



NO. 660
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The Regional Council (RC) 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. Art Brown, President

Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice President

Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President

Supervisor Luis Plancarte

Supervisor Don Wagner

Supervisor Karen Spiegel

Supervisor Vianey Lopez

Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich

Hon. Brian Goodell

Hon. Alan Wapner

Hon. Trish Kelley

Hon. Mike T. Judge

Hon. Kathleen Kelly

Hon. Linda Krupa

Hon. Clint Lorimore

Hon. Zak Schwank

Hon. Deborah Robertson

Hon. L. Dennis Michael

Hon. Ray Marquez

Hon. Wendy Bucknum

Hon. Tammy Kim

Hon. Lauren Kleiman

Buena Park

Long Beach

Palm Desert

Hemet

Eastvale

Temecula

Rialto

Rancho Cucamonga

Chino Hills

Mission Viejo

Irvine

Newport Beach

District 21

District 30

RCTC

Imperial County

Orange County

Riverside County

Ventura County

ICTC

OCTA

SBCTA

TCA

VCTC

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 5

District 8

District 9

District 10

District 13

District 14

District 15



Hon. Jon Dumitru	<i>Orange</i>	District 17
Hon. Marshall Goodman	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Ashleigh Aitken	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. Jeff Wood	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Hon. José Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	District 41
Hon. Ken Mann	<i>Lancaster</i>	District 43
Hon. David J. Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Casey McKeon	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	District 66
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Karen Bass	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large
Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	Air District Representative
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Supervisor Curt Hagman, 1st Vice President

- Supervisor Kathryn Barger
- Supervisor Hilda Solis
- Hon. Gil Rebolgar
- Hon. Frank Navarro
- Hon. Damon L. Alexander
- Hon. Rick Denison
- Hon. John Gabbard

Members Not Present

- Brawley
- Colton
- San Bernardino
- Yucca Valley
- Dana Point

Members Not Present

San Bernardino County

- Los Angeles County
- Los Angeles County
- District 1
- District 6
- District 7
- District 11
- District 12



Hon. Valerie Amezcua	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Claudia Frometa	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Andrew Sarega	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. Konstantine Anthony	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Hon. Eunisses Hernandez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 48
Hon. Paul Krekorian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49/Public Transit Rep.
Hon. Bob Blumenfield	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 50
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Katy Young Yaroslavsky	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 52
Hon. Imelda Padilla	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 53
Hon. Monica Rodriguez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 54
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 55
Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 56
Hon. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Traci Park	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
Hon. John Lee	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 59
Hon. Hugo Soto-Martinez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 60
Hon. Kevin de León	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 61
Hon. Tim McOsker	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Elizabeth Becerra	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Celeste Rodriguez	<i>San Fernando</i>	District 67
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.

Staff Present

- Kome Ajise, Executive Director
- Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
- Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
- Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
- Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
- Carmen Flores, Chief Human Resources Officer
- Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
- Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
- Jeffery Elder, Acting Chief Counsel
- Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
- Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Brown called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and asked Regional Council Member Tim Sandoval, Pomona, District 38, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

He also reminded the members that if a member of this body was attending remotely but not at a location specified on the agenda, they could observe but not participate in any discussion or voting of this body.

PRESENTATION

President Brown welcomed Mayor Karen Bass to provide an update for the City of Los Angeles.

Mayor Bass thanked SCAG for the invitation and shared that in about 40 days it would be a year since she became Mayor and that it had definitely been an exciting time. She explained that she left congress and came here because of the emergency they were facing in Los Angeles, which was the unhoused population. She noted that in Los Angeles alone there was 46,000 unhoused and on day one she went to the emergency management department and put the city in a state of emergency because she believed it was an emergency to have that many people on the street. She shared that they lost 2,000 Angelinos last year who died from a variety of reasons and the majority were probably due to overdoses. She noted that by putting the city in a state of emergency it gave her additional powers to fast-track building to do procurement. She explained that they started a program called Inside Safe in which they were moving people directly from tents into housing and had community-based organizations to manage the people once they were in the motels. She explained that they created an outreach team and trained them to meet with people in the tents. She also shared that she did executive directives to fast-track building, because they all knew that they needed to address this problem in a comprehensive manner by helping to prevent people from falling on the streets and to get them off the streets as soon as possible into permanent supportive of housing. She explained that she has faced several challenges around moving from interim to permanent housing, especially in areas where housing and urban development requires one to show income. She indicated this was difficult for people living in tents who had no income or government issued identifications. She noted that it took months to address the issue of presumptive eligibility and finally got HUD to issue waivers. She indicated that they had a lot of other problems like this that they needed to resolve. She also expressed that she believed that they were a strong region and thought that they needed to mobilize at the local, state, and federal level to demonstrate their power in the same way that SCAG does. She also shared that she has tried to pay a lot of attention to collaboration and has tried to build up collaboration between the county supervisors and the mayors in the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, which has worked well for them. She emphasized that it has been a very exciting year in terms of the homelessness issue but that they were also dealing with other issues like public safety, climate, and labor. She expressed that she was excited to reach her one-year mark and was really looking forward to

building more relationships with SCAG. She also thanked SCAG for the grants they received which will help them continue to move forward with their goals. Lastly, she briefly touched upon the Olympics and World Cup and stated that one of the reasons Los Angeles was chosen was because there were already stadiums in place. She stated why couldn't they use all of their power and influence to address some of their problems before the world comes here. She expressed that she was hoping that she could galvanize some of the energy and synergy for those major events to help them address their problems.

Regional Council Member Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, shared that the city of Mission Viejo had Olympic history and she welcome any opportunity to partner with her in this regard. She shared that Mission Viejo Mayor Brian Goodell happened to be a two-time gold medalist in swimming and was someone she could lean on for support and welcomed the collaboration.

Regional Council Member Jose Luis Solache, Lynwood, District 26, thanked Mayor Bass for being at the meeting. He indicated that SCAG represents a large part of Southern California, and they definitely heard her ask about being a regional leader and being a voice at the State and Federal level. He shared that he was on the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee and that they did good work to make sure that SCAG, Los Angeles County and the other counties have representation and resources. He asked Mayor Bass to use SCAG as a resource to partner with her in her efforts to transform Los Angeles and stated that they looked forward to collaborating.

Regional Council Member Deborah Robertson, District 8, shared that Mayor Bass was the Chair of the US Conference of Mayors and of the task force for homeless. She also shared that Mayor Bass would be hosting this task force on November 9 for all mayors to attend and to address homelessness throughout the Southern California region. She indicated that the Deputy Administrator for HUD would be there as well. Mayor Bass stated that the point of the task force was to get them organized because it was a national problem and in order to get some legislative fixes, they needed to pull the country together. She invited all of them to attend.

Regional Council Member Tim Sandoval, Pomona, District 38, thanked Mayor Bass for her leadership and for addressing one of the biggest crises they have faced as a region. He indicated that she had approached the issue with care and compassion and not with the lens of criminalizing people for being unhoused. He shared that he had seen a change and thanked her for making this one of her key priorities.

Regional Council Member Margaret Finley, Duarte, District 35, expressed that she had been around long enough to see what has or has not happened with the sales tax measure (Proposition H) from a few years ago and asked what programs Mayor Bass had seen implemented in other parts of the

country that could be applied here that would work. She also asked Mayor Bass what she thought was going to be the way to utilize this money properly.

Mayor Bass shared that the city of Houston took homelessness and put it outside of government by creating a 501 (c)(3), this avoided all of the bureaucracy that they have at all levels of government. She expressed that she believed that what they had to do in their area was to build a system of interim housing where people can stay for about a year to a year and a half. She shared that their model of motels was not financially sustainable so what they were doing now was beginning to purchase the motels and master leasing them for two to three years. This way the costs really went down, and they reduced the street level population. She also expressed that she was concerned that the services were also lacking, and that Proposition H provided services that were too general and that there were no accountability measures in place. She shared that she was a big believer in evaluation that is outcome driven. She noted that she was working on the new Proposition H and was being very specific about the type of services like mental health, substance abuse, health care, domestic violence, etc. She also shared that there would be a proposition around the mental health building which was a bond measure to build the facilities they should have built 50 years ago, and to loosen up the mental health money.

Regional Council Member Oscar Ortiz, Indio, District 66, shared that in Indio they actually sheltered a quarter of their county's unhouse population which came with a lot of consequences, but they were willing to deal with it in their city. He asked if presumptive eligibility was available for all cities or if it was something that she was able to negotiate for her city. Mayor Bass expressed he should request it. He also shared that they had some old motels that were currently being used for the migrant population that were going to the border and asked if when they made the purchases, if there was any assistance to the city in providing those purchases or forming the lease agreements. Mayor Bass indicated they were using general funds; \$250 million they had set aside in the budget as well as other monies.

Regional Council Member Margaret Clark, Rosemead, District 32, expressed that she was excited about what Mayor Bass was saying on the homeless issue with drug addiction and mental illness. She shared that she wrote a letter to the editor of the Tribune about five years ago who asked what she would do about the homeless. She indicated that she would retro vacant government buildings to get the mentally ill and individuals addicted to drugs into treatment.

Mayor Bass also noted that there was 9,000 children and women that were unhoused because of domestic violence. Other reasons also included teenagers aging out of foster care or people who were formerly incarcerated, so looking at why the individual became unhoused and addressing their specific needs was important.

Regional Council Member Casey McKeon, Huntington Beach, District 64, asked what they were doing to address the addiction component along with providing housing.

Mayor Bass indicated that they had money in the budget from opioid and tobacco settlements and had set this money aside to use for substance abuse treatment so that they could offer it for drug treatment services when they visited the tents or motels. She shared that they were establishing a partnership with the county where they offer services from day one to 90 and the city from day 91 on as she believed no one could get clean or sober in 90 days.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Brown opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

The Clerk of the Board acknowledged there were no public comments for items not listed on the agenda and that there were no written public comments received by the 5 p.m. deadline.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

Action Items 1, 2 and the Consent Calendar were acted upon together. The roll call vote is reflected below.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Connect SoCal 2024: Draft Plan Preview and Release
2. Recommendation and Authorization to Release the Connect SoCal 2024 Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337)

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, explained that they were seeking approval to release the draft Plan and PEIR for public review and comment. He reminded the members that during the last adoption of the Connect SoCal plan in 2020 they were in the midst of a global pandemic, national social unrest following the murder of George Floyd, and the worst wildfire season in the history of their state. He further explained that these challenges meant that they were adopting a long-term plan in

the face of uncertainty. The challenges also spotlighted the vulnerabilities and inequalities within their communities. As a result, he noted that it prompted the Regional Council to affirm its commitments to advancing equity and working to reverse the effects of past inequitable policies and practices. He shared that in 2021, the Regional Council affirmed its commitment to promote regional climate adaptation and resilience to address threats to the region's transportation system, public health and quality of life. For Connect SoCal, he noted this meant that they needed to look at the plan as a vehicle to untangle policy roots of inequality and address the history of systemic racism. He highlighted that in looking towards the future, this plan took a holistic look at resilience, from climate and other shocks and stressors that their region faces, to ensure they thrive despite uncertainties of the future. He explained that Connect SoCal outlines a long-term vision for a more equitable and resilient region, with integrated planning strategies across four pillars: mobility, communities, environment and economy, and it also builds on the progress at the local level in implementing past plans and working to create more transportation options.

Sarah Dominguez, Planning Supervisor, shared that in September a preview of the plan was provided. Her presentation included an overview of

- what is Connect SoCal;
- the importance of meeting federal transportation conformity and the GHG emission reduction targets to ensure state and federal funding;
- SCAG's leadership role in the region to identify the policies, strategies, and funding necessary to reach regional goals;
- the importance of using the 3 C's approach: continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive, which include outreach, collecting input, and clarifying policy priorities for bridging the gap between where they want to go and what it will take to get there;
- a look at what the region will look like in 2050 and the importance of investing in the maintenance of their infrastructure to ensure a safe and functioning transportation system in order to preserve the legacy of past investments;
- information on the forecasted regional development pattern which indicates that jurisdictions have made progress towards more sustainable land use over the past 10 years and that household production is anticipated to address the backlog of unmet housing in the region;
- a brief overview of the plan financial summary and plan investments;
- a look at specific components of the plan related to transportation projects such as Regional Express Lanes, Transit/Rail Network and Complete Streets;
- information on regional strategic investments which are funded by new revenues and help to advance priorities like equity and resilience, with universal basic mobility and clean transportation, and also leverage technology, with advancements in the regional Intelligent Transportation System architecture and smart cities;
- a brief overview of regional strategic investments in mobility, communities, environment and economy; and

- a brief look at the plan impacts, summary of what the plan will accomplish and implementation of the plan.

She also reported on the release of the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and noted that preparing the plan triggers the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which requires SCAG to evaluate and disclose potential impacts from the plan to meet CEQA requirements. She explained this was done through the PEIR which includes a region wide programmatic environmental analysis of the plan, with the objective to mitigate or avoid significant adverse environmental impacts of the plan. She also shared that the PEIR process involves a lot of stakeholder input in which they receive valuable feedback to be considered in the draft PEIR. She briefly touched upon the 2024 draft PEIR major components, the PEIR outline and the summary of the draft PEIR conclusions by CEQA guidelines in Appendix G Environmental Impact Areas. Lastly, she shared that on November 9 during the public review and comment period, SCAG would be making a series of presentations to brief elected officials across the region, in December would hold three public hearings, and that the public comment period would close for both documents on January 12, 2024. She noted that at that time, staff would review and respond to all comments and anticipated updating SCAG's policy committees on the summary of comments and revision approach in March before seeking certification of the Final PEIR and approval of the final plan in April 2024.

President Brown called on members of the public to provide public comment on the Connect SoCal Plan and the draft PEIR Plan.

Richard Lambros, Southern California Leadership Council, acknowledged staff, the Regional Council, and stakeholders for the countless of hours and hard work on the plan. He shared that the business community had been deeply involved and appreciated SCAG meeting with them. He noted that since February, they had detailed discussions about some of the items that they were most concerned about and expressed those conversations had been fruitful. He explained there were six core principles that they thought were essential and used to evaluate a regional plan. He shared that those principles look at a plan that 1) respects local control; 2) provides positive economic impacts, one that is pro-growth and pro-job creation; 3) is committed to transparency and disclosure; 4) assures new revenue sources are fair, equitable, and economically sound; 5) supports the accelerated production of new housing; and 6) accounts for and includes the benefits of all recent technological and societal changes in calculating their GHG, VMT and other environmental impacts. He noted that they plan on using these principles to evaluate the plan and looked forward to the continued dialogue throughout the process. He noted that their goal was that the plan achieves key environmental goals that promotes economic growth and development as well as allows for housing production and housing affordability.

Adam Wood, Building Industry Association, explained that they were very engaged in the 2020 process and would be again. He noted that their message remained the same that Connect SoCal was a very powerful tool that reaches every corner of Southern California, so it was very important. He noted that they really vet all this language and understand the impact it's going to have on their communities. He expressed that they had joined a letter and agreed with the six points noted by Mr. Lambros. He shared that there was very little affordable and attainable housing and couldn't afford any policies that moved them in the wrong direction. He further expressed that they were excited to partner with SCAG staff to make sure this was noted in the plan.

Chris Wilson, representing the Los Angeles County Business Federation, echoed some of the previous comments and noted that BizFed stands ready to assist in whatever way they can to ensure that there's transparency and consideration for some of the principles that were outlined. He thanked SCAG for having good dialogue with them in February and staff for the consideration of their comments and view.

The comprehensive staff report for Items 1 and 2 were included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Immediate Past President Harnik, highlighted Item 5 on the Consent Calendar related to delegation travel to the United Arab Emirates. She expressed that when they looked at the list of who was going on this trip, it spoke volumes to the impression that SCAG makes in the region and all the work that they do. She stated that if there were ever any questions about the respect, notoriety and impression that SCAG makes, this showed them how important it was in the region and through all of Southern California.

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meeting – October 5, 2023
4. 2024 Meeting Schedule of the Executive Administration Committee, Policy Committees, and Regional Council
5. SCAG Participation in the American University of Sharjah (AUS) California Transportation Delegation Trip to the United Arab Emirates, December 11 - 14, 2023
6. Resolution No. 23-660-1 Approving Amendment 1 to the FY 2023-24 Comprehensive Budget

7. Resolution No. 23-660-2 Authorizing Acceptance of One-Time FY22 Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (CPF/CDS)
8. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: Contract No. 23-042-C01, Highways to Boulevards Regional Study
9. 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines
10. REAP 2.0 NOFA for Lasting Affordability Funding Awards

Receive and File

11. November 2023 State and Federal Legislative Update
12. 2020 Sustainable Communities Program – Overview
13. 2023 Go Human Safety Strategies Outcomes
14. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
15. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Sandoval) on **Item No. 1:** to release the draft 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, Connect SoCal 2024, including the associated draft transportation conformity analysis, for public review and comment; **Item No. 2:** to authorize the release of the Connect SoCal 2024 Draft PEIR for a 65-day public review and comment period beginning November 9, 2023, and ending January 12, 2024, and direct staff to carry out administrative tasks for the 2024 Draft PEIR public release; and to approve the **Consent Calendar:** Items 3 through 10; and Receive and File Items 11 and 15. Motion was SECONDED (Solache). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Aitken, Allen, Boyer, Boyles, Brown, Bucknum, Clark, Crosswhite, Dumitru, Eich, Finlay, Gazeley, Goodell, Goodman, Harnik, Henderson, Judge, Kelly, Krupa, Lock Dawson, Lopez, Lorimore, Mann, Manos, Marquez, McCallon, McKeon, Meister, Michael, Nava-Froelich, Ortiz, Plancarte, Rhodes, Robertson, Saleh, Sandoval, Saro, Schwank, Shapiro, Simonoff, Solache, Spiegel, Tye, Wagner, Wapner, Wood and Yokoyama (47)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

BUSINESS REPORT

Business Representative and Chair of the GLUE Council Lucy Dunn thanked President Brown for staff and the business sectors input regarding Connect SoCal. She indicated they were pleased with the Regional Council releasing the document to the public. She also recognized Immediate Past President Jan Harnik for her leadership which helped with some good business input. She also expressed appreciation for all of the Regional Council Members that attend the GLUE Council meetings which has been really helpful to them. She reported that they had been watching inflation and that once again the Fed's did not raise interest rates. She also shared a report from Randall Lewis regarding the housing market and noted that the rapid and relentless rise in past rate hikes was really disrupting the market. She reported that interest rates have continued to climb, and this has had an impact in all aspects of real estate. She shared that new home builders were continuing to make some sales, but only because they were buying down the interest rates at a cost anywhere from \$40,000 to \$80,000 a house depending on the terms of the loan and price range of the home. She noted that there would be statistics coming out that show September and October sales of new homes had actually slowed down. She shared that builders in many cases were making no profit or losing money. On the apartment side, she shared that they were seeing many projects being delayed or dropped because of the cost of construction, financing, and the feared cost of permanent financing when the apartments are finished. She explained that this would have an impact over the next few months on the economy and on cities as new apartment construction slows down. She also reported that the office market remains in tough shape and that the industrial market, which was a bright spot for the Southern California economy was showing increased vacancies. She noted that real estate which was such a big driver of the SCAG economy was going to have some very negative numbers in the foreseeable future. She reminded the members that business was doing internal stress tests and that they were suggesting that cities needed to make sure that they were doing internal stress tests for system destructions. She also noted that they were still looking at a mid-November Federal government shutdown and hoped that new leadership would curtail that. She shared that the next GLUE Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 20 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Brown reminded members to register for SCAG's 14th Annual Economic Summit which was scheduled for December 17 at the Sheraton Grand and noted that the event was themed accelerating the region. He shared that the event would explore major economic factors that inform Connect SoCal 2024. He reported that he joined a SCAG delegation in touring several sites in Imperial County and also saw several ongoing projects in the downtown Calexico area, including a

\$191 million project by the federal government to upgrade the Calexico West Port of Entry. He also shared that Chief Planning Officer Sarah Jepson spoke at a panel about accelerating infrastructure at the California Forward Economic Summit and that others in attendance were members of the Strategic Growth Council, the Milken Institute and SCAG Regional Council Member and Indio Mayor Oscar Ortiz. He noted that SCAG Immediate Past President Jan Harnik of Palm Desert, also participated in a local government panel discussion, along with Imperial County Supervisor Chairman Ryan Kelly and Brawley City Councilmember and SCAG CEHD Member George Nava. He also noted that the event took place in Indian Wells and highlighted the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, with tours of the Salton Sea, Agua Caliente Tribal Conservation Lands, and other critical projects in the region. Lastly, he noted that there were no Policy Committees or Regional Council meetings in December and that the next Regional Council meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, thanked the Regional Council for their leadership in the action they took to approve the Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Plan and the associated Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). He reiterated that both comment periods for the Plan and the PEIR ended on January 12, after which they would come back to the Regional Council for final adoption in April 2024. He also emphasized that this date was important because it gave them time to submit to the Federal Government and the State and get the approval back before they run into conformity issues in June of 2024. He also informed members of the tool kit that was emailed to them to help get the word out to their communities. He reported that the third and final Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 30 and included discussion on the Greenprint draft data standards and potential data layers, tool functionality and user testing as part of this group's work advising staff on development of the Greenprint tool to ensure its alignment with the approved Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning policy framework. He shared staff would integrate the guidance and feedback from all three meetings into recommendations which would be presented to the Energy and Environment Committee in January and the Regional Council in February. He also reported that Darin Chidsey, Chief Operation Officer, and Ma'Ayn Johnson, SCAG Housing Manager, were in Riverside this day at a joint meeting of the California Transportation Commission, the California Air Resources Board and the California Housing and Community Development Department. He shared that Ms. Johnson would be presenting on Connect SoCal 2024 and what SCAG was doing to implement almost \$300 million in REAP 1 and REAP 2 funding across the region. He also provided an update on the REAP suballocations and noted that it was part of the \$246 million REAP 2.0 grant award of which 80% was being suballocated for partner-led projects to ensure work was delivered efficiently while investing funding back into the region. He shared that the REAP 2.0 program builds capacity to deliver on the 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) goals and continues their work to align transportation and housing development opportunities in the region. He also provided a brief update on the Notice of Funds

Available (NOFA) for the Lasting Affordability Program, a \$45 million competitive program that supports program-level investments in housing trust funds, community land trusts, catalase funds, and nonprofit organizations that help secure affordability across the region. He also provided an update the Call for Applications for the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) Pilot Program, which was open through November 6. He shared that SCAG hosted a workshop on October 4 to explain the Call for Applications and that staff would be available for office hours to support applicants in the application process. He also highlighted Sustainable Communities Program staff report on the agenda (Item 12) which is part of the work that the Regional Council does in implementing Connect SoCal 2020. He shared that the program had funded about 56 different projects through four different calls for applications and awarded \$11.8 million. He shared they were looking to come back to the Regional Council with guidelines that help them implement Connect SoCal with the SCP 2024. Lastly, he also announced the retirement of Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer, who served SCAG for 21 years. He shared some of her accomplishments during her tenure and thanked her for her service.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Council Member Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, congratulated Debbie Dillon on her retirement. She took a moment of personal privileged and asked that they keep those in mind who were not here with them or were out in other countries helping to resolve the conflict. She shared that her grandson was in Kuwait and would possibly be deployed if the situation abroad did not settle.

Regional Council Member David J. Shapiro, Calabasas, District 44, shared that on November 7 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the City of Calabasas would be having their annual event honoring veterans and invited everyone to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the meeting of the Regional Council at 1:34 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

//