



**NO. 663**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, March 7, 2024**

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**

<b>Hon. Art Brown, President</b>	<b><i>Buena Park</i></b>	<b>District 21</b>
<b>Supervisor Curt Hagman, 1st Vice President</b>		<b>San Bernardino County</b>
<b>Hon. Cindy Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b><i>Long Beach</i></b>	<b>District 30</b>
<b>Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President</b>		<b>RCTC</b>
Supervisor Luis Plancarte		Imperial County
Supervisor Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Don Wagner		Orange County
Supervisor Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Supervisor Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich		ICTC
Hon. Alan Wapner		SBCTA
Hon. Trish Kelley		TCA
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Gil Rebolgar	<b><i>Brawley</i></b>	District 1
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<b><i>Palm Desert</i></b>	District 2
Hon. Linda Krupa	<b><i>Hemet</i></b>	District 3
Hon. Clint Lorimore	<b><i>Eastvale</i></b>	District 4
Hon. Zak Schwank	<b><i>Temecula</i></b>	District 5
Hon. Frank Navarro	<b><i>Colton</i></b>	District 6
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	<b><i>Rancho Cucamonga</i></b>	District 9
Hon. Ray Marquez	<b><i>Chino Hills</i></b>	District 10
Hon. Rick Denison	<b><i>Yucca Valley</i></b>	District 11



Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Tammy Kim	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. Lauren Kleiman	<i>Newport Beach</i>	District 15
Hon. Jon Dumitru	<i>Orange</i>	District 17
Hon. Marshall Goodman	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Carlos Leon	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
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. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
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. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
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. Elizabeth Becerra	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	District 66
Hon. Celeste Rodriguez	<i>San Fernando</i>	District 67
Hon. Larry McCallon		Air District Representative
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

**Members Not Present**  
 Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
 Hon. Ashleigh Aitken  
 Hon. Damon L. Alexander

**Members Not Present**  
  
*San Bernardino*

**Members Not Present**  
 Los Angeles County  
 OCTA  
 District 7



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Hon. Deborah Robertson	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. John Gabbard	<i>Dana Point</i>	District 12
Hon. Valerie Amezcua	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Claudia Frometa	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Andrew Sarega	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Konstantine Anthony	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
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. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Karen Bass	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large

**Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director  
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating 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, Chief Counsel  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

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### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Brown called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. and asked Regional Council Member David J. Shapiro, Calabasas, District 44 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.

### **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](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov).

There were no public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there were no public comments received before the 5:00 p.m. deadline.

Seeing no public comment speakers for items not listed on the agenda, President Brown closed the Public Comment Period.

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

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

***Action Item 1 and the Consent Calendar were acted upon together. The roll call vote is reflected below.***

1. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 (FY25) Draft Comprehensive Budget

There were no public comments on Item No. 1.

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget received the full support from the Executive/Administration Committee at its meeting the day before. She explained that the proposed budget supported their agency goal to develop solutions for regional issues such

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as transportation, housing, and air quality, and complies with SCAG's primary responsibility to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), the annual Overall Work Program (OWP), and the transportation related air quality Plans. She highlighted that Table 1 of the staff report shows that the budget totals just under \$377.5 million, \$68 million down from the current fiscal year. She noted that over 90% of this decrease was attributable to just three programs, which were the wind down of the MSRC Last Mile Freight program, REAP 2019 programs, and the reduction of REAP 2021 available funds based on the forecasted expenditures in the current fiscal year. She emphasized that they had assumed in their budget that there would be no reduction in REAP 2021 funds and that once there was a final resolution on the State Budget staff would return to the Board to review and approve any needed modifications to the REAP 2021 program. She described that the largest component of the budget was OWP which totaled just under \$370 million and was spread across 34 different programs. She noted that the two largest programs were REAP 2021, which totals \$203 million and the MSRC Last Mile Freight program, which was predominantly funded with local match funds and totaled \$87.5 million. She also shared that in January staff met with Caltrans, FHWA and FTA to review their work program and accomplishments on their major programs and were happy to report that the feedback they received from those agencies was supportive of the work program. She noted that page 15 of the staff report included a chart that detailed the total program for each budget and that within the comprehensive budget document starting on page 49 they could find narratives of each program that describe the programs objectives and the alignment with their strategic plan. She also explained that there was a new funding source within OWP which was the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). She clarified that after discussion with key stakeholders and consistent with the Regional Council direction, 35% of the local CRP funds were set aside for SCAG, while 65% was made available through a call for projects process. She further noted that the OWP included the use of nearly \$8.8 million of SCAG CRP funds for 11 different projects, all aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions from on road transportation sources and was detailed on Table 3 of the staff report. She also shared that major expenditure categories of the budget were broken out in Table 2 and included salaries and benefits which totaled \$47.4 million, cash and in-kind commitments of \$81 million, which almost entirely relates to the Last Mile Freight program, and consultant and technical assistance and pass through payments totaling \$227 million, of which 85% or \$191 million was REAP 2021. With respect to the total salaries and benefit costs, she noted that it was less than a 3% increase over the current year, which was predominantly attributed to their annual merit program, an increase in their unfunded pension liability payment, and increasing benefit costs, offset by the net elimination of two positions, taking their total agency headcount from 237 to 235. She explained that Attachment 2 of the staff report provided details of the six position changes incorporated in the proposed budget, which nets to a savings of \$559,000. Additionally, two new IT position classifications had been added to their salary schedule in order to allow for more leadership and specialized support. She noted that no budget impact was related to these two new classifications as funding for these had not been included in the proposed budget. She also highlighted that one new employee benefit was proposed within the budget, which was

the addition of Veteran's Day as a recognized non-work holiday. She explained that while the addition of an additional holiday did not impact their total salary and benefits budget, they estimated the cost of one day of labor at about \$137,000. She shared that with the inclusion of Veteran's Day there would be 10 staff holidays in addition to the 44 personal floating holiday hours. Lastly, she noted that the General Fund Budget totaled just over \$3 million and provided funding for the Regional Council and its subcommittees, stipends and travel, the General Assembly, and other expenditures which may not be grant eligible. She explained that the General Fund was predominantly funded with membership dues which totaled \$2.7 million and that the detailed breakdown of those membership dues by agency was on page 85 of the agenda packet. She described that these dues were calculated considering the funding means of the general fund and inflationary factors in compliance with the methods of assessment outlined in SCAG's Bylaws.

Regional Council Member Karen Spiegel, Riverside County, asked which were the 10 holidays that included Veteran's Day and sought clarification on the 44 personal floating holiday hours. Staff addressed the request.

Regional Council Member David J. Shapiro, Calabasas, District 44, noted he was supportive of the Veteran's Day holiday and asked staff to confirm the amount in staff time or hours. Ms. Giraldo indicated it was \$137,000.

Regional Council Member Margaret Clark, Rosemead, District 32, sought clarification on what she had heard about the Governor's budget taking away some of the Housing Trust Fund from the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust and staffs report on REAP funds not being taken away. Kome Ajise, Executive Director, explained that the Governor did propose to cut half of the REAP money but that it was not state law just the Governor's proposal. He indicated it didn't change the contract between SCAG and the State at this point and they really didn't have any authority to do anything different than what was reflected in the budget.

Regional Council Member Crut Hagman, San Bernardino County, asked if this budget factored in the issue of stipend versus employees in the coming year. He also asked if there was enough reserve in the budget. Staff explained that they did have the budget if they make the transition but that as of now, they were still stipend non-employees and would come back to the Board if that changed. Regional Council Member Hagman also made the motion to approve Item 1 and the Consent Calendar.

Regional Council Member Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, expressed her support for budget and noted her concern about any permanent or temporary staff that have been hired to perform REAP related activities and also with the many agencies that are relying on the REAP funding to conduct this critical program. She stated that she wanted to make sure that they as an agency provide them [the outside agencies] with as much advance notice of SCAG's strategies. She

indicated that she knew that staff had immediately notified entities that were expecting to receive REAP 2.0 funding of the statewide halt on REAP related activities. She asked staff to share with them any key responses or recommendations that they had heard from the stakeholders that they should be aware of and any additional actions that SCAG staff was pursuing to address any identified concerns.

Mr. Ajise indicated the Governor's proposal would have serious implications for the REAP program so that's why they put a stop notice out so that they are not spending resources they don't have. He shared that over the next couple of months they have work to do with both the legislature and the Governor's office on where the REAP program ends. He expressed that he thought that there may be a potential that they will not have all the REAP monies available to them. He indicated that the REAP program was really set up to be a multi-year program so what was left would still be with them for a few more months than just one year, which is why there was a multi-year dimension to it. He explained that there still was enough work to do on the SCAG side and that there was also more work besides the REAP program that staff was transitioning into. He also noted that they are trying to develop an advocacy system or process that allows them to reimagine how REAP might be funded because the way that they set up the REAP program in their region was intended to be more of a sustained program over time as opposed to a one-time program, with the goal of supporting housing production in the region. He indicated that they plan to come back to the Regional Council in April with some principles that will then hopefully inform how they might approach what's left of the REAP program and then get back to working with the stakeholders on what is left of the program and how the program might be operated or executed over multiple years.

Regional Council Member Frank Navarro, Colton, District 6, indicated he would second the motion by Supervisor Hagman and thanked staff for the work on the budget as he knew that with the diminishing funding that was coming it would be a rough road ahead.

The Clerk of the Board clarified that the second motion was made by Regional Council Member Shapiro. The President acknowledged that was the case.

Immediate Past President Harnik sought clarification on the motion.

Board Counsel Duran confirmed the motion included Item No. 1 and the entire Consent Calendar.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

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Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting – February 1, 2024
3. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: Contract No. 24-015-C01, Research and Media Buying
4. 2023 District Evaluation
5. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

6. March 2024 State and Federal Legislative Update
7. RHNA Reform Legislative Update
8. Status Update on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Proposed Disapproval of South Coast Air Quality Management District's 2019 Contingency Measure Ozone State Implementation Plan
9. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council's Approval Threshold
10. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Hagman) on **Item No. 1:** that the Regional Council: 1) Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Draft Comprehensive Budget in the amount of \$377,421,908; 2) Authorize the release of the FY 2024-25 Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) to initiate the 30-day public comment period; and 3) Approve the FY 2024-25 General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment and transmit to the General Assembly; and **Consent Calendar:** Items 2 through 5; and Receive and File Items 6 and 10. Motion was SECONDED (Shapiro) and passed by the following roll call votes:

**AYES:** Allen, Andrade-Stadler, Becerra, Boyles, Brown, Bucknum, Clark, Crosswhite, Denison, Dumitru, Eich, Finlay, Gazeley, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, L. Hernandez, Judge, Kelley, Kelly, Kim, Krupa, Leon, Lopez, Lorimore, Mann, Manos, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, McKeon, Meister, Michael, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Ortiz, Plancarte, Rebolgar, Rhodes, Saleh, Schwank\*, Shapiro, Simonoff, Solache, Solis, Spiegel, Wagner, Wapner, Wood and Yokoyama (51)

\*Regional Council Member Zak Schwank messaged the Clerk to inform her that he was having audio issues and that his vote was a yes.

**NOES:** None (0)



**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### 11. Presidential Priorities Panel: Goods Movement

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, thanked President Art Brown and everyone involved in developing the 2023-2024 EAC Strategic Work Plan. He indicated that they had two informative panels on Clean Transportation Technology and Transit/Rail Recovery, and this third panel would be focusing on the Goods Movement. He explained that the region was home to nearly half of the state's population and generates \$1.2 trillion in regional gross domestic product, ranking as the 15<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. He also noted that the SCAG region represents the largest goods movement area in the U.S. when factoring for its combined seaports, railroads, air cargo, interstates and highways, local roadway access, trucking services, border crossings, and industrial footprint with nearly 2 billion square feet in inventory. He noted that since Connect SoCal 2020, their freight system infrastructure had been stretched by increasing supply chain complexity, rapidly changing technology and evolving trends which consisted of factors like the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and impacted global trade, inflation, state regulations towards clean technologies, and e-commerce and increasing expectations for delivery. He further noted that amid these changes, they were proactive in leading collaboration with key regional, state and federal partners, culminating in the Goods Movement Resolution, approved by the Regional Council in March 2023. He explained that principles from the Goods Movement Resolution had been incorporated as Regional Planning Policies in Connect SoCal 2024 which aligned with the plan's vision and goals and informed the development of the plan's Goods Movement approach and implementation strategies. He also shared that SCAG's research and programs had been instrumental in supporting regional planning efforts, including the Last Mile Freight Program; Zero Emission Truck Infrastructure Study (also known as ZETI); Goods Movement Communities Opportunities Assessment; Integrated Passenger & Freight Rail Forecast; Last Mile Freight Delivery Study; and Industrial Warehouse Study. He also shared that this year SCAG plans to complete the Zero Emission Truck Infrastructure Study, as well as multiple curb space management studies, and noted that they will continue managing the Last Mile Freight Program and enhancing supply chain assessment platforms, tools and resources for the region. He also indicated that they were developing an approach to a Comprehensive Sustainable Freight Plan that will inform the next Connect SoCal update and support numerous funding program opportunities and key initiatives.

Lena Kent, General Director Public Affairs for BNSF Railway, shared she had been at BNSF for 28 years, based in California, and that she was a lifelong resident who had grown up in the Inland Empire. She indicated that BNSF is located in Fort Worth, Texas and operated in 28 States and three Canadian provinces, moving many of the goods that several depend on day in and day out.

She shared that they had major facilities in San Bernardino, Los Angeles and San Diego and were a major transporter of goods arriving and departing from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Ross Lane, Government Affairs Leader for the Arizona and California Railroad Company, shared G&W was a short line holding company with over 100 small railroads across North America and with operations in the United Kingdom and Europe. He explained that a short line railroad was one that was under \$50 million per year in revenue and as defined by the Surface Transportation Board. He shared that they operate six short line railroads in California all the way through San Diego, Imperial Valley and connect down at the border in Tijuana, and up into Ventura County where they serve the Port of Hueneme, including the San Joaquin Valley Railroad and the California Northern Railroad. He also noted that it included the Oregon border which consisted of the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad. He explained that the short line railroads in California move the equivalent freight of about 5 million semi truckloads. He further explained they were the first mile last mile delivery and were really that nexus for a shipper, large or small, that wanted to connect to the national freight rail network and then on to the domestic or international supply chain. He noted that he handled government affairs for their Western States which included Texas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and everything west from these states. He shared that the Arizona and California railroad was the only railroad in the State district that G&W operates where they interchange with BNSF and then take freight into the Phoenix Metro area. He indicated that they had become very familiar with SCAG as they were working with Caltrans and BNSF on a project that would rehabilitate this line and essentially add some more capacity and an additional lane to Phoenix Metro area.

Salim Youssefzadeh, CEO for WattEV, shared that they were a company that was founded in August 2020, with headquarters in Long Beach. He explained that the mission of the company was to accelerate the transition to heavy duty trucking and noted that the way they go about this was to have a full level ecosystem approach and solution to making electrification as simple as possible. He shared that they had multiple divisions, one of which was on the infrastructure side building out public charging stations. He indicated that the starting point has been all along the California West Coast and one site that is currently operational on the port of Long Beach with five megawatts of capacity, 13 dual core chargers, and the ability to charge 26 trucks at once. He noted that this was just the first phase, and the next phase would be to add an additional seven megawatts to scale it up. He also shared that they had other sites in San Bernardino, Gardena, and Bakersfield, all of which were set to come online in the next two months and noted that San Bernardino and Gardena benefited the Last Mile Freight Program grant. He further explained that in addition to the sites they focused on in Southern California, they had about 15 sites that covered almost all of the West Coast from the port of San Diego all the way up to Seattle, Washington. He indicated that separate from the infrastructure side, they also emphasize on a technology base that's really focused on pushing the technology beyond the current capabilities to add megawatt charging so that they can go beyond the middle mile segment and eventually transition to long haul trucking. He also noted

that beyond infrastructure and technology they also had their transportation division as they knew very quickly that they couldn't just have infrastructure built out and have it just sitting there without any utilization. He indicated that this was when they started working with a lot of the truck manufacturers testing the capabilities of those vehicles, creating their own transport company so that they could start moving freight with four shippers. He shared that with the 20 trucks they have they have moved probably over 600,000 miles using zero emissions trucks for Procter and Gamble, and some of the others from the middle mile segment, which had allowed them to figure out what these trucks are capable of. He also indicated that they have been able to provide the best solution to owner operators who make up a large portion of the industry and who otherwise would not be able to necessarily afford a half a million-dollar truck or afford to build infrastructure at their facilities. He shared that their solution to them was their truck as a service solution, where they give access to them as an all-inclusive lease of the vehicle to include maintenance, damage insurance, and charging at a fixed price per month on routes that they tested.

Stephane Fosso, Director of Fleet Technology and Electrification for Sysco Corporation reported that Sysco was the largest food distribution in North America and served more than 300,000 customers from local restaurants, school cafeterias, casinos, and hospitals. He shared that in California they operated seven distribution centers or what they call the Last Mile Delivery in Los Angeles, San Diego, Modesto, Fremont, Sacramento, Ventura, and Riverside. He shared the Riverside site was the pilot location in which they have a partnership with SCAG. He explained that they operate about 10,000 trucks daily in North America and 10,000 trailers and noted that Sysco had one of the largest fleets in North America when it comes to heavy duty transportation. He indicated that they have a major impact on emissions and that their goal was to reduce their emission footprint by 27.5 percent by 2030. He shared that they had an ambitious goal to replace their diesel tractors with electric vehicles which they anticipated to be about 2,800 by 2030.

Executive Director Ajise asked the panelist where improvement was needed for collaboration between the public and private sector and what could agencies like SCAG offer in making the process better.

The panelist highlighted the issue of compliance with the CARB in use locomotive regulation, which threatened to put many short lines out of business. Panelist indicated that there were opportunities to work together by engaging on this topic and understanding that it just wasn't a regulatory issue but also a transportation issue that would have dire consequences on all of them in Southern California. They emphasized the need for partnerships with public agencies, railroads, and shippers to innovate and move freight. The conversation also covered the importance of upgrading rail infrastructure, including the project to upgrade the line between California and Arizona. The potential benefits of these projects, including reduced emissions and truck traffic, were also discussed. The challenges of transitioning to electric locomotives, including the need for charging infrastructure and the high cost of compliance, were also raised. Discussion also revolved

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around the Last Mile Fright program and future plan for sites in the San Bernardino and Gardena areas. The construction process of different sites, with a focus on the challenges of infrastructure and the availability of electric trucks was also discussed. Dialog also focused on the importance of collaboration with utilities and manufacturers to secure power and trucks.

Executive Director Ajise asked Mr. Fosso if they were solely focused on battery electric or if they were also looking at hydrogen, and where the public private connection might help them meet their objectives.

Mr. Fosso shared their target to reduce emissions by 27.5% was by replacing 35% of their diesel fleet with electric vehicles, trailers, and potentially hydrogen. He emphasized the need for public support for infrastructure, particularly for hydrogen fueling stations.

Regional Council Member Clark expressed concerns about the potential environmental impact of CARB's clean energy policies, citing an example of a mandate on Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) fuel that led to groundwater contamination and costly cleanup. She suggested investing in renewable natural gas and hydrogen as alternatives.

Ms. Kent shared that they were investing in Tier 4 locomotives which was the cleanest burning locomotive currently available. She also indicated that they were testing renewable fuels from Barstow into the basin and were seeing promising and significant reductions in emissions. She also shared that they would be testing a hydrogen fuel cell locomotive in the next year or two depending on how that technology comes along. She emphasized that they were committed to testing new technologies to reduce emissions and also expressed that it was important that they all work together.

Regional Council Member Rocky Rhodes, Simi Valley, District 46, thanked the panel for the discussion and also expressed concern for the unintended consequences of massive infrastructure change and asked if the increased weight of locomotives require infrastructure change on rail.

Ms. Kent shared that they tested the first over the road battery locomotive between Stockton and Barstow and unfortunately, that battery was not big enough to get it to its destination, so what ended up happening was that it had to be sandwiched between two diesel locomotives. She noted that it was a step in the right direction to start testing the technology, but they also learned that they were going to need a bigger heavier battery. She explained that it was not clear yet how that was going to impact their rail network over bridges or on their current infrastructure. She indicated that they could not test it because it was not yet available but did anticipate that it was going to be significantly heavier and potentially cause some damage to their infrastructure.

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Regional Council Member Spiegel shared that it took them a long time to get Metrolink over to Tier 4 and expressed concerns about transitioning too electric.

Regional Council Member Oscar Ortiz, Indio, District 66, expressed that it may make more sense to make investments in hydrogen production instead of fixing logistical routes and needed infrastructure. He asked the panelist what their thoughts were on hydrogen.

Mr. Youssefzadeh pointed out the energy requirements and costs associated with creating and transporting hydrogen.

Discussion was also had on the need for a seamless interconnected system due to the interstate nature of railroads. Challenges such as charging time and dependability were highlighted, with a potential solution being an autonomous vehicle for shorter distances.

Regional Council Member Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, District 63, asked about public safety in terms of train derailments when they start talking about heavier vehicles. He also asked about operating in cold weather and the lifespan of replacing batteries.

Ms. Kent indicated that they had not been able to test in all of the scenarios mentioned by Regional Council Member Manos. She indicated that there would be challenges moving across the entire network, but that safety was definitely a priority for them.

Regional Council Member Larry McCallon, Air District Representative, shared that at Metrolink they were able to get changes in the in-use locomotive rule for their commuter passenger rail. He indicated that if they had not been able to do this, they would have been out of business because their member agencies could not afford to put in the monies required for it. He also shared that they were using renewable diesel in their engines.

Executive Director Ajise asked the panelist what kind of workforce implications they saw in the transition to new technology.

The discussion revolved around the workforce implications of transitioning to new technology in the freight and railroad industry. The panelists discussed the need for a new skill set as the industry moves towards electrification, requiring the hiring of people with electric or electrical engineering experience. They also highlighted the importance of training and partnerships with colleges and high schools to prepare the future workforce. The conversation also touched upon the potential for job growth in the industry, with a focus on attracting younger drivers and developing new products that could create several jobs.

Executive Director Ajise thanked the panel members for the thought-provoking discussion.

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## **BUSINESS REPORT**

Lucy Dunn, Business Representative, expressed her personal thanks to Dr. Gigi Moreno as it was her last day at SCAG. She thanked her for all the good work and noted that she enjoyed working with her from the business perspective. She reported that the next meeting of the GLUE Council was in April, and they would consider a recommendation for support of Connect SoCal. She also indicated that her business report was in the packet. She expressed that she found it fascinating that California last year, with a population of 35 million, issued 110,000 building permits, and yet the State of North Carolina, with a population of 11 million, issued 98,000 building permits. She indicated that these performance metrics just hit it home for her. She also noted that there was a paragraph that was missing in her report and wanted Regional Council Members and SCAG leadership to know that the climate change reporting information in the State of California was being challenged by national and regional business groups. She indicated that the U.S. Chamber, California Chamber, American Farm Bureau, BizFed LA, and BizFed Central Valley had all filed a lawsuit against the California Air Resources Board challenging the climate accountability package. She indicated it was a troubling measure for them among other issues in violation of the first amendment.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Brown reported that registration opened last week for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly taking place at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert on May 2-3. He noted that the event brings together leaders from across Southern California to collaborate on the future of mobility, communities, the environment and the economy. He also reported that the 2024 SCAG Scholarship Program was still open for applications through March 22 and that up to nine \$4,000 scholarships were available for high school or community college students from the SCAG region interested in pursuing planning or public service-related careers. He also shared that he led a mobile workshop for Regional Council and Policy Committee members in San Bernardino County. He noted that their first stop was a tour of the Esri Headquarters in the City of Redlands, where they met with CEO and founder Jack Dangermond. He explained that Esri was the global market leader in geographic information systems mapping technology and had been a partner to SCAG over the past several years. He also noted that they received presentations from Metrolink and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority on the new Metrolink Arrow Service. He thanked those who joined him on the tour. Lastly, he reminded the members that the next meeting of the Regional Council was scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

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

Executive Director Ajise reported that the AQMD was required to file a contingency mitigation plan that was due for action by the EPA on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. He indicated that this plan covers Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. He noted that on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the EPA published a notice of proposed disapproval of that plan, which meant that it would set in motion a 24-month highway sanction clock until AQMD can address the underlying issues in the plan. He indicated they would be impacted because this meant that they couldn't have Federal actions taken, approvals, or funding to projects in their region as a result of that highway sanctions clock that would take 24-months. He noted that at the end of the 24-months those approvals would go quiet on them, and it would have a negative impact and consequences on their region. He noted that they asked for an extension of the comment period on the EPA's action and indicated it was extended by a month to April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He shared that they have been working with the County Transportation Commissions to prepare a letter that would hopefully highlight some of the significant implications of this disapproval of the plan. He indicated that they were hoping to compel the EPA to either approve the plan, or at least conditionally approve it until meaningful partnerships can be set up to fix the things that need to be fixed. He noted the conversations were on going. He shared that he wanted to bring this to their attention in case they may have to come back to the Board with a more urgent manner if not resolved. He also provided a REAP status update and noted that the Governor's budget proposed a \$300 million dollar cut to the REAP program, which would result in approximately \$123 million dollars cut in the SCAG REAP program if it becomes budget law. He reemphasized that SCAG issued a hold on sub allocations as they did not want to spend money they didn't have. He noted that they expect to come back to the EAC in April to discuss some priorities and some principles of how they might reshape the program. He indicated that if they do end up doing cuts, they would be compelled to come back to the Regional Council with proposals on how they adjust the budget to recognize those cuts. He explained that in the meantime they would continue to work with their stakeholders and friends to advocate on behalf of the program. He emphasized that this was an advocacy priority for them as the budget process moves forward in Sacramento. Lastly, he took a moment to recognize Dr. Gigi Moreno's who was leaving to work for the California Energy Commission.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Immediate Past President Harnik indicated that she would like to adjourn the meeting in memory of Brian Nestande, a longtime friend of Riverside County who served in the Assembly and passed away. She indicated that his wife was a colleague of hers and Kathleen Kelly's on the Palm Desert City Council. She indicated that he gave a lot to the valley and was a relatively young man.

President Brown also concluded the meeting with a special tribute to SCAG Senior Regional Planner John Ascencion who passed away after a long heroic battle with cancer. He shared that John served the agency for more than 17 years and was a beloved member of the SCAG family. He expressed that their hearts went out to his family and colleagues at this difficult time.

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the meeting of the Regional Council at 1:56 p.m. in memory Brian Nestande and John Ascencion.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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Regional Council Attendance Report																
2023-2024																
MEMBERS	Representing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total Mtgs Attended To Date		
Aitken, Ashleigh	OCTA	0	1		0	0	1			1	0			3		
Alexander, Damon L.	San Bernardino, RC District 7	1	1		1	1	0		0	0	0			4		
Allen, Cindy	Long Beach, RC District 30	1	1		1	0	1		1	0	1			6		
Amezcuca, Valerie	Santa Ana, RC District 16	1	1		0	0	0		0	0	0			2		
Andrade-Stadler, Adele	Alhambra, RC District 34	1	0		1	0	0		0	1	1			4		
Anthony, Konstantine	Burbank, RC District 42	1	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			1		
Barger, Kathryn	Los Angeles County	0	1		0	0	0		0	0	0			1		
Bass, Karen	Los Angeles, (Member at Large)	0	0		0	0	1		0	0	0			1		
Becerra, Elizabeth	Victorville, RC District 65	1	1		0	1	0		1	1	1			6		
Blumenfield, Bob	Los Angeles, RC District 50	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			0		
Boyer, Gary	Glendora, RC District 33	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Boyles, Drew	El Segundo, RC District 40	0	0		1	0	1		1	1	1			5		
Brown, Art	Buena Park, RC District 21	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Bucknum, Wendy	Mission Viejo, RC District 13	1	1	D	1	1	1	D	1	1	1			8		
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, RC District 32	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
de Leon, Kevin	Los Angeles, RC District 61	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			0		
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, RC District 11	0	1		0	0	0		0	0	1			2		
Dumitru, Jon	Orange, RC District 17	0	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			7		
Dunn, Lucy	Business Representative	1	1		1	1	0		1	1	1			7		
Eich, Keith	La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36	1	0		1	1	1		1	1	1			7		
Finlay, Margaret E.	Duarte, RC District 35	1	1	A	0	1	1	A	1	1	1			7		
Frometa, Claudia M.	Downey, RC District 25	0	0		0	0	0		1	1	0			2		
Gabbard, John	Dana Point, RC District 12		1		1	0	0		0	1	0			3		
Gazeley, James	Lomita, RC District 39	1	1		1	1	1		0	1	1			7		
Goodman, Marshall	La Palma, RC District 18	1	0		1	1	1		1	1	1			7		
Hagman, Curt	San Bernardino County	1	1		1	1	0		0	1	1			6		
Harnik, Jan C.	RCTC	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Harris-Dawson, Marqueece	Los Angeles, RC District 55	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			0		
Henderson, Mark E.	Gardena, RC District 28	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Hernandez, Eunisses	Los Angeles, RC District 48	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			0		
Hernandez, Laura	Port Hueneme, RC District 45	1	1		1	1	0		1	1	1			7		
Hutt, Heather	Los Angeles, RC District 57	0	0	R	0	0	0	R	0	0	0			0		
Judge, Mike T.	Simi Valley, VCTC	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, RC District 20	1	1		1	1	0		1	1	1			7		
Kelley, Trish	TCA Representative	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Kelly, Kathleen	Palm Desert, RC District 2	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Kim, Tammy	Irvine, RC District 14	0	1		0	1	1		1	1	1			6		
Kleiman, Lauren	Newport Beach, RC District 15	1	1		1	1	1		0	1	1			7		
Krekorian, Paul	Los Angeles, RC District 49/Public Transit Rep	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			0		
Krupa, Linda	Hemet, RC District 3	1	1	K	1	1	1	K	1	1	1			8		
Lee, John	Los Angeles, RC District 59	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0			0		
Leon, Carlos A.	Anaheim, RC District 19								1	1	1			3		
Lock Dawson, Patricia	Riverside, RC District 68	0	1		1	1	1		1	1	0			6		
Lopez, Vianey	Ventura County	1	1		1	1	1		1	0	1			7		
Lorimore, Clint	Eastvale, RC District 4	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Mann, Ken	Lancaster, RC District 43	1	1		0	1	1		1	1	1			7		
Manos, Steve	Lake Elsinore, RC District 63	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Marquez, Ray	Chino Hills, RC District 10	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Masiel, Andrew	Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians Tribal Gov. Reg. Plng. Brd.	1	0		0	1	0		1	1	1			5		
McCallon, Larry	Air District Representative	0	0		0	1	1		1	1	1			5		
McKeon, Casey	Huntington Beach, RC District 64	1	1		1	0	1		1	1	1			7		
McOsker, Tim	Los Angeles, RC District 62	1	0		1	1	0		1	0	0			4		
Meister, Lauren	West Hollywood, RC District 41	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Michael, L. Dennis	Rancho Cucamonga, RC District 9	1	1		1	1	1		0	1	1			7		
Nava, Marisela	Perris, RC District 69	1	1		1	1	0		0	0	0			4		
Nava-Froelich, Maria	ICTC	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1			8		
Navarro, Frank J.	Colton, RC District 6	0	0		1	1	0		1	1	1			5		
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, RC District 66	1	1		1	0	1		1	1	1			7		
Padilla, Imelda	Los Angeles, RC District 53				0	0	0		0	0	0			0		

Park, Traci	Los Angeles, RC District 58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Price, Curren D.	Los Angeles, RCDistrict 56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raman, Nithya	Los Angeles, RC District 51	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rebollar, Gil	Brawley, RC District 1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	6
Rhodes, Rocky	Simi Valley, RC District 46	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Robertson, Deborah	Rialto, RC District 8	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
Rodriguez, Celeste	San Fernando, RC District 67	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	7
Rodriguez, Monica	Los Angeles, RC District 54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saleh, Ali	Bell, RC District 27	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Sandoval, Tim	Pomona, RC District 38	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7
Sarega, Andrew	La Mirada, RC District 31	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Saro, Suely	Long Beach, RC District 29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	7
Schwank, Zak	Temecula, RC District 5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Shapiro, David J.	Calabasas, RC District 44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Simonoff, Marty	Brea, RC District 22	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Solache, José Luis	Lynwood, RC District 26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Solis, Hilda	Los Angeles County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Soto-Martinez, Hugo	Los Angeles, RC District 60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spiegel, Karen	Riverside County	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Tye, Steve	Diamond Bar, RC District 37	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Wagner, Donald P.	Orange County	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Wapner, Alan	SBCTA/SBCOG	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7
Wood, Jeff	Lakewood, RC District 24			1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
Yaroslavsky, Katy	Los Angeles, RC District 52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yokoyama, Frank A.	Cerritos, RC District 23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8