



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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

District 8
Imperial County

Hon. Art Bishop	<i>Town of Apple Valley</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Phil Brock	<i>Santa Monica</i>	WSCCOG
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Ned Davis	<i>Westlake Village</i>	LVMCOG
Hon. Rick Denison	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
Hon. Shari Horne	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Dan Kalmick	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Steven Leash	<i>Cahuilla Band of Indians</i>	
Hon. Elaine Litster	<i>Simi Valley</i>	VCOG
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	District 41
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	CVAG
Hon. Daniel Ramos	<i>Adelanto</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Nick Schultz	<i>Burbank</i>	AVCJPA
Hon. Jennifer Stark	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Taj	<i>Artesia</i>	Pres. Appt
Hon. Tamala Takahashi	<i>Burbank</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Connor Traut	<i>Buena Park</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Stephanie Virgen	<i>Coachella</i>	CVAG



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

Members Not Present

Hon. Damon L. Alexander	<i>San Bernardino</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Ana Beltran	<i>Westmoreland</i>	ICTC
Hon. Maria Davila	<i>South Gate</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Carmen Hernandez	<i>Barstow</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios	<i>Ventura</i>	VCOG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Luis Plancarte called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and Policy Committee member Rick Denison, Yucca Valley, District 11, 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. He noted that public comments received via email after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, would be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

SCAG staff acknowledged there were no public comments received before the 5:00 p.m. deadline on January 31, 2024.

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 – January 4, 2024

Receive and File

2. Energy and Environment Committee Outlook and Future Agenda Items
3. Connect SoCal 2024: Draft Plan Release Activities
4. Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337): Status Update on Additional Stakeholder Outreach and Preliminary Outline for the Proposed Final PEIR

A MOTION was made (Stark) to approve the Consent Calenda. Motion was SECONDED (Traut) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Bishop, Brock, Clark, Copeland, Crosswhite, Davis, Denison, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Leash, Meister, Ortiz, Plancarte, Stark, Taj, Takahashi, Traut, Virgen and Welty (21)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. Clean Technology Compendium

There were no public comments on item 5.

Sam Pournazeri, Senior Director of Clean Transportation and Energy, ICF, provided a presentation on SCAGs clean technology compendium, in which he outlined the key aspects of the compendium. During his presentation Mr. Pournazeri shared with the committee what the project objectives and goals were and discussed their focus on the four modes of interest which were light duty vehicles, medium and heavy-duty vehicles, buses and rail. He explained to members the importance of understanding the landscape of clean technology stating mobile sources were significant contributors to air quality issues in the South Coast Air Basin. He reported that in 2022, transportation contributed to almost more than 80% of nitrogen oxide emissions. He reported that in 2020, Governor Newsom signed an executive order which established a goal of having 100% of new passenger vehicles sold in California to be zero emission vehicle by 2035, transitioning all drayage or port trucks to zero emission by 2035, and the rest of the medium and heavy-duty

vehicles to zero emission by 2045. He reported that as part of the compendium, ICF studied the vehicles, charging and fueling infrastructure and supporting products that facilitated the adoption of these technologies. He then detailed the technology specifications and tools they had used. Furthermore, he detailed their findings for their four modes of interest and discussed their findings as it pertained to the different charging infrastructure.

He also shared with the members that the California Energy Commission AV 2127 Report forecasted that by 2035 California would need roughly 2 million charging stations, half of which were anticipated to be within the SCAG region. He reported Southern California had an expansive network of hydrogen fueling stations and in the SCAG region there were 39 active hydrogen fueling stations with plans for 21 more in the pipeline. He stated when assessing the transition to zero emission vehicles, several challenges stood out from a cost perspective. The high upfront prices of these vehicles had been a significant barrier in terms of technology readiness. Additionally, the current infrastructure did not adequately support zero emission vehicles and public zero emission vehicle infrastructure was also lacking. Also, real estate challenges existed on the consumer side. He explained many potential users had limited knowledge of the new technology and associated incentives, and there was a general lack of confidence into technology itself. Lastly, the absence of standardized vehicle and equipment performance, criteria, and inconsistencies in infrastructure design limited fundings, and delays and permitting further impeded transition.

He reported that despite encountering multiple barriers there was different policies at the federal, State, regional local levels with the goal of promoting zero emission vehicles. However, it was still evident that there were significant gaps that still needed to be addressed. Firstly, the lack of affordability for zero emission vehicles posed a challenge especially for low- and moderate-income communities. Additionally, there was a pressing need for greater investment in charging and fielding. To effectively bridge the infrastructure gap, 3,000 charges would need to be installed every week for light duty vehicles and an additional 430 charges for heavy duty statewide between now and 2,030. Half of those needed to happen within the SCAG region. To foster the adoption of clean technology, the compendium proposed a set of strategic recommendations. He advocated for a targeted incentive program to financially motivate individuals and businesses to make the switch, enhance public education and community outreach, and to raise awareness about the benefit of zero emission vehicles. He also suggested revising building codes, incorporating technology, infrastructure, and zoning to prioritize sustainable mobility, as well as promoting public private partnerships. He stated providing technical assistance can guide potential adopters while workforce development ensures the skilled workforce to support a transition. Lastly, he indicated it was essential for leaders and regional partners, such as municipalities to lead by example, showcasing the tangible benefits and feasibility of embracing zero emission vehicles.

Policy Committee members sought clarification on zero emissions for zero emission vehicles and had questions about the impact on streets as electric vehicles were heavier. Additionally, members shared their thoughts on how ambitious California's plan was to produce 3,300 charges a week and

thought the business community should be encouraged to create charging stations. Other questions were related to the public education and community outreach being done for this effort. Members expressed their concerns about the equity surrounding personal vehicles, indicating most electric cars were purchased new and were more for affluent communities. Lastly, members also expressed their concerns about the time it would take local delivery trucks to charge and the duration of their charge especially when doing cross-country trips. Mr. Pournazeri and SCAG staff addressed members questions.

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

Staff announced Chair Deborah Robertson wanted the record to reflect that though she was participating remotely, she was not at her noticed location. She wanted to note she was not aware a vote was happening when she voted 'yes' on the Consent Calendar and would therefore like her vote on the item to be removed completely.

6. Water Action Resolution White Paper Update

There were no public comments on item 6.

Kim Clark, Planning Supervisor, provided an update on SCAGs work related to the Water Action Resolution as well as Phase 1 of the water white paper. She detailed Phase 1 involved research, stakeholder interviews, and a landscape analysis of water management practices and factors impacting Southern California and noted SCAG's potential role to help address water issues regionally. She reported SCAG had completed a request for proposals and was in the process of securing a consultant. She reported Phase 1 would be from March 2024 through February 2025. Ms. Clark informed members Phase 2 would focus on identifying challenges and opportunities to support sustainable and resilient development, and address issues related to water acquisition, storage, supply, demand, and quality. She reported analysis on opportunities would identify the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a wide range of strategies to address the region's water challenges within SCAG's role, including recommendations for practical ways to support implementing agencies. Lastly, she informed members that SCAG anticipated beginning Phase 2 in summer 2025 through February 2027.

Policy Committee members asked staff if there were plans to work with NGO's as they thought it was important to be inclusive. Members also asked how funds meant for reducing water usage were being used and how to be more strategic regarding those funds. Additional questions were addressed on groundwater issues and if the white paper would look at ways that local agencies and local users of large amounts of water can reduce the need to bring in water from outside the system. SCAG staff addressed member comments and questions.

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.

7. Governor's Budget Update: Regional Early Action Planning Grant 2021 (REAP 2.0)

There were no public comments on item 7.

Franciso Barajas, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, provided a brief update on the Regional Early Action Planning grant, REAP 2.0 program. He stated that in January, the Governor proposed a \$291 billion dollar budget with \$1.2 billion dollars in cuts for housing programs. He reported SCAG had a MOU with a housing and community development for \$237 million dollars in funds and suballocated and awarded \$92 million to cities, counties and tribal governments to accelerate housing production and to implement Connect SoCal. He stated reducing or delaying funding would compromise the programs integrity and would have severe negative impacts on cities and counties across the region and the State. He stated SCAG authored a budget advocacy letter which was distributed to the Assembly Committee on Budget and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, legislative leadership, Southern California Delegation, and key SCAG stakeholders, including CalCog League of Cities, CSAC and regional transportation commissions. He stated talking points were also distributed to members of the Assembly and Senate budget committees representing the SCAG region whose districts contained projects funded by REAP 2.0. He also noted that SCAG Sacramento representatives provided in person testimony during the public comment period of the budget meetings. He reported SCAG had met with key legislative staff to the Senate Pro Tem and Senate Budget Committee and was in the process of setting up strike teams with members of SCAG's board to meet with legislators. He reported SCAG has anticipated this issue being the primary advocacy request for the upcoming Sacramento summit on March 19 – 20. He stated SCAG had developed an advocacy toolkit that would be available to SCAG elected officials and it would include a sample letter that could be sent to legislative leaders and legislators.

Policy Committee Member Jennifer Stark thanked SCAG staff for their efforts on the tool kit.

The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

8. Highways to Boulevards Regional Study

There were no public comments on item 8.

Hina Chanchlani, Associate Regional Planner, provided a brief update on the recent shift in highway planning approaches and stated it was important to prioritize funding for modes other than car and reconnect underserved communities and design a transportation system that serves all people.

She stated Connect SoCal 2024 plan goals and vision for 2050 was a healthy, prosperous, accessible, and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future. She noted that in July 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-623-2 which affirmed its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion throughout Southern California. The Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice further developed SCAG's response to advancing equity and a Racial Equity Early Action Plan was developed in May 2021.

She reported the nation's Interstate Highway System was established through the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1944 which accelerated the construction of highways in metro areas across the country. The new freeways cut through urban neighborhoods which displaced underserved communities and amplified racial inequities. She stated converted highway facilities could offer opportunities for communities to rebuild and reconnect with their surroundings and Highways to Boulevards could provide opportunities to improve access to public spaces and green spaces for communities. She stated the program would place community needs first and offer outcomes that benefit the public and offer economic gains to the communities who experienced inequities caused by highway construction.

She reported that in 2012 SCAG staff convened the Southern California Freeway Cap Coalition to discuss the merits of Freeway Cap and SCAG assisted with early-stage planning for freeway cap projects in Hollywood, Downtown Los Angeles, Ventura and Glendale. She stated statewide leasing policy required that all air-rights leases over freeway corridors could be revoked at any time by Caltrans and the leasing policy required Caltrans to maximize lease revenue.

She stated the long-term goal of SCAG's regional Highways to Boulevards Study was to reconnect communities by removing or retrofitting transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity. She indicated the regional study was aimed to develop and carry out a process to identify highways in the region that can be potential candidates for future improvements to reconnect communities intersecting with environmental justice areas or disadvantaged communities, and the study would identify potential projects to reverse historical and chronic negative impacts. She stated the major deliverables would include a feasibility assessment and identification of potential corridors, and guidance for cities that want to pursue highway/railway removal, retrofitting or mitigation.

She stated the next steps would be engaging in Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, developing Best Practices and Policy and Planning Context, and to provide study updates to the policy committees at key milestones.

Policy committee members expressed their support of the study and asked if this study would address the impact of existing infrastructure as there were motels along the 10 freeway where human trafficking occurred and caused harm to residents and individuals. Members also asked about the status of the 2012 study and how it related to the new study. Lastly, members requested

clarification on term capping and what capping freeways entailed. Staff addressed member questions and comments.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Plancarte welcomed new EEC member, Steven Leash, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Tribal Representative. He stated there would be a Joint Policy Committee on March 4. Lastly, he reported SCAG was hosting an Equity training for Regional Council and Policy Committee Members on February 22 and the training would be virtual and led by Charles Brown, Consultant from Equitable Cities.

STAFF REPORT

Rachel Wagner, Government Affairs Officer, reported that the April Meeting of the EEC would have an item on the agenda specifically dedicated for the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair for 2024-25 and if there were no nominations received for the positions of either Chair or Vice Chair by the deadline date, the current Chair would accept nominations made from the floor at the time of the meeting. She stated the term of office for the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair would commence upon the adjournment of the General Assembly Business Meeting on May 2, 2024. She reported applications for the 2024 SCAG Scholarship Program were open and that the program offered a \$4,000 scholarship award for seven high school or community college students from the SCAG region. She noted that applications were due by March 22, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chair Plancarte adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:33 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2023-2024

MEMBERS	Representing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Alexander, Damon L.	San Bernardino, RC Distirct 7	1	1			1	1		0	0					4
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC	0	0			1	0		1	0					2
Bishop, Art	Apple Valley, SBCTA	0	1			1	1		1	1					5
Brock, Phil	Santa Monica, WSCCOG	1	0			1	1		1	1					5
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, RC District 32	1	1			1	1		1	1					6
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG	1	0	D		1	1	D	1	1					5
Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1	1			1	1		1	1					6
Davila, Maria	South Gate, GCCOG	0	0			0	0		0	0					0
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG	0	0			1	1		1	1					4
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, RC District 11	1	1	A		1	1	A	1	1					6
Hernandez, Carmen	Barstow, SBCTA								0	0					0
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1	0			1	1		1	1					5
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG	1	1			1	0		1	1					5
Kalmick, Dan	Huntington Beach, OCCOG	1	1			1	1		1	1					6
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, RC District 20	1	1			1	1		1	1					6
Leash, Steven	Cahuilla Band of Indians									1					1
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG	1	1	R		1	1	R	1	1					6
Lopez, Vianey	Ventura County	1	1			1	1		1	0					5
Meister, Lauren	West Hollywood, RC District 41	1	1			1	1		1	1					6
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, RC District 66	1	1			0	1		1	1					5
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County	1	1	K		1	1	K	1	1					6
Ramos, Daniel	Adelanto, SBCTA					1	1		1	1					4
Robertson, Deborah	Rialto, RC District 8	0	1			1	1		0	1					4
Sanchez-Palacios, Jeanette	Ventura, VCOG	0	1			1	0		0	0					2
Schultz, Nick	Burbank, AVCJPA						1		1	1					3
Stark, Jennifer	Claremont, SGVCOG	1	1			1	1		1	1					6
Takahashi, Tamala	Burbank, SFVCOG	1	1			1	0		1	1					5
Traut, Connor	Buena Park, OCCOG	0	1			1	1		1	1					5
Virgen, Stephanie	Coachella, CVAG	0	1			1	0		1	1					4
Welty, Dale	Canyon Lake, WRCOG	0	1			1	1		1	1					5
Wilson, Edward H.J.	Signal Hill, GCCOG	0	0			1	1		1	1					

Attachment: EEC Attendance Sheet 2023-24 (Minutes of the Meeting - February 1, 2024)