

# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**REPORT** 

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
February 4, 2021

# NO. 628 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: http://scag.igm2.com/Citizens/

The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 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 Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

## **Members Present**

Members Present		
Hon. Rex Richardson, President	Long Beach	District 29
Hon. Clint Lorimore, 1st Vice President	Eastvale	District 4
Hon. Jan Harnik, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President		RCTC
Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Imm. Past President		SBCTA
Supervisor Luis Plancarte		Imperial County
Supervisor Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Holly Mitchell		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Don Wagner		Orange County
Supervisor Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Supervisor Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich		ICTC
Hon. Peggy Huang		TCA
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Ben Benoit		Air District Representative
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker	El Centro	District 1
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	Palm Desert	District 2
Hon. Rey Santos	Beaumont	District 3
Hon. Zak Schwank	Temecula	District 5
Hon. Frank Navarro	Colton	District 6
Hon. Larry McCallon	Highland	District 7

**OUR MISSION** 

OUR VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

**OUR CORE VALUES** 

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous





# **Members Present - continued**

Hon. Deborah Robertson	Rialto	District 8
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	Rancho Cucamonga	District 9
Hon. Ray Marquez	Chino Hills	District 10
Hon. Fred Minagar	Laguna Niguel	District 12
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	Mission Viejo	District 13
Hon. Michael Carroll	Irvine	District 14
Hon. Phil Bacerra	Santa Ana	District 16
Hon. Kim Nguyen	Garden Grove	District 18
Hon. Trevor O'Neil	Anaheim	District 19
Hon. Art Brown	Buena Park	District 21
Hon. Marty Simonoff	Brea	District 22
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	Cerritos	District 23
Hon. Ray Hamada	Bellflower	District 24
Hon. Sean Ashton	Downey	District 25
Hon. José Luis Solache	Lynwood	District 26
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	Gardena	District 28
Hon. Steve De Ruse	La Mirada	District 31
Hon. Steven Ly	Rosemead	District 32
Hon. Jorge Marquez	Covina	District 33
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	Duarte	District 35
Hon. Steve Tye	Diamond Bar	District 37
Hon. Tim Sandoval	Pomona	District 38
Hon. James Gazeley	Lomita	District 39
Hon. Alex Fisch	Culver City	District 41
Hon. Paula Devine	Glendale	District 42
Hon. Juan Carrillo	Palmdale	District 43
Hon. David Shapiro	Calabasas	District 44
Hon. David Pollock	Moorpark	District 46
Hon. Nithya Raman	Los Angeles	District 51
Hon. Paul Koretz	Los Angeles	District 52
Hon. John Lee	Los Angeles	District 59
Hon. Steve Manos	Lake Elsinore	District 63
Hon. Michael Posey	Huntington Beach	District 64
Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto	Coachella	District 66
Hon. Hector Pacheco	San Fernando	District 67
Hon. Marisela Magana	Perris	District 69





#### **Members Present - continued**

Mr. Randall Lewis Business Representative Ex-Officio Member Hon. Eric Garcetti Los Angeles Member-at-Large

#### **Members Not Present**

Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr. Pechanga Dev. Corp. Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd. Hon. Ali Saleh Bell District 27 Hon. Jonathan Curtis La Cañada Flintridge District 36 Hon. Drew Boyles El Segundo District 40 Hon. Gilbert Cedillo Los Angeles District 48 Hon. Paul Krekorian Los Angeles District 49/Public Transit Rep. Hon. Bob Blumenfield Los Angeles District 50 Hon. Nury Martinez Los Angeles District 53 Hon. Monica Rodriguez Los Angeles District 54 Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson Los Angeles District 55 Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr. District 56 Los Angeles Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas Los Angeles District 57 Hon. Mike Bonin Los Angeles District 58 Hon. Mitch O'Farrell Los Angeles District 60 Hon. Kevin de León Los Angeles District 61 Hon. Joe Buscaino Los Angeles District 62 Hon. Rita Ramirez Victorville District 65

#### **Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Art Yoon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Peter Waggonner, Office of Regional Council Support
Maggie Aguilar, Office of Regional Council Support

#### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. President Richardson asked Regional Coucilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.



#### **PRESENTATION**

President Richardson provided welcoming remarks for Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, who presented on Equitable Climate Action Leadership. Mayor Garcetti first recognized SCAG and the leadership of fellow Regional Councilmembers during the COVID-19 crisis and recent events nationally. He identified short- and long-term regional challenges, touching on COVID-19 response and economic recovery. He highlighted climate change as an ongoing problem with multigenerational effects, and he noted that mitigation will be required to sustain life as we know it. He called out relevant plans, including Connect SoCal and its role in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as the Los Angeles' Green New Deal, connecting jobs and setting a carbonneutral goal of 2050. Mayor Garcetti also mentioned his founding of Climate Mayors as well as his role as Chair of C40, a consortium of the world's largest cities coming together behind climate action. He encouraged fellow members to join Climate Mayors, as he emphasized the power of partnerships. He continued by promoting the Cities Race to Zero campaign to rally cities in support of a zero-carbon transition. He stated that members can learn more at citiesracetozero.org. In closing, he commented on the shared goals of the region and the importance acting collectively.

President Richardson thanked Mayor Garcetti for his presentation and remarked on the Climate Change Action Resolution, to be considered today by the Regional Council. Furthermore, he acknowledged the leadership of cities in climate action, and he highlighted Long Beach's Climate Action Adaptation Plan.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Richardson opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that there were no written public comments received by email after the deadline of 5pm of Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Two written public comments received before the deadline were transmitted to members and posted to SCAG's website.

Mr. Duran and SCAG staff confirmed that there was one verbal public comment speaker by raised hand and acknowledged Dr. Holly Osborne.

Dr. Holly Osborne, resident of Los Angeles County, commented on the January 6, 2021 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Appeals Board Hearing and the January 6, 2021 EAC meeting. Dr. Osborne spoke about limitations to the RHNA Appeals Board's power. She asked that the body keep a separate list of reductions in RHNA allocations that they would have granted had they been allowed to consider unforeseen issues. Secondly, she stated that she believes the RHNA Appeals Board should have the power to reduce an allocation without redistributing elsewhere.



Seeing no further public comment speakers, President Richardson closed the Public Comment Period.

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

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

#### **ACTION ITEM**

#### 1. Climate Change Action Resolution

President Richardson introduced Sarah Jepson, Planning Director, to provide a presentation. Ms. Jepson began her presentation with background on the Climate Change Action Resolution, stating that in October, the Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) asked SCAG staff to prepare a resolution affirming a climate change crisis in Southern California and calling on SCAG's partners to further reduce GHG emissions, improve regional resilience and reduce hazards from a changing climate. The resolution recognizes recent climate events, such as record number of dry heat days, which have increased overall risk, and the largest wildfire season in modern history seen in 2020. She elaborated on economic costs and other risks from climate change, including extreme heat, drought, severe storms and other issues. She recognized that, in order to reduce risk and minimize vulnerabilities, SCAG jurisdictions and stakeholders need support in developing resources. A draft resolution was presented to EEC in November, which outlined how SCAG can provide support in such areas. Members of the EEC then provided guidance that emphasized SCAG's unique role in the region and the need for resource support that across sectors of the economy. She noted the resolution today reflects feedback from the EEC and identifies steps that can infuse the region with clean energy and low-carbon transportation while providing solutions for jurisdictions. The resolution calls for the development of a regional resilience framework, technical assistance and funding resources for local jurisdiction's plans and an advanced mitigation program for regionallysignificant transportation projects. She commented that the resolution is not intended to be exhaustive; rather, it is a starting point to consider opportunities to work together across the region. In closing, she spoke to the resolution's correspondence with Connect SoCal's goals, and she stated staff's recommendation for the Regional Council.

President Richardson acknowledged EEC Chair, Regional Councilmember David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46, to provide comments. Regional Councilmember Pollock spoke about EEC's role and how GHG affects air quality efforts. Regional Councilmember Pollock reviewed the intention of the resolution, stating that it helps with the planning necessary to adapt to climate change impacts and elaborates on what can be done to limit GHG emissions. He discussed input from the EEC and stakeholders which have been included in the resolution.

Regional Councilmember Paul Koretz, Los Angeles, District 52, commented on his experience





touring the Woolsey Fire burn area and hearing stories about Hurricane Maria. He spoke about the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization in Los Angeles and other municipalities which have declared climate emergencies. He continued by discussing the Clean Power Alliance and renewable energy efforts in many municipalities. He closed by expressing support of the resolution and future work in the area.

Regional Councilmember Kathleen Kelly, Palm Desert, District 2, expressed thanks to the EEC and SCAG staff for the approach of the resolution. She commented that the resolution articulates specific ways that SCAG can provide resources for jurisdictions to achieve desired goals.

Regional Councilmember Michael Posey, Huntington Beach, District 64, commented in support of the resolution. He discussed Huntington Beach's recent partnership with the Orange County community choice aggregator and various relevant local efforts.

Regional Councilmember Trevor O'Neil, Anaheim, District 19, expressed concern about particular clauses of the resolution, calling out the section regarding wildfires. He suggested adding language identifying other contributors to wildfires, like forest management. He also expressed concern about clauses speaking to disadvantaged communities, economic impact and racial equity considerations. He closed by suggesting that the title of the resolution be modified.

Regional Councilmember Alex Fisch, Culver City, District 41, thanked staff for work on the resolution and commented on the targets imposed by SB 375, while expressing an aim to plan for carbon neutrality by 2050.

Regional Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto, Coachella, District 66, commented on previous comments regarding equity and disadvantaged communities, and she stated that data supports that non-white communities are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and other issues. She encouraged directly addressing disparities, and she thanked staff for their inclusion of relevant language in the resolution.

Regional Councilmember Michael Carroll, Irvine, District 14, reiterated Regional Councilmember O'Neil's comments about wildfires and their contributing factors, and he suggested adding relevant language to the resolution.

President Richardson opened a public comment period for Agenda Item No. 1

Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, spoke about her current role, and she thanked the EEC and SCAG staff for their work on this item. She discussed the importance of planning for climate change impacts, like sea level rise. She commented that climate change does disproportionately affect communities of color and vulnerable populations. She expressed support of the resolution in



honor of younger generations, and she considered how previous generations' actions affect the youth of today.

Staff confirmed there was no further public comment for Agenda Item No. 1 and President Richardson closed the public comment period.

Regional Councilmember Peggy Huang, TCA, commented in support for protecting the environment and green energy, but she expressed concern about narrow language in clauses of the resolution, particularly regarding wildfires, while noting the importance of inclusive language.

President Richardson thanked members for the discussion, and he expressed support of the resolution. He noted that this resolution is specifically related to climate, such as accelerating heat and wildfires which contribute to other issues. He stated that the purpose of this resolution is to acknowledge climate change, and he commented that cultural contexts need to be named, as they have not been historically.

A MOTION was made (Pollock) to Adopt Resolution No. 21-628-1 on Climate Change Action. Motion was SECONDED (Robertson). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

FOR:

ASHTON, BACERRA, BARGER, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BROWN, BUCKNUM, CARRILLO, CARROLL, DE RUSE, DEVINE, FINLAY, FISCH, GARCETTI\*, GAZELEY, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, JUDGE, KELLY, KORETZ, LEE, LORIMORE, MAGANA, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MICHAEL, MINAGAR, MITCHELL, NAVA-FROELICH, NAVARRO, NGUYEN, PACHECO, PLANCARTE, POLLOCK, POSEY, RAMAN, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, SPIEGEL\*, TYE, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, and YOKOYAMA (50)

**AGAINST:** NONE (0)

**ABSTAIN:** HUANG and O'NEIL (2)

While the voting results were being reviewed, Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Riverside County, and Regional Councilmember Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, Member-at-Large, informed SCAG staff that they were experiencing technical difficulties and intended to vote "For" the motion for Agenda Item No. 1. The votes for Supervisor Spiegel\* and Regional Councilmember Garcetti\* are annotated above.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### Approval Items



- 2. Minutes of the Meeting November 5, 2020
- 3. Resolution No. 21-628-2 Approving Amendment 3 to the FY 2020-21 Overall Work Program (OWP)
- 4. Contract Amendment Increasing the Contract value over \$200,000: Contract No. 20-027-C01, Southern California Regional Housing Study, Amendment No. 2
- 5. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 20-030-C01, Cloud Infrastructure
- 6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 20-040-C01, Infrastructure Upgrade Hardware and Software
- 7. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-007-C01, East San Gabriel Valley Mobility Action Plan
- 8. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contact No. 21-20-C01, SCAG Analytic Platform Development
- 9. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contact No. 21-036-C01, Community Safety Ambassador Program
- 10. 2021 State & Federal Legislative Platform
- 11. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

#### Receive and File

- 12. January 2021 State and Federal Legislative Update
- 13. Purchase Orders \$5,000 \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 \$74,999
- 14. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Navarro) to approve the Consent Calendar, Agenda Item Nos. 2-14. Motion was SECONDED (Posey). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

FOR:

ASHTON, BACERRA, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BROWN, BUCKNUM, CARRILLO, CARROLL, DE RUSE, DEVINE, FINLAY, FISCH, GARCETTI, GAZELEY, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HUANG, JUDGE, KELLY, KORETZ, LEE, LORIMORE, MAGANA, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MICHAEL, MINAGAR, MITCHELL, NAVAFROELICH, NAVARRO, O'NEIL, PACHECO, PLANCARTE, POLLOCK, POSEY, RAMAN,





RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, SPIEGEL, TYE, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (52)

**AGAINST:** NONE (0)

**ABSTAIN:** NONE (0)

#### **INFORMATION ITEM**

15. California Air Resources Board (CARB) Acceptance of Connect SoCal and Recommendations

President Richardson introduced Sarah Jepson, Planning Director, to provide a presentation. Ms. Jepson announced that on October 30, 2020, Connect SoCal passed its final milestone with acceptance from CARB that the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) met the 2035 GHG emissions reduction target. She identified that the SCS faced a new higher target for GHG emissions reduction and a detailed review by CARB. She noted that comments, concerns and recommendations from CARB regarding implementation and documentation were expressed and included in the staff report for Agenda Item No. 15. She specifically discussed a recommendation about project-level assessments from CARB, and she outlined future work by SCAG staff in response to the recommendations, including drafting a letter to CARB.

President Richardson commented on next steps and future communications with CARB.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

President Richardson introduced Mr. Randall Lewis, Business Representative, who provided a business report on the economy and shared general thoughts for jurisdictions. Mr. Lewis stated that the for-sale housing market is strong, especially near job centers. He mentioned a shortage of lots and increases on construction costs, which could lead to dense, cost-effective development. He continued by mentioning that apartment occupancy is high, and few people are moving. He warned that rent collection is a challenge and discussed an "eviction cliff."

In reviewing commercial real estate, Mr. Lewis shared news that developers expect some improvement in office rentals. He reported little change in the retail market, although he predicted closings amongst independent retailers and restaurants. He stated that he anticipated that interest rates will rise, considering anticipated government spending and borrowing. He addressed the "California Exodus," which continues amongst corporations, retirees and young families. He largely attributed this trend to taxes.

For RHNA, he encouraged keeping builders and architects part of the discussion. He looked towards





additional investment in infrastructure and green energy initiatives, and he challenged cities' staff to pursue their fair share. He predicted a search for revenue by all cities and counties, and he suggested setting up a revenue taskforce in respective communities to consider solutions. He commented on recent social and political events and the ambition of raising cultural consciousness. He also acknowledged President Richardson's leadership in the realm of equity. He closed by speculating on general improvement in 2021 over 2020.

Regional Councilmember Hector Pacheco, San Fernando, District 67, asked Mr. Lewis about expectations on temporary versus permanent job losses, in consideration of recent employment activity. Mr. Lewis hypothesized that some changes in employment are cyclical and some are structural, and he speculated that developments like robotics can lead to large, permanent losses in years to come.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Rex Richardson began his report by recognizing new Regional Councilmembers, including Sup. Holly Mitchell, Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Hon. Nithya Raman, Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich, Hon. Alex Fisch, Hon. Juan Carrillo and Hon. Mike Posey. President Richardson invited Sup. Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County, to provide remarks. Sup. Mitchell acknowledged her colleagues and their service to the public during trying times, given the public health crisis and pandemic. She spoke about work ahead and economic recovery for the region. President Richardson elaborated on the region, SCAG's role in inclusive recovery, and ongoing fiscal issues affecting public services. He also recognized new President's Appointments to Policy Committees, including Sup. Carmen Ramirez and Hon. Russell Betts.

He continued by reviewing the "Framework for Recovering and Reimagining a Resilient Region," which will culminate in an inclusive recovery plan. He outlined the three phases: listen, convene and catalyze. He stated that the convenings and collaborations resulted in the release of funding guidelines for 3 housing programs: 1) Sub-Regional Partnership Program; 2) Housing & Sustainable Development Call for Projects; and 3) Call for Collaboration. He elaborated on the Call for Collaboration, which will make resources available to community-based organizations (CBOs), non-profit organizations or public agencies to support formation of new partnerships or activities that lead to equitable growth strategies around housing.

He also spoke to work involving accelerating the implementation of Connect SoCal. He noted release of the Active Transportation & Safety Call for Projects, partnering with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee to establish a new \$10 million match-funding program for "last mile" transportation for investment in clean truck and infrastructure technology. He remarked on conversations about broadband access as well. In closing, he provided brief comments on the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice, the 11th annual Southern California



Economic Summit and next steps for the convene phase of programming, looking forward to a final report on Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy in May.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Kome Ajise reviewed work in 2020 and expressed his thanks to members in the transition to work remote over the past year. He reviewed SCAG's legislative efforts and ongoing meetings with Congressional representatives from the SCAG region and new members of the State Legislature. He discussed RHNA Appeals Board hearings and provided details on public hearing notice, directing members to SCAG's website for more information. He elaborated on possible redistribution of RHNA allocations, based on the regional determination and depending on appeals granted. He provided next steps for final adoption of RHNA numbers to jurisdictions.

He continued his report by discussing the Regional Data Platform (RDP), a data analytic tool for data visualization and manipulation which is available to all SCAG jurisdictions. He highlighted the Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) Tool, which will help site opportunities and environmental constraints for aligning housing planning, and he shared information about a recent Toolbox Tuesday training session on the HELPR tool. He announced that SCAG is also offering complimentary ESRI software licenses to member agencies, with the intent of reducing the cost of planning work and advance implementation.

He closed recognizing recent work on broadband access and breaching the digital divide, and he acknowledged the leadership of County Supervisors including Supervisor Hagman, San Bernardino County, in this effort. He spoke about relevant discussion at the latest Emerging Technologies Committee (ETC) meeting regarding a model resolution which was developed by SCAG with input from counties. The resolution has been adopted by three counties, and it is intended to be brought to the Regional Council next month.

Regional Councilmember Trevor O'Neil, Anaheim, District 19, asked President Richardson about the status of convening a closed session to discuss potential litigation involving the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) about SCAG's regional determination number. President Richardson noted 31 relevant letters sent by local jurisdictions and received by SCAG, and he stated that he has given staff direction to begin making preparations for a closed session discussion.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S**

There were no additional future agenda items requested.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT/S**





There were no announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Richardson adjourned the Regional Council meeting at 1:58 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]