



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023**

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: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

**Hon. Deborah Robertson (Chair)**

**Sup. Luis Plancarte (Vice Chair)**

Hon. Damon L. Alexander

Hon. Ana Beltran

Hon. Art Bishop

Hon. Phil Brock

Hon. Margaret Clark

Hon. Jenny Crosswhite

Hon. Ned Davis

Hon. Rick Denison

Hon. Shari Horne

Hon. Britt Huff

Hon. Dan Kalmick

Hon. Joe Kalmick

Hon. Elaine Litster

Hon. Vianey Lopez

Hon. Lauren Meister

Hon. Daniel Ramos,

Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios

Hon. Jennifer Stark

Hon. Tamala Takahashi

Hon. Connor Traut

Hon. Stephanie Virgen

***Rialto***

*San Bernardino*

*Westmoreland*

*Town of Apple Valley*

*Santa Monica*

*Rosemead*

*Santa Paula*

*Westlake Village*

*Yucca Valley*

*Laguna Woods*

*Rolling Hills Estates*

*Huntington Beach*

*Seal Beach*

*Simi Valley*

*West Hollywood*

*Adelanto*

*Ventura*

*Claremont*

*Burbank*

*Buena Park*

*Coachella*

**District 8**

**Imperial County**

SBCTA

ICTC

SBCTA

WSCCOG

SGVCOG

District 47

LVMCOG

SBCTA

OCCOG

SBCCOG

OCCOG

District 20

VCOG

Ventura County

District 41

SBCTA

VCOG

SGVCOG

SFVCOG

OCCOG

CVAG



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Hon. Dale Welty	<i>Canyon Lake</i>	WRCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Robert Copeland	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Maria Davila	<i>South Gate</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran	<i>Chino Hills</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Luis Plancarte called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and Policy Committee member Jennifer Stark, Claremont, SGVCOG led the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff confirmed a quorum was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Vice Chair Luis Plancarte opened the public comment period and provided detailed instructions on how to provide public comments. He noted that this was the time for members of the public to offer comment for matters that are within SCAG’s jurisdiction but are not listed on the agenda.

He reminded the public to submit comments via email to [EECPublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:EECPublicComment@scag.ca.gov). He noted that public comments received via email after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, would be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

SCAG staff noted no public comments had been received before the 5:00 p.m. deadline on October 4, 2023.

Seeing no public comment, Vice Chair Plancarte closed the public comment period for matters not listed on the agenda.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – July 6, 2023
2. Transmittal to South Coast Air Quality Management District of Draft 2024 PM2.5 State Implementation Plan Appendix IV-C Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and Transportation Control Measures

Receive and File

3. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Program Update

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

**AYES:** Bishop, Brock, Clark, Crosswhite, Davis, Denison, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Lopez, Meister, Plancarte, Sached-Palacios, Stark, Takahashi, Traut, Virgen, and Welty (20)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAINS:** None (0)

**ACTION ITEM**

4. Sustainable Communities Program – Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice Award Recommendation

There were no public comments on Item 4.

Lyndsey Nolan, Senior Regional Planner, provided a report on the award recommendations for the fourth call for applications for the Sustainable Communities Program - Civic Engagement, Equity and Environmental Justice. She explained the four main goals of this call were to support the development of plans, close the racial equity gap, support a range of land use and transportation planning activities, and housing supportive infrastructure projects. She noted that efforts that directly benefit priority populations and encourage equitable partnerships between CBO's and local governments would be prioritized. She explained this call included two funding sources: 1) the Housing and Land Use Strategies (HLUS) which is funded with REAP 2.0 and has about \$3 million for projects located in an infill area that accelerate infill housing production, reduce vehicle miles traveled, affirmatively further fare housing, and implement Connect SoCal; and 2) the Multimodal Communities which is funded with Senate Bill 1 and has \$2 million for projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement Connect SoCal. She also provided a

brief overview of the timeline for this call and shared that nine of those proposals fell under the HLUS category with 3.9 million dollars requested, and eight proposals fell under the Multimodal Communities category with \$3 million requested. She explained that out of the 17 applications, they were recommending 11 for award, which were a little over \$4.3 million. She provided a full breakdown of projects that they were recommending under the HLUS category for a total of \$2.3 million. The projects being recommended were Farmworkers Housing Study and Action plan submitted by Ventura County, Mixed Use Development for Under Underutilized Commercial Zones project submitted by the city of La Puente, Transformative Engagement for Zoning Code Update submitted by the city of Santa Ana, Transit-Oriented Development Zones Update submitted by the city of Lancaster, Environmental Impact Report - Downtown Specific Plan Update submitted by the city of Laguna Beach, and Pedley Town Center Plan Implementation submitted by the city of Jurupa Valley. She noted that under the Multimodal Communities category they were funding projects in three categories for a total a little under \$2 million. She noted the projects were East LA Moves/El Este Se Mueve Mobility Corridor Plans submitted by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Reconnecting MacArthur Park submitted by city of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Active Transportation Priority Projects Outreach and Engagement submitted by SBCTA/SBCOG, Linking Warner Center as Active Transportation Hub to Jobs and Housing submitted by the city of Los Angeles and StreetsLA, and Pedestrian Access Plan submitted by the city of Moreno Valley.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

A MOTION was made (Robertson) to recommend that the Regional Council approve the 2020 Sustainable Communities Program – Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice (SCP CEEJ) Award Recommendations and authorize staff to initiate projects. Motion was SECONDED (Brock) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Alexander, Bishop, Brock, Clark, Crosswhite, Davis, Denison, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Lopez, Meister, Plancarte, Ramos, Robertson, Sacher-Palacios, Stark, Takahashi, Traut, Virgen, and Welty (23)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAINS:** None (0)

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

5. Energy and Environment Committee Outlook and Future Agenda Items

There were no public comments on Item 5.

Ryan Wolfe, Manager of Sustainable and Resilient Development, reported that staff met with the Chair and Vice Chair during the EAC retreat to identify key priorities for the upcoming year. He explained that the EEC would be discussing regional challenges on energy and environment issues and would be responsible for reviewing policy recommendations sent to Regional Council. He shared that the key priorities identified were as followed: Water Action Resolution and Landscape Analysis; Climate Change Action Resolution and Resilience Planning; Sustainable Growth and Conservation; Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning and Greenprint Tool; Clean Transportation Technologies; Environmental Compliance; and Climate Action and Resilience Funding. He shared that staff was planning on bringing draft data standards to the EEC in January with the anticipation that it would move to the Regional Council in February. He shared that the November agenda would have the water white paper update and draft PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024. He noted that in the months of January thru March 2024, staff would present updates on the Regional Resilience Planning, Connect SoCal 2024: Summary of Comments and Revision Approach, Transmittal to South Coast AQMD, and Clean Technology Compendium Findings. He also noted that the Local Assistance Program would include updates on the Grey Water: Local Policies and Best Practices, and the Clean Cities Program. Lastly, he shared that the Regional Update would include updates on Clean Energy and Storage, California Air Resources Board, and California's 30 x 30. He also noted that there would be additional updates from April to June on other various projects and programs. He indicated that these updates would be receive and file items and if members were interested in providing a comment on an update, they could pull the item from the Consent Calendar or notify staff or the Chair directly to have the item pulled. He also indicated that staff would be open to suggestions and would consult with the Vice Chair to determine where it would fit in regard to Connect SoCal and Regional update priority areas.

Policy committee Member Lauren Meister suggested nature-based solutions (NBS) as a topic for the November meeting, and that it could include guidance on implementation in cities across the region and information on grant opportunities from FEMA given the agency's stance on NBS as hazard mitigation. She also suggested that NBS be included in hazard mitigation plans across the region and highlighted that NBS are a cost-effective way to deal with stressors in the environment driven by climate change, particularly fire, drought, and heat. She also expressed interest in discussing construction dust mitigation that doesn't require using potable water.

Policy Committee Member Phil Brock also addressed the NBS issue and highlighted that trees and urban forest in SoCal are decreasing rather than increasing, and that it's a significant hazard and contributor to urban heat islands. He emphasized the need to look at native trees like coastal oaks, sycamores, etc. to reduce heat islands and suggested the Committee invest more time into this

issue. He also suggested looking at private trees in addition to public tree canopy. He also noted that state housing laws were hurting urban forest and current regulations prevent planting of trees.

Policy Committee Member Jenny Crosswhite expressed support for nature based solutions and highlighted Ventura County making natural berms. She also asked if the water white paper would be general on conservation and storage or if it would be more specific like the presentations on the State Water Project (SWP) as there were some areas in their region that were not being served by the SWP.

Policy Committee Member Elaine Litster expressed appreciation for the presentation and thanked Chair Deborah Roberts for bringing attention to the water issue. She also suggested the committee spend more time discussing energy in addition to environmental issues.

Policy Committee Member Margaret Clark concurred on need to investigate energy and indicated that housing bills coming from state government could impede tree canopy development and that this could hurt low-income communities. She also suggested that the committee have a presentation about the various housing legislation being discussed at the state level, how it could impact this legislation, and how it could take positions on housing issues to increase consideration of climate and environment while also addressing the need for more housing.

Policy Committee Member Edward Wilson highlighted urban canopy master plans occurring in cities around the region and suggested that a regional effort be made to document and plan for tree canopy expansion.

Policy Committee Member Tamala Takahashi expressed support for prior comments about tree master plans and suggested that jurisdictions confer with school districts when constructing such plans. She also asked if the water white paper will include a systemic look at water districts and water sources. She noted that low income excluded communities should include renters because they don't typically have choices on their conservation choices, they live in units and may know better than landlords what can be improved. She highlighted that graywater was localized at the unit level and water recycling was at a higher level. She also emphasized the impact of housing development on the environment.

Chair Deborah Robertson stated that energy and water are tied and that they could not get water out of the ground without energy. She expressed they needed to talk about these issues in a more intertwined way as they were often discussed as competing interests, but the conversation needed to be holistic and include all of this together. She suggested they have a workshop to see what's being formed and can influence it. She suggested the white paper should be expanded to include the relationship between water and energy.

Policy Committee Member Britt Huff expressed support for Policy Committee members Brock and Meister's suggestion to dedicate a portion of November's agenda to NBS. She also expressed support for the comments on the tree master plans.

Policy Committee Member Ned Davis stated that NBS were a hallmark for this committee and suggested that they consult with TreePeople on urban forestry. He also suggested investigating the importance of bees and other pollinators in sustainability efforts and suggested that they consult with the Clean Power Alliance on clean energy issues.

Policy Committee Member Dale Welty noted that watershed and graywater issues were local issues and vary throughout the region. He also expressed support for workshops for the committee.

Policy Committee Member Art Bishop shared that he represents a desert community where their trees are Joshua trees and don't provide shade but are protected by the state. He indicated that it was good that coastal communities were investing in trees but noted that the cost of trees and landscaping in desert communities was difficult. He expressed support for the committee discussing energy and the cost of energy.

Policy Committee Member Damon Alexander expressed support for discussing energy issues in this committee. He noted that he was interested in learning more about solar farms - benefits and drawbacks, as well as SB 1383.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

## 6. Orange County Sustainability Decathlon

There were no public comments on Item 6.

Fred Smoller, Professor at Chapman University, stated Orange County Sanitation District received a \$5 million grant from the State of California. He shared that they were the only agency in the county to receive the grant and had created the Orange County Sustainability Decathlon and had set a goal to make Southern California the sustainability capital of the world. He noted that the event would take place from October 5 through 8 and 12 through 15 at the Orange County Fair and Events Center in Costa Mesa. He highlighted that the event was free and would have 14 university homes that would showcase sustainability concerning the environmental challenges California faces such as fire, water and coastal erosion. He shared that all homes use a gray water system and alternative energy. He stated that the Orange County Sanitation District believed climate change and environmental issues can only be solved through education and local government. He noted

that Dave Min, State Senator, would be attending the event and that they anticipated 4,600 school children attending the event as well.

Policy Committee member Connor Traut expressed support for the Sustainability Decathlon and shared that there was a strong buy in from the community for this event and encouraged members to attend.

## 7. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program Update

There were no public comments on Item 7.

Ryan Wolfe, Manager of Sustainable and Resilient Development, stated there were many federal programs becoming active and one the of the largest ones was the Inflation Reduction Act which focused on providing planning grants and implementation grants to cities, states, regions, tribes, and territories. He noted that the second largest federal program was the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$5 billion through this program and was divided into two phases. He explained the first phase would work with states, regions, and tribes to develop greenhouse gas reduction strategies and plans, and the second phase would award \$4.6 billion to other programs and projects that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He shared that the EPA's CPRG program objectives were to reduce climate and air pollution, support jobs, lower energy costs and address environmental justice. He noted that the timeline for this program was from fall 2023 to Spring 2024 with implementation grant applications due to the EPA on April 1. He also shared that the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) was a pre-requisite for implementation funding and GHG reduction strategies must be included in a state or metro area to be eligible. He also noted that application for implementation grant funding was due on April 1 and awards were expected in July 2024. He indicated that the EPA wanted projects on the ground by October 2024 as soon as funding has been released. He explained that projects would be scored on the greenhouse gas reductions during 2025-2030 and again in 2030-2050, and that eligibility was determined by states, municipalities, tribes and territories and new or expanded projects/programs. He further explained that there were seven eligible sectors: Transportation, Electric Power, Industrial, Waste, Water, and Sustainable Materials, Agricultural and Carbon. He noted that there would be an emphasis on low income and disadvantaged community benefits. He shared that SCAG's role in the CPRG was to facilitate the Los Angeles and Orange metro area steering committee, to provide technical oversight and engagement coordination, assist San Bernardino/Riverside and Ventura PCAP efforts through ongoing coordination and engagement support, and ensure state PCAP reflects Imperial County priorities. He emphasized that SCAG's objectives for the CPRG were to position the SCAG region to maximize the amount of funding it receives from the CPRG, strengthen regional climate planning collaboration and capacity, and position the region to better compete for other federal and state climate-focused funding.



Policy Committee Member Crosswhite asked about the process by which cities and agencies can apply. Staff addressed the request.

Policy Committee Member Alexander asked what is included in the GHG inventory and what would be eligible for measures related to transportation. He also asked if it would help businesses that want to turn to hydrogen or EV trucks. Staff addressed the request.

Policy Committee Member Meister asked if a city could apply if it has their own CAP. She also asked about funding for the Metro expansion and whether that would be eligible, and if so, whether the City of West Hollywood would apply or if Metro would apply. Staff addressed the request.

Policy Committee Member Stark asked if complete streets would be eligible, and if so, if it would be more competitive if it tied in multiple municipalities. Staff addressed the request.

Chair Robertson asked about SCAG's role in coordinating for the SBCTA and if SCAG will have a role in San Bernardino and Ventura, and how the decision was made. Staff addressed the request.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice Chair Plancarte welcomed Daniel Ramos, subregional appointment for SBCTA, to EEC. He shared that the California Volunteers and Office of the Governor, joined leaders from across the globe at Climate Week in New York City. He noted that President Biden announced the creation of the America Climate Corps and several other states announced the creation of their own state-level climate corps. He announced SCAG's 14th annual Southern California Economic Summit which will be held on December 7 at the Sheraton Grand in Downtown Los Angeles. He shared that the program would explore the major economic factors that inform Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG's draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy – from generating new jobs to creating efficiency gains for commuters, shipping, and travel.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Rachel Wagner, Government Affairs Officer, stated the Call for Applications for the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) Pilot Program was now open through November 6. She noted that the competitive call would award an estimated \$35 million to planning and capital projects. She indicated that the recording of an October 4 information session could be accessed on the SCAG website and that SCAG would be offering office hours to support applicants. She shared that SCAG will be hosting a series of workshops in each county in the next few weeks and months and the

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workshops would be specifically designed to introduce and discuss the Connect SoCal 2024 draft plan. She explained that each workshop would feature information that was tailored to each specific county in area and that more information regarding the dates, times and locations would be announced.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Plancarte adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:27 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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