program (ICARP).



Looking forward, SCAG staff will continue to provide quarterly updates to the Energy and Environment Committee on the agency's progress in fulfilling the direction of Regional Council on the completion of activities in Resolution No. 21-628-1.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Work for this effort is funded in SCAG's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Overall Work Program (OWP) under project 065-4092.01 (Adaptation Analysis).



Southern California Association of Governments **Remote Participation Only** April 1, 2021

То:	Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD) Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL	
	Transportation Committee (TC)	,	
	Regional Council (RC)	Kome	Anise
From:	Ma'Ayn Johnson, Regional Planner Specialist	100000	· · ·()
	(213) 236-1975, johnson@scag.ca.gov		0
Subject	Updated Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program Subregional		
	Allocation Amounts Based on Final Regional Housing Needs Assessme	nt	
	(RHNA) Allocation		

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Receive and File** 

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Based on Regional Council action at its March 5, 2020 meeting, SCAG has set aside half of its Regional Early Action Program (REAP) housing funding, or approximately \$23 million, for the Subregional Partnership Program. As part of its action, the Regional Council authorized staff to develop a process and formula to make funds available relative to each subregion's total share of regional housing need, as determined by the adopted Final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Plan. The 6<sup>th</sup> cycle Final RHNA Allocation Plan was adopted by the Regional Council on March 4, 2021 and SCAG staff has updated the REAP funding available for each subregion based on these amounts.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The REAP is one of two one-time planning programs enacted with the State 2019-20 Budget Act. Another one, the LEAP (or Local Early Action Program) program, is a formula grant program cities and counties are eligible for based on population size. Councils of government (COGs) such as SCAG are eligible for REAP program awards of planning funds of fixed amounts for planning activities that will accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance in implementing a jurisdiction's 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). SCAG is eligible to administer up to \$47 million in REAP funding for activities to support local governments and stakeholders in housing planning.



The REAP program authorizes subregional partnerships and encourages inter-governmental collaboration on projects that have a broader regional impact on housing. Based on Regional Council action at its March 5, 2020 meeting, of the \$47 million SCAG is eligible for, up to 50 percent, or approximately \$23 million, of this amount will be allocated to fund subregional partnership projects.

At its September 3, 2020 meeting, the Regional Council approved the Subregional Partnership Program (SRP) Guidelines that included program requirements, eligible projects and applicants, and the application process. The approved guidelines also included an estimate of the amount available for each subregional partner based on the draft RHNA allocation that was included in the same meeting agenda. A RHNA allocation is a quantification of existing and projected housing need for a jurisdiction for a certain planning period. For the 6<sup>th</sup> RHNA cycle, this planning period covers October 2021 through October 2029.

The development of the Final RHNA Allocation Plan included an appeals process in which jurisdictions and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) could request a change to any draft RHNA allocation. A total of 52 appeals were filed on 49 jurisdictions during the 45-day filing period. SCAG staff reviewed all appeals and prepared reports, which included staff recommendations on the appeal. Two appeals were withdrawn at the request of the jurisdictions that filed them.

The RHNA Appeals Board, a Subcommittee of the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee, reviewed 47 appeals throughout January 2021 and made determinations for each appeal. Of the appeals filed, two were partially granted. The County of Riverside received a 215 unit reduction and the City of Pico Rivera received a 2,917 unit reduction. Per State housing law and the adopted RHNA Appeals Procedures, the total number of successfully appealed units, or 3,132 units, were redistributed proportionally to all jurisdictions in the SCAG region. The changes in RHNA allocation were reflected in the Final RHNA Allocation plan that was adopted by the Regional Council on March 4, 2021.

Due to the changes resulting from the appeals process, SCAG staff has adjusted the amount available for each subregional partner identified in the approved SRP Guidelines.

	RHNA	REAP amount based on draft	REAP amount based on Final	REAP Allocation
Subregion	Total	<b>RHNA</b> allocation	<b>RHNA Allocation</b>	Change
City of Los Angeles	456,643	\$8,058,425	\$8,071,925	+\$13,500
Coachella Valley Association		\$558,207	\$558,918	+\$711



REPORT

of Governments	31,619			
Gateway Cities COG	71,678	\$1,316,458	\$1,316,458	\$0
Imperial County	15,993	\$282,190	\$282,703	+\$513
Las Virgenes-Malibu COG <sup>1</sup>	933	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
North Los Angeles County	15,663	\$276,459	\$276,870	+\$410
Orange County COG	183,861	\$3,244,579	\$3,250,049	+\$5,470
San Bernardino COG/SBCTA	138,110	\$2,437,454	\$2,441,324	+\$3,870
San Fernando Valley COG	34,023	\$600,395	\$601,413	+\$1,018
San Gabriel Valley COG	89,616	\$1,581,508	\$1,584,112	+\$2,604
South Bay Cities COG	34,179	\$603,172	\$604,171	+\$998
Unincorporated County of Los Angeles	90,052	\$1,589,326	\$1,591,819	+\$2,493
Unincorporated County of Riverside	40,647	\$721,086	\$721,086	\$0
Ventura COG	24,452	\$431,573	\$432,230	+\$657
Western Riverside COG	95,085	\$1,678,124	\$1,680,786	+\$2,661
Westside Cities COG	19,273	\$340,068	\$340,682	+\$614
Total	1,341,827	\$23,819,825	\$23,719,825	\$35,520

The subregional partners where the successful appeals occurred, the County of Riverside (unincorporated) and Gateway Cities Council of Governments, will not receive a reduction in their available SRP amounts though the regional share of RHNA allocation for these areas slightly decreased based on appeals results. The amount available to all other subregional partners have increased by varying amounts since their total share of the regional RHNA allocation increased due to the redistribution of successfully appealed units.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Per the SRP Guidelines, the minimum amount available for a subregion is \$100,000. After the approval of the SRP Guidelines, this subregion elected not to participate in the SRP.



Applications for SRP projects were due on December 1, 2020. All submitted applications have been approved and at the time of the writing of this staff report, SCAG staff is working with individual subregional partners on finalizing memorandums of understanding so that project work can begin. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2023. SCAG staff will continue to update its policy committees on SRP and other REAP project progress, as needed.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY 20-21 Overall Work Program (21-300.4872.01: Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants Program (AB 101)).



Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only April 1, 2021

То:	Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL
	Energy & Environment Committee (EEC) Transportation Committee (TC) Regional Council (RC)	Kome Ajise
From:	Lyle Janicek, Associate Regional Planner (213) 236-1966, janicek@scag.ca.gov	0
Subject:	Sustainable Communities Program - Housing & Sustainable Develope Applications	ment

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD:**

Recommend that the Regional Council approve the 2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD) applications and authorize staff to initiate the projects.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:**

Approve 2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD) applications and authorize staff to initiate the projects.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EAC, EEC AND TC:**

Receive and File

#### STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy. 4: Provide innovative information and value-added services to enhance member agencies' planning and operations and promote regional collaboration.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On November 5, 2020, the Regional Council approved the guidelines and scoring criteria for the 2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD) Call for Applications. The SCP is a multi-year program designed to support and implement the policies and initiatives of Connect SoCal, the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and continues the themes of the previous round of funded projects.



Upon Regional Council approval of guidelines, staff released the SCP Housing and Sustainable Development Call for Applications and received a total of twenty-six (26) project proposals across all project categories and types by the January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 deadline.

Staff has completed an evaluation of proposals and has identified that all twenty-six (26) projects meet the SCP program requirements, pending staff verification for Regional Early Action Program (REAP) guidelines. Approximately \$4.8 million in State planning resources are expected to be available to cover anticipated project expenses based on the HSD program's inclusion in REAP final application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff is seeking Regional Council approval of all HSD applications and authorization to begin contacting project sponsors in order to develop a program schedule and initiate projects.

#### BACKGROUND:

#### Consolidated Call for Proposals

A consolidated SCP Call for Applications framework with associated guidelines and scoring criteria was developed by SCAG staff to support innovative approaches for addressing and solving regional issues. The revised program identified specific project types that provide practical, relevant strategies for meeting SB 375 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and queue jurisdictions for future funding opportunities. This approach allows SCAG to maximize benefits from available resources within the restrictive conditions associated with funding sources.

Rather than providing direct grants to jurisdictions, the HSD program provides resources and direct technical assistance to complete projects. Resources will be provided:

- To encourage development and preservation of diverse housing types in areas that are supported by multiple transportation options;
- To create dynamic, connected, built environments that support multimodal mobility, reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles, and reduce VMT;
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality;
- To support healthy and equitable communities;
- To complement and increase competitiveness for state funding programs, including by increasing the number of cities with "pro-housing local policies" focusing on location efficient development and access to opportunity to receive preference in designated state programs; and
- To employ strategies to mitigate negative community impacts associated with gentrification and displacement and achieve equitable outcomes.



Following the Regional Council's approval of guidelines on November 5, 2020, staff released the HSD Call for Applications. A total of twenty-six (26) project proposals were received across all project categories and types by the January 29, 2021 deadline. Staff completed an evaluation of proposals and identified that all twenty-six (26) projects meet the SCP Program requirements, pending staff verification for REAP guidelines.

#### Evaluation Process

The evaluation process was documented in the program guidelines as follows: For HSD projects, three (3) evaluation teams - one (1) per project type - were established to review, score and rank applications submitted to the SCP. Each team was comprised of State, Regional, and SCAG staff. Projects were evaluated against the approved Guidelines within their respective project types.

#### **Application Recommendation**

Staff has completed an evaluation of proposals and is recommending approval of all twenty-six (26) applications. Approximately \$4.8 million in State planning resources are expected to be available to cover anticipated project expenses based on the HSD program's inclusion in SCAG's REAP final application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. These proposals reflect stated SCP program goals, including but not limited to:

- Provide needed planning resources to local jurisdictions for active transportation and multimodal planning efforts, sustainability, land use, and planning for affordable housing;
- Promote, address and ensure health and equity in regional land use and transportation planning and to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color;
- Encourage regional planning strategies to reduce motorized Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly in environmental justice communities where there is the highest need for air quality improvements;
- Develop local plans that support the implementation of key strategies and goals outlined in Connect SoCal and the Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- Develop resources that support the Key Connections as outlined in Connect SoCal, including Shared Mobility and Mobility as a Service, Smart Cities and Job Centers, Accelerated Electrification, Go Zones, and Housing Supportive Infrastructure;
- Support a resilient region that looks to climate adaptation and public health preparedness as key strategies to address community prosperity, safety and economic recovery and sustainability; and
- Increase the region's competitiveness for federal and state funds, including, but not limited to the California Active Transportation Program and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.

The table below lists the twenty-six (26) projects that were evaluated. All the projects will be administered by SCAG through the SCP, and jurisdiction staff will be directly engaged in all key



phases of planning projects. The individual project budgets will be determined through the scoping and procurement process.

Sustainable Commun	ities Program - Housing and Sust Recommended Applications	ainable Development
Advancing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Implementation	Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones & Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts	Objective Development Standards for Streamlined Housing, Prohousing Designation Program & Parking Innovation
Buena Park	Covina	Burbank
Compton	Los Angeles – Hollywood Area	Coachella
Garden Grove	Los Angeles – LAC/USC Health Village	Grand Terrace
Laguna Beach	Los Angeles – San Pedro Area	Montebello
Paramount	Palmdale	Newport Beach
Pasadena	Yucaipa	Rialto
Santa Fe Springs		San Dimas
Santa Monica		Santa Fe Springs
		Santa Monica
		South El Monte
		South Pasadena
		Westminster

#### Next Steps

Pending RC approval, staff will contact all applicants to discuss details of their projects, define scopes of work and develop RFPs. A project initiation schedule and expectations regarding period of performance will be determined by mid-June 2021, and will be based on project complexity, funding source, and SCAG staff capacity.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff's work budget for the current fiscal year is included in OWP 310.4874.05 Additional funding is also anticipated to be available through June 2023.

#### ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Housing and Sustainable Development Application Recommendations

# Housing and Sustainable Development Application Recommendations

Lyle Janicek Associate Regional Planner, Sustainability 4/1/2021



www.scag.ca.gov

# **Executive Summary**

### 26 applications received 1) Advancing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)

1) Advancing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Implementation

8 applications

2) Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones, and Housing Supportive Tax Increment Financing Districts

6 applications

3) Objective Development Standards for Streamlined Housing, Prohousing Designation Program and Parking Innovation

12 applications

County	No. of Apps	Percent of Regional Share
Imperial	0	0%
Los Angeles	17	65%
Orange	5	19%
Riverside	1	4%
San Bernardino	3	12%
Ventura	ο	0%

# **Next Steps**

- Seeking CEHD/Regional Council Approval April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- Pending approval, staff will contact all applicants to discuss:
  - · details of their projects
  - define scope of work
  - and initiate the procurement process
- Projects must be completed by June 2023

# **Any Questions?**

Lyle Janicek Janicek@scag.ca.gov

www.scag.ca.gov





Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only April 1, 2021

То:	Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
	Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
	Transportation Committee (TC)
	Regional Council (RC)
From:	Sarah Dominguez, Senior Regional Planner
	(213) 236-1918, dominguezs@scag.ca.gov
Subject:	2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
	Framework

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Apise

**RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC, CEHD, TC:** 

Information Only - No Action Required

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:**

**Receive and File** 

#### STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Every four years, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) must prepare and adopt a Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). SCAG's Regional Council adopted the current-2020 RTP/SCS, or Connect SoCal, in two separate actions in April and September of 2020. The next RTP/SCS will be prepared for adoption by the Regional Council by April 2024. The purpose of this report is to outline the process for developing the next RTP/SCS, highlight major milestones, and outline SCAG's stakeholder outreach approach.

#### BACKGROUND:

Every four years, SCAG must prepare and adopt a RTP/SCS. SCAG's Regional Council adopted the current 2020 RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal, in two separate actions in April and September of 2020. The next RTP/SCS will be prepared for consideration by the Regional Council for adoption by April 2024. The purpose of this report is to outline the process for developing the next RTP/SCS, highlight major milestones, and outline SCAG's stakeholder outreach approach.

What is the RTP/SCS?



The RTP/SCS is a long-range regional plan that builds upon land use and transportation strategies established over several planning cycles to increase mobility options and achieve a more sustainable regional development pattern. The RTP/SCS charts a path towards a more mobile, sustainable and prosperous region by strengthening regional connections between transportation networks, land use planning, and between the people whose collaboration can improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. Development of the RTP/SCS requires several years of data collection, rigorous technical analysis, robust policy discussions, and substantial stakeholder engagement.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura, SCAG must follow specific state and federal requirements in the development of the RTP/SCS. Meeting the following requirements is necessary to ensure receipt of transportation funding from both state and federal sources:

**Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** – SCAG is required by federal law to prepare and update a long-range RTP (23 U.S.C. §134 et seq.). The RTP must include, among other things: the identification of transportation facilities such as major roadways, transit, intermodal facilities and connectors that function as an integrated metropolitan system over at least a 20-year forecast period; a financial plan demonstrating how the RTP can be implemented with "reasonably available" resources and additional financial approaches; strategies to improve existing facilities, relieve vehicular congestion, and maximize the safety and mobility of people and goods; and environmental mitigation activities. (23 U.S.C. §134 (i)(2)).

**Transportation Conformity Requirements** – Pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act, SCAG's RTP/SCS is required to meet all federal transportation conformity requirements, including regional emissions analysis, financial constraint, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures, and interagency consultation and public involvement (42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.).

**System Performance Monitoring** – Transportation system performance planning and monitoring became federal mandates with the passage of 'Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century' (MAP-21) in 2012, and the 'FAST Act' in 2015. SCAG has been a pioneer in the development and use of performance metrics to evaluate progress toward achieving regional goals before MAP-21/FAST Act became law. Starting with the 1998 RTP, SCAG has been using quantitative performance measures to evaluate how the RTP is performing in terms of achieving the plan's regional goals.

**Environmental Justice Analysis** – As an MPO that receives federal funding, SCAG is required to conduct an Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis for the RTP/SCS. The plan is required to



consider the consequences of transportation projects on low-income and minority communities, and avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental impacts on low-income and minority populations. Consideration of EJ in the transportation planning process stems from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which establishes the need for transportation agencies to disclose to the general public the benefits and burdens of proposed projects on minority populations, later expanded through federal executive branch order to also include protections based on income.

**Sustainable Communities Strategy** – California Senate Bill 375, codified in 2008 in Government Code §65080 (b)(2)(B), requires that the RTP includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which can meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Currently, the targets for the SCAG region are eight percent below 2005 per capita GHG emissions levels by 2020, and 19 percent below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2035.

#### What's new for this RTP/SCS?

This next 2024 RTP/SCS will incorporate important updates of fundamental data, strategies and investments based on, and to strengthen, the plan adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in 2020. For this reason, SCAG staff anticipates using the same name, "Connect SoCal," to underscore the continuation of the planning effort. The pillars of the Connect SoCal, the Core Vision and Key Connections, will continue into the next plan. The Core Vision centers on maintaining and better managing the transportation network we have for moving people and goods, while expanding mobility choices by locating housing, jobs and transit closer together and increasing investment in transit and complete streets.

The Key Connections augment the Core Vision of the plan to address trends and emerging challenges. These Key Connections lie at the intersection of land use, transportation and innovation, aiming to coalesce policy discussions and advance promising strategies for leveraging new technologies and partnerships to accelerate progress on regional planning goals.

For this cycle, SCAG staff will focus on process improvements and on data updates and refinements. During the post-adoption period for the last RTP/SCS, SCAG staff debriefed on the plan development process internally as well as with select stakeholders. Based on these reflections there were several key takeaways, including maintaining one-on-one meetings with local jurisdictions, continuing to partner with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and improving the public engagement process through earlier outreach.



However, there will likely be many changes within the region that are yet to be fully understood as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted in the 'Connect SoCal - Emerging Issues and Trends for Future' Planning staff report of September 2020.<sup>1</sup> The pandemic profoundly impacted the ways we live, work, and learn and will undoubtedly influence our planning processes for years to come. In developing the 2024 RTP/SCS, SCAG must reexamine trends and assess these emerging issues in order to put forth a plan that addresses the region's evolving needs, challenges and opportunities.

Two overarching issues identified in the previously cited 'Emerging Issues and Trends' staff report, 'Equity' and 'Resilience,' will have enhanced presence in the next plan. Both equity and resilience will be lenses through which various aspects of the plan content will be examined. Additionally, the issue of the digital divide within the region as discussed in the staff report will be incorporated into the next RTP/SCS.

**Equity:** As central to SCAG's work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life. In July 2020, SCAG passed Resolution No. 20-623-2<sup>2</sup> stating that systemic racism is a human rights and public health crisis and established an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice. At its May meeting, the Regional Council is anticipated to consider a Racial Equity Early Action Plan (EAP), which will include the development of a Connect SoCal racial equity framework.

**Resilience:** In January 2021, SCAG passed Resolution No. 21-628-1<sup>3</sup> which states that SCAG will pursue a number of activities to address climate change, including mitigation and adaptation, to strengthen regional resilience. These include developing a regional resilience framework to help the region plan and prepare for a changing climate and other potential near- and long-term disruptions to Southern California. The resolution also stated that SCAG shall include climate adaptation and mitigation analysis and strategies in the 2024 RTP/SCS.

**Digital Divide:** In February 2021, SCAG passed Resolution 21-629-2<sup>4</sup> directing SCAG staff to develop a Broadband Action Plan which includes incorporating broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies, as appropriate, into existing SCAG programs and, based on SCAG's findings, utilize data as part of Scenario Planning Process for upcoming and future long-range plans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc\_090320fullagn.pdf?1604639362

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rcresolution206232\_0.pdf?1605039926

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc010721resolution21-628-1.pdf?1610072923

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rc020421fullpacket.pdf?1612231563



Who will be involved in Connect SoCal development?

Obtaining local input is integral to the development of a robust plan, including both transportation projects from County Transportation Commissions and land use data from local jurisdictions. Gathering this information helps us understand where the region will grow and how people will move around the region. Connect SoCal also relies on extensive stakeholder engagement and policy discussions with local elected leaders, who make up SCAG's Policy Committees and Regional Council.

**SCAG Policy Committees:** Each SCAG Policy Committee has unique purview over different aspects of plan development and makes recommendations for the Regional Council to take action. For overarching policy discussions, SCAG sometimes holds Joint Policy Committee meetings including all members from the Community, Economic, and Human Development, (CEHD), Environment and Energy Committee (EEC), and Transportation Committees (TC).

Outside of elected leadership, SCAG staff also engages with stakeholders through several formal working groups and direct communications.

**Stakeholder Groups:** SCAG hosts many different topical working groups and technical advisory committees as well as engaging in direct communication with stakeholders throughout the development of different products of Connect SoCal. See the [stakeholder outline] attachment for more detail.

**Local Input:** SCAG relies on the input from County Transportation Commissions to develop the Connect SoCal project list, in coordination with partner transportation agencies including Caltrans and transit operators, and on local jurisdictions to update and verify growth forecast land use data.

**Public Outreach:** SCAG engages with the public in a variety of ways during the development of Connect SoCal. Before initiating public outreach efforts, SCAG will update and adopt a Public Participation Plan (PPP), anticipated in early 2022. The PPP will establish goals for ensuring a wide range of perspectives are heard and will be developed compliant with Title 23, CFR 450.316(a) and state planning law. Per Government Code §65080 (b)(2)(F), SCAG will hold at least 16 public workshops and at least three public hearings.

#### What's next for this RTP/SCS?

As illustrated in the [Major Milestones] attachment, several plan items will come before the SCAG Regional Council this year. Later this summer, SCAG staff will present several early RTP/SCS



development items including the SCS Subregional Delegation Guidelines, Growth Forecast Framework, and Performance Measures and Monitoring Framework. Not reflected in the major milestones overview are the many individual projects, research, and report items that SCAG staff will bring to the Regional Council which will then be incorporated into the draft plan. As a general overview, the work to develop the next Connect SoCal will proceed in four phases:

**Foundations and Frameworks** (Now – Early 2022): Initiate plan development process and establish plan goals.

**Data Collection and Policy Development** (Early 2022 – Early 2023): Collect input from local jurisdictions and transportation agencies, conduct research, identify emerging regional trends, and propose discuss plan policies and strategies with stakeholders.

**Outreach and Analysis** (Early 2023 – Mid 2023): Conduct public workshops, incorporate feedback from outreach activities and analyze data.

**Draft Plan and Adoption** (Late 2023 – Early 2024): Prepare draft plan for public review and final plan for consideration by the Regional Council for adoption by April 2024.

While the major development steps for the next RTP/SCS are largely known and driven by federal and state regulations, SCAG has discretion over the projects, policies, strategies and data presented in the plan. SCAG staff will work to identify and present these variables to the various SCAG Policy Committees and Regional Council. Further discussion with regional stakeholders and decision-makers will be necessary over the next three years as new information comes to light on the state of the region and in identifying the policy responses and underlying goals for the region moving forward.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

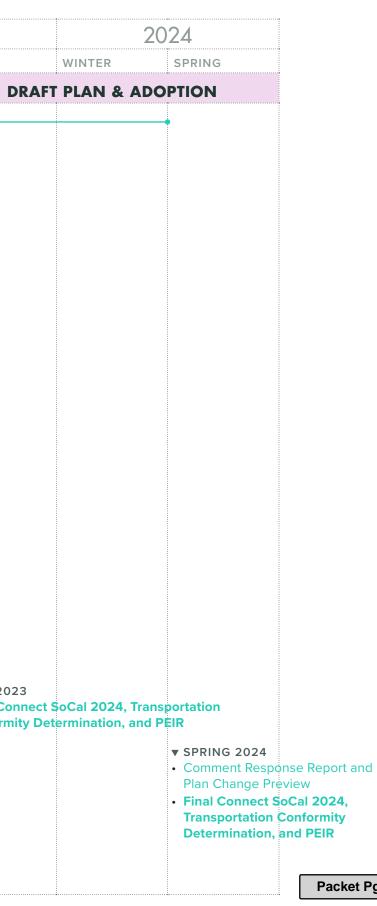
Work associated with this item is included in the FY 20-21 and proposed FY 21-22 Overall Work Program (310.4874.01: Connect SoCal Development).

### ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. 2024 Connect SoCal Major Milestones
- 2. 2024 Connect SoCal Stakeholder Overview



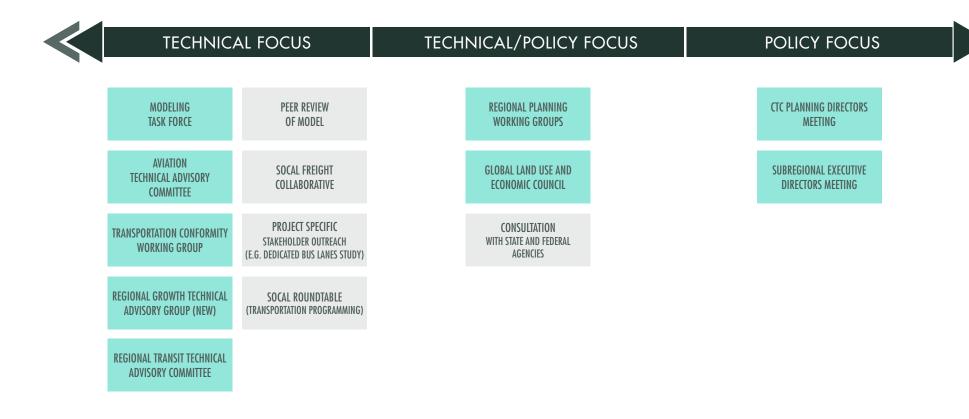
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# 2024 RTP/SCS STAKEHOLDER OUTLOOK

SCAG staff relies on many different stakeholder meetings to get input for and review of materials related to the development of the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) before bringing them to SCAG Committees or Regional Council. The below summary is not inclusive of SCAG's broader public stakeholder outreach activities such as workshops or Community Based Organization partnerships, which will be further outlined in an updated Public Participation Plan. These stakeholder meetings fall along a spectrum of focus from technical to policy focused agenda items with some groups covering items from both categories.





Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only April 1, 2021

То:	Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL
From:	Alison Linder, Senior Regional Planner (213) 236-1934, linder@scag.ca.gov	Kome Ajise
Subject:	Accelerated Electrification Key Connection Workplan	0

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information Only - No Action Required

#### STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Connect SoCal, the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2024 RTP/SCS or Connect CoCal), introduced a series of new strategies, referred to as the plan's Key Connections, to meet increasingly aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals. These Key Connections aim to leverage new technologies and partnerships among land-use and transportation agencies and leaders in innovation to accelerate progress on regional planning goals. Accelerated Electrification is one of the five Key Connections, which are collectively responsible for 30% of the plan's per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by 2035, with vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure deployment serving as critical implementation strategies.

SCAG staff has prepared a workplan to create a holistic and coordinated approach to decarbonizing or electrifying passenger vehicles, transit and goods movement vehicles. The workplan was created by a cross departmental team at SCAG, known as the Accelerated Electrification Team (AET), with the goal of accelerating state goals for clean technologies within the region. It catalogues current activities, as well as strategies to coordinate internally across modes, and to collaboratively support preparation for the 2024 RTP/SCS. Alison Linder, Senior Regional Planner will share the workplan for the Accelerated Electrification Key Connection.





### **BACKGROUND:**

Connect SoCal proposed an Accelerated Electrification strategy as one of the Plan's Key Connections. The strategy offers a holistic and coordinated approach to de-carbonizing or electrifying passenger, transit, and goods movement vehicles. This strategy aims to go beyond benefits achieved through state mandates alone through coordination and collaboration in the region. In the light-duty sector, Connect SoCal plans for greater incentives to increase sales of electric vehicles and strategies to increase the availability of charging infrastructure. Electric vehicles (EVs) currently make up only 8.1 percent of new car sales, but the growth is healthy: In 2013 EVs made up just 2.4 percent of all new car sales statewide. For transit, in 2018 the California Air Resources Board adopted the Innovative Clean Transit rule requiring all public transit agencies to transition to a 100-percent zero-emission fleet by 2040. SCAG can facilitate that process, for example by working with transit agencies to ensure adequate charging stations and electricity rates. In June 2020, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) passed the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation with clean truck sales and reporting requirements being phased in by 2035 with an ultimate state goal of a zero-emissions truck fleet by 2045. In the goods movement sector, the goal is to achieve a zero-emissions system, with use of near-zero-emissions technologies as bridge where needed.

The AET's work is further highlighted as part of SCAG's climate change action resolution to provide a holistic and coordinated approach to decarbonize or electrify passenger vehicles, transit and goods movement vehicles to go beyond benefits achieved through state mandates alone.

The Accelerated Electrification Key Connection amplifies efforts to accelerate zero-emission technologies across modes and is receptive to decarbonization solutions from all sectors.

### **DETAILED WORKPLAN:**

### **Objectives**

- Provide a holistic and coordinated approach to decarbonize or electrify passenger, transit, and goods movement vehicles to go beyond benefits achieved through state mandates
- Share information and resources on regional electrification and clean technology
- Create a coordinated decarbonization framework/template for 2024 RTP/SCS
- Support the region in implementing 2020 vision for accelerated electrification and clean mobility implementation
- Increase staff and agency expertise and collaboration in clean mobility planning

### SCAG's Departmental Programs and Projects

SCAG has several existing and emerging programs and projects across the agency that support clean fuels. These programs and projects serve as the foundation of the AET's work and will help support



the overall objectives for the AET, ongoing collaborative efforts, external engagements, and developing a framework for the 2024 RTP. Table 1 provides brief descriptions for SCAG's existing and upcoming clean fuels work activities.

Program/Project	Description	Timeframe
Regional Rail Electrification Analysis	This analysis will inventory and review current and future clean locomotive planning and initiatives by rail operators in the SCAG region for both freight and passenger rail operations. It will follow on the SCAG Integrated Rail Forecasting study and 2012 Analysis of Freight Rail Electrification in the SCAG Region.	Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023
Connect SoCal Electric Vehicle Program	The 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy committed SCAG to helping jurisdictions and the private sector deploy more public electric vehicle charging stations so drivers of plug-in electric vehicles could have more opportunities to charge and travel further without burning gasoline. Connect SoCal continued this commitment and added a new commitment to find pathways to provide rebates to help people purchase zero- emission vehicles.	Ongoing
Measuring VMT Reduction from Shared Mobility Services Through Real Time Data (LADOT FCPP pilot)	This pilot is a part of the Future Communities Pilot Program with LADOT as the municipal partner. The project will study the preferences and behaviors of BlueLA users to better understand the impact of electric carshare, particularly in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and how to best incentivize EV carshare use to reduce VMT/GHG in the region.	Now through April 2022
Sustainable Communities	SCAG is currently funding an Electric Vehicle	Now through end

### Table 1 - SCAG's Departmental Programs and Projects



Program	Charging Station Study to help deploy more EV charging for passenger vehicles. The Study includes a region-wide charging station site suitability study, site evaluations for EV charging, policy support for 18 cities, and public education about EVs. SCAG may offer more opportunities for ZEV studies and plans under future funding rounds.	of Fiscal Year 2022
Medium and Heavy- Duty Truck Zero Emissions Roadmap	SCAG is initiating a study to create a Medium and Heavy-Duty Truck Zero Emissions Roadmap for the SCAG Region. This study will forecast the demand for charging and fueling stations based on the expected need of different truck market segments. While many larger fleets are expected to install private infrastructure, this study will create a course of action to locate and develop the needed publicly accessible charging and fueling infrastructure. This study will include engagement of critical public and private stakeholders to ensure that the roadmap is a plan that all are mutually responsible for implementing.	June 2021 – June 2023
Last Mile Freight Program	The LMFP will seek to fund commercial deployment projects targeting zero and near- zero emissions for last mile delivery	Now through end of Fiscal Year 2022
Southern California Clean Cities Coalition	SCAG is home to the Southern California Clean Cities Coalition, one of the nearly 100 independent Clean Cities coalitions certified by the US Department of Energy (DOE). Through a cooperative agreement SCAG helps support the DOE's work and the DOE provides funding and technical support to help SCAG promote alternative fuel vehicles and	Ongoing



	infrastructure. SCAG has been a certified Clean Cities Coalition for 25 years.	
Transit Agency Grant Administration	SCAG serves as the grant administration for several Federal Transit Administration grants that have helped various transit agencies purchase clean fuel vehicles and infrastructure.	Ongoing

Accelerated Electrification Strategy Team Activities

With the creation of the AET, SCAG will take the following actions to collaborate across departments and divisions to enhance clean fuels work throughout the agency. These activities will support the projects and programs listed above and enhance communication on and support for Accelerated Electrification activities throughout the region.

These activities include internal collaboration and information sharing, coordination on support letters and grant partnerships, updating a shared stakeholder database using SCAG's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, and maintenance of an Alternative Fuels Catalog, which will describe ongoing efforts in this area. The AET will also coordinate with the Performance Measures & Monitoring Strategy Team on achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets and will create a coordinated framework for electrification and clean mobility efforts for the 2024 RTP/SCS.

Activities will also extend to activities SCAG and the AET can do to support regional electrification and clean mobility efforts. The AET will communicate findings from its work with regional stakeholders and more broadly, and the AET will coordinate with SCAG's Legislation Department and external partners to advocate for policies that support a transition to electrification and other zero emission technologies at the local, state and federal levels.

A summarized list of these activities includes:

- Internal Collaboration and Support
- SCAG's Alternative Fuels Catalog
- Stakeholder Database
- External Communications
- Local Policy Advocacy
- State and Federal Policy Advocacy
- Coordinated Support Letters and Grant Partnerships
- Studies and initiatives to facilitate regional Accelerated Electrification efforts



• Framework for 2024 RTP/SCS

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Work under the Accelerated Electrification strategy is funded by task 310.4874.02 Key Connections Strategy Team.

### ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation: Accelerated Electrification

### **Accelerated Electrification**

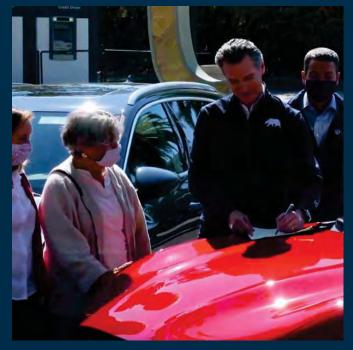
Key Connection Working Group Presentation for The Energy & Environment Committee: April 1, 2021

Co-Leads: Alison Linder, Joseph Cryer, and Priscilla Freduah-Agyemang Members: Ryan Laws, Scott Strelecki, Stephen Fox, Emily Rotman, and Alisanne Meyers Sponsors: Annie Nam, Jason Greenspan, and Philip Law

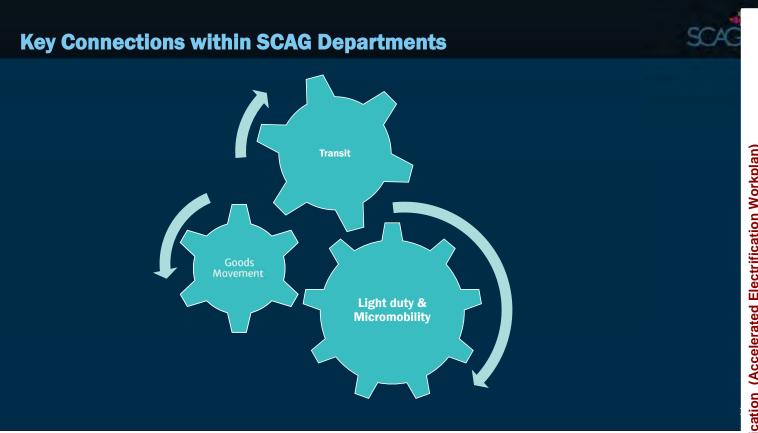


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### **Background & Objectives**



- Holistic and coordinated approach for decarbonizing light and heavy duty transportation
- Create a coordinated decarbonization framework/template for 2024 RTP/SCS
- Support the region in implementing 2020 vision for accelerated electrification and clean mobility implementation
- Increase staff and agency expertise and collaboration in clean mobility planning
- Supporting alt fuel and EV market growth and infrastructure planning



### **Current Zero Emission Projects Catalogue**

### Light Duty and Transit:

- Measuring VMT Reduction from Shared Mobility Services Through Real Time Data (LADOT FCPP pilot)
- Southern California Clean Cities Coalition
- Transit Agency Grant Administration
- Sustainable Communities
   Program EV Charging Station
   Study



Packet Pg. 46

### **Current Zero-Emission Projects Catalogue**

Rail and Goods Movement:

- Medium and Heavy Duty Zero Emissions Roadmap
- -Last Mile Freight Program
- CEC Blueprint Grant/Partnership with Incharge
- Regional Rail Electrification Analysis



### **Accelerated Electrification Internal Coordination Activities**



SunLine Transit's Hydrogen Electrolyser Completed in Grant Partnership with SCAG

- Bi-monthly meetings to share policy, modeling, funding, and market updates
- Collaboration on grant funding, work plans, and letters of support
- Reviewing SOWs, participation in Technical Advisory Committees
- Clean Fuel Stakeholder Database
- Coordinated External Communications
- Local Policy Advocacy
- State and Federal Policy Advocacy
- United framework for addressing grant partnership proposals

### **2024 RTP/SCS Framework**

Long term deliverable: 2024 RTP/SCS Devise coherent cross departmental electrification and decarbonization goals/projections for 2024 RTP/SCS

- Ensure Plan meets CARB and state targets (evaluate modeling and projections across ZEV catalogue)
- Present electrification strategy as applied to light and heavy duty vehicles cohesively
- Outreach and engagement for clean fuel planning



## Questions or Comments: Alison Linder, Senior Regional Planner linder@scag.ca.gov



Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only April 1, 2021

To: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

From: Grieg Asher, Program Manager II (213) 236-1869, asher@scag.ca.gov

Kome Apise

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

APPROVAL

Subject: San Gabriel Mountains Access Program

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information Only - No Action Required

#### STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Bryan Matsumoto, Program Organizer for Nature For All, will present an overview of the San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program to create transit access for underserved communities to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

#### BACKGROUND:

Nature For All is a non-profit, community-based organization and eleven-member coalition that is focused on environmental justice and park equity issues in Los Angeles County. Their mission is to develop access to nature. Nature For All works with underserved communities to both create new local parks and protect and improve public lands within the County, including the San Gabriel Mountains and urban watersheds for healthy outdoor recreation, habitat, water resilience, and environmental education. Their Outdoor Leadership programs empower urban residents and help develop a new, diverse generation of environmental and social justice leaders. Nature For All's Access programs provide transportation solutions to nature from underserved neighborhoods.

The San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program's purpose is to create transit access to the most urban national forest in the nation – the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument/Angeles National Forest. Over 50% of Los Angeles County residents live in park-poor neighborhoods and the San Gabriel Mountains comprise 70% of the County's open space, yet there are no public transit routes into these public lands. Nature For All is working to correct this environmental justice issue by developing regional plans for shuttle routes which will connect



Metro Gold Line stations near the foothills, to mountain destinations and trails, thereby providing equitable access to public lands from across the Los Angeles region.

Bryan Matsumoto from Nature For All will present an overview of the San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program to create transit access for underserved communities to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact. This is not a SCAG funded project.