
News Release

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SCAG Honors Six Innovative Local Projects with 2020 Sustainability Awards

Los Angeles, Calif. – Six exemplary and innovative planning projects are being honored as winners of the 2020 Sustainability Awards by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Winners of this year’s 13th annual awards include four municipalities and two transportation agencies in the six-county SCAG region. The Sustainability Awards recognize excellence in coordinating land use and transportation to improve mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability. Due to the cancelation of SCAG’s 2020 Regional Conference and General Assembly, the Sustainability Award winners will not be honored at a formal ceremony.

“Particularly against the backdrop of the current COVID-19 public health crisis, we’re very proud to be recognizing the very best of our region’s efforts to improve the quality of life of our communities.” said Bill Jahn, Big Bear Lake City Council member and President of SCAG. “Now more than ever, it is crucial to plan for a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future; these projects illustrate the innovative and meaningful work being done to realize that vision.

The 2020 honorees by category are:

Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability: The CHERP-Locally Grown Power project serving the Cities of Pomona and Claremont.

Claremont and Pomona’s CHERP project is a clean power initiative designed to bring affordable renewable energy technologies to low-income communities. In seeking to take the cities to net zero energy, the project is also stimulating the local economy by creating clean energy jobs and addressing local environmental justice issues. (Video profiling the project available at: <https://vimeo.com/415247758>)

Active, Healthy and Safe Communities: The City of Burbank for the Burbank Channel Bikeway.

Running along the Burbank-Western Flood Control Channel, a tributary of the Los Angeles River, the Burbank Channel Bikeway is a one-mile bike and pedestrian path that, once fully completed, will run 50 miles to Long Beach. Located off the street, the Bikeway is a safe space that improves the aesthetics of the area and encourages active living. (Video profiling the project available at: <https://vimeo.com/415270783>)

Clean Cities – Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure: The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority for the Zero-emission Multiple Unit (ZEMU) Initiative.

As a part of efforts to expand its service network, SBCTA sought to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and improve the air quality of the San Bernardino Valley. After introducing clean diesel

vehicles, SBCTA saw an opportunity to convert the power generators utilized by the diesel vehicles into zero or low emission units (ZEMU). SBCTA was successful in securing funding to develop and move forward with the plan to provide clean and sustainable transportation to the San Bernardino Valley. (Video profiling the project available at: <https://vimeo.com/415552394>)

Efficient and Sustainable Land Use: The City of Long Beach for General Plan Land Use Element Update.

The updated Long Beach General Plan promotes transit-oriented development, job housing balance, and infill that is focused on helping guide Long Beach into a more sustainable future. The Plan improves mobility choices, expands transit access, reduces greenhouse gases and improves air quality. The Plan also addresses the City's housing needs caused by overcrowding, while also incorporating the City's projected housing needs and at the same time creating attractive and vibrant places for residents to enjoy. (Video profiling the project available at: <https://vimeo.com/415274143>)

Housing Innovation: The City of Palmdale for its Courson Arts Colony.

The culmination of a decades-long plan to revitalize the civic center area, the Courson Art Colony consists of 159 affordable housing units focused on cultivating and promoting the arts. The Colony also contains 60 permanent supportive housing apartments that are designed to serve medically complex Veterans and non-Veterans experiencing homelessness. Centrally located, the Colony is a key fixture among multi-family housing in the City and provides outstanding amenities for its residents, including a dance studio, art gallery, art walk, and flexible art space, amongst others. (Video profiling the project available at: <https://vimeo.com/415272764>)

Green Region – Resource Conservation and Climate Action: Caltrans for its Wildlife Passage Modifications on State Route 118 in Las Posas Valley.

This project was designed to ease the effects of one of the largest obstacles affecting wildlife movement within the Santa Monica – Sierra Madre Connection. Increasing the connectivity of wildlife habitats in the region, the project provides wildlife with greater and safer access to their homes. By installing fencing to funnel wildlife to safer passages and constructing ramps for wildlife to scale ledges under culverts, this project will preserve ecosystems increase genetic diversity of populations and increases wildlife's access to resources. (Video profiling the project available at: <https://vimeo.com/415550522>)

Projects acknowledged with Awards of Merit include:

- Cities of Buena Park on behalf of the Renew Beach Boulevard Coalition for their Meet on Beach, a Go Human Event (Active, Healthy and Safe Communities)
- The City of West Hollywood for its EV Charge Up West Hollywood Program (Clean Cities – Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure)
- The City of Los Angeles for its Modernizing Transportation Analysis (Efficient and Sustainable Land Use)
- The City of Los Angeles for its Transit Oriented Communities Incentive Program (Housing Innovation)
- The City of Monrovia for its Monrovia Community Garden Pilot Program (Green Region – Resource Conservation and Climate Action)

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.