



**LAS VIRGENES - MALIBU
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

April 16, 2024, 8:30 AM

**Agoura Hills City Hall, Community Room
30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Governing Board Roll Call:

Alicia Weintraub, Calabasas, President
Penny Sylvester, Agoura Hills, Vice President
Eniko Gold, Hidden Hills,
Paul Grisanti, Malibu
Kelly Honig, Westlake Village

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2, the Governing Board is prohibited from discussing or taking immediate action on any item not on the agenda unless it can be demonstrated that the item is of an emergency nature, or if the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items will be approved in one motion unless removed for separate discussion or action.

- A. March 19, 2024 Draft Minutes – Attachment (page 3-5)
- B. April 2024 Financial Statement – Attachment (page 6-7)
- C. Appointment to Metro Streets & Freeways Subcommittee – Attachment (page 8)

Recommended Action: Approve Consent Calendar

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Executive Director's Report – Attachment (page)

B. City Updates: Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, and Westlake Village

6. PUBLIC SAFETY, LEGISLATIVE AND AGENCY PARTNER UPDATES

- A. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – Captain Jenn Seetoo
- B. Los Angeles County Fire Department – Chief Drew Smith
- C. Los Angeles County – Supervisor Horvath's office
- D. California Highway Patrol – Casey Ramstead, PIO, West Valley Station
- E. Cal Cities – Jeff Kiernan (page 1)
- F. Updates from Legislative Staff and Agency Partners (page 20-23)

7. GENERAL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Technical Advisory Committee: Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 8:30 AM.
- Governing Board: Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 8:30 AM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**Draft Minutes
Governing Board Meeting
VIRTUAL MEETING - VARIOUS LOCATIONS
March 19, 2024**

The Governing Board conducted the meeting, via Zoom, and in accordance with the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act.

1 – Call to Order: President Weintraub called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Roll Call of Governing Board members/alternates present:

Alicia Weintraub, Calabasas, President
Eniko Gold, Hidden Hills
Doug Stewart, Malibu, voted until Paul Grisanti joined the meeting.
Kelly Honig, Westlake Village

The following non-voting Governing Board Alternate members participated in the meeting:
Ray Pearl, Westlake Village

2 – Approval of the Agenda:

ACTION: Kelly Honig moved to approve the agenda. Eniko Gold seconded. The Motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Honig, and Stewart.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Penny Sylvester

3 – Public Comment Period: The Executive Director stated that he had not received any electronic public comments and no one participating in the meeting offered public comments.

4 – Consent Calendar: A) February 20, 2024, Draft Minutes; and B) March 2024 Financial Report.

ACTION: Eniko Gold moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Doug Stewart seconded. The Motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Honig, and Stewart.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Penny Sylvester

5.A – The Emerging Role of Law Enforcement Chaplaincy 2024. Phil Reese, Chaplain, Malibu-Lost Hills Sheriff's Station made the presentation. Following questions, President Weintraub thanked Chaplain Reese for making his presentation. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

5.B – Executive Director's Report: The Executive Director highlighted his report. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

5.C – City Updates: President Weintraub called upon each city manager or their representative to provide and update. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

6.A – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department: Captain Jenn Seetoo provided an update from Lost Hills/Malibu Station.

6.B – Los Angeles County Fire Department: Chief Drew Smith and Megan Currier provided an update from County Fire.

6.C – Los Angeles County: Sophia Soudani presented an update from Supervisor Horvath's office.

6.D – California Highway Patrol: Officer Casey Ramstead, PIO, presented an update from the Highway Patrol.

6.E – League of Cities: Jeff Kiernan called attention to his update in the agenda and highlighted several points.

6.F – Updates from Area Legislators and Agencies: Nancy Frawley provided an update from Assemblymember Irwin's office, Davis Han provided an update from Senator Allen's office and Stephanie Rendon from Congresswoman Brownley's office.

Governing Board member Grisanti joined the meeting.

7.A – AB 1999 (Irwin) Electricity: Fixed Charges. President Weintraub asked the Executive Director to present his report.

ACTION: Paul Grisanti moved to send a letter of support for AB 1999 (Irwin). Eniko Gold seconded. The Motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Grisanti, and Honig.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Penny Sylvester

7.B – Los Angeles County Homeless Grant, 2024/25 Statement of Work. President Weintraub asked the Executive Director to present his report.

ACTION: Kelly Honig moved to approve the Statement of Work which includes a continuation of funding for the COG's homeless outreach coordinator, part-time administrative assistant, and funding for four beds at The People Concern for unhoused individuals they are working with in Malibu. Paul Grisanti seconded. The Motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: President Weintraub and Governing Board members, Gold, Grisanti, and Honig.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Penny Sylvester

8. – Comments and Request for Future Agenda Items: Kelly Honig and Eniko Gold proposed a COG event in the fall that would honor the deputies at the Lost Hills/ Malibu Sheriff's Station. President Weintraub asked the Executive Director to come back to the Governing Board with a recommendation. There were no other comments or requests for future agenda items. No action was taken by the Governing Board.

10. – President Weintraub announced the next meeting dates: Technical Advisory Committee meeting is April 3, 2024, 8:30 AM; Governing Board meeting will be in-person at Agoura Hills City Hall on April 16, 2024, 8:30 AM followed by a tour of the Wildlife Crossing; and the special meeting of the Governing Board with Supervisor Horvath on April 22, 2024, 10:00 AM at Malibu City Hall to discuss homelessness.

11. – Adjournment: President Weintraub adjourned the meeting at 10:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Dipple
Executive Director



Agoura Hills, CA

Detail Report Account Detail

Date Range: 03/01/2024 - 03/31/2024

Account	Post Date	Packet Number	Source Transaction	Name	Description	Vendor	Amount	Running Balance	Ending Balance
Fund: 096 - COG Fund									
096-0000-3950									
	03/04/2024	CLPKT10037	00032404	COG Revenue	Metro MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE Metro		-20,372.89	-600,810.69	-600,810.69
	03/11/2024	CLPKT10041	00032400	COG Revenue	County of Los Angeles MISCELLANEOUS ...		-12,772.89	-593,210.69	-593,210.69
							-7,600.00	-600,810.69	-600,810.69
Project Account							Amount	Running Balance	
							-580,437.80		
096-4190-552000									
	03/28/2024	APPKT03052	INV32824	Contract Services	March 2024 COG Fees	04965 - Terry Dipple	35,332.05	613,403.47	613,403.47
	03/28/2024	APPKT03052	INV32824	Contract Services	March 2024 COG Services	07352 - Jessica Flores	15,470.00	593,541.42	593,541.42
	03/28/2024	APPKT03052	INV32824	Contract Services	March 2024 COG Services	07404 - Vivian Rescalvo	1,000.00	594,541.42	594,541.42
	03/28/2024	APPKT03052	INV32825	Contract Services	March 2024 COG Services	06798 - Gabriel M. Graham	12,262.05	606,803.47	606,803.47
	03/28/2024	APPKT03052	INV32825	Contract Services	March 2024 COG Services	06798 - Gabriel M. Graham	6,600.00	613,403.47	613,403.47
Project Account							Amount	Running Balance	
							578,071.42		
Total Fund: 096 - COG Fund:							Beginning Balance:	Ending Balance:	
							14,959.16	12,592.78	
Grand Totals:							Beginning Balance:	Ending Balance:	
							-2,366.38	12,592.78	

**Agenda Item 4.B
(Consent Calendar)**

Fund Summary

Fund	Beginning Balance	Total Activity	Ending Balance
096 - COG Fund	-2,366.38	14,959.16	12,592.78
Grand Total:	-2,366.38	14,959.16	12,592.78

Governing Board Agenda Report

DATE: April 16, 2024
TO: Governing Board and Alternates
FROM: Terry Dipple, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Appointment to Metro Streets & Freeways Subcommittee

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this report is to provide the Governing Board with information on the COG's appointment of a representative to the Metro Streets & Freeways Subcommittee, which is a technical subcommittee of Metro's Technical Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governing Board appoint Curtis Castle to represent the COG on the Metro Streets & Freeways Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

The COG does not have a representative on the Streets & Freeways Subcommittee as the prior representative is no longer with the City of Malibu. I surveyed the COG's Highway Working Group members and Curtis Castle, Director of Public Works, Calabasas volunteered to represent the COG. There were no other volunteers.

Members of the subcommittee provide assistance to Metro by reviewing and evaluating various transportation policies, issues and transportation funding programs in Los Angeles County. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 9:30 AM at Metro headquarters, however, there is a virtual option.

Governing Board Agenda Report

DATE: April 16, 2024
TO: Governing Board and Alternates
FROM: Terry Dipple, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Project Update

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this report is to update the Governing Board on the status of COG projects and other items of interest.

Homeowners' Insurance Town Hall – The April 4th virtual event was very informative and had over 500 people online. Once I receive the resource material, I will forward it to the Governing Board and post it on the COG website.

Special Meeting with Supervisor Horvath to Discuss Homelessness – The Governing Board will be holding a special meeting with Supervisor Horvath on Monday, April 22, 2024, 10:00 AM, at Malibu City Hall.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Cal OES completed their review on April 11 and the consultant is making the necessary revisions which will be completed and resubmitted the following week. The HMP will be forward to FEMA for final approval, which is expected later this summer. I was pleased to hear that one of the committees that Congresswoman Brownley sits on oversees FEMA and her staff has agreed to assist in obtaining a rapid review by FEMA.

Regional Smart Cities Fiber Network Project – The design engineering portion has had a couple of delays but is moving forward. I continue to meet every other week with the consultant and cities. The major delay was due to the tunnels on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road. As previously reported, we held several meetings with Malibu and LA County DPW regarding how to address the tunnels. LA County DPW has now agreed to allow the conduit to be attached to the inside of the tunnels, thus avoiding having to run the fiber overhead. The other issue is Hidden Hills will not be moving forward with their city-wide fiber project. I have spoken with Metro and the COG will be reallocating the \$1.5 million from Hidden Hills to the COG for the Regional Smart Cities Fiber Network when we approve our annual Measure M projects in September 2024. The consultant will have the feasibility study portion of the project finalized by mid-April. Once I have that I will be able to determine available funding for other city Measure M projects. The final design engineering and bid package are now expected by June, which will still allow sufficient

time for the COG to go out to bid over the summer. I anticipate construction beginning in the fall of 2024.

AT&T Application with CPUC – I testified at the March 19 CPUC public participation hearing that was conducted by the administrative law judge with a member of the CPUC in attendance. Below is the schedule for a final determination by CPUC.

Event	Date(s)
Applicant's Opening Testimony, filed and served	December 19, 2023 (date not changed from Scoping Memo)
Status Conference	January 10, 2024
Public Participation Hearings	February 6, February 22, March 14, and March 19 (dates not changed from ruling issued on December 4, 2024)
Intervenors' Testimony, filed and served	February 29, 2024
Applicant's Rebuttal Testimony, filed and served	March 14, 2024
Draft Witness Lists, filed and served	March 26, 2024
Joint Statement on Stipulations and Disputed Material Facts (if any exist), filed and served	March 26, 2024
Parties' Joint Proposed Schedule for Evidentiary Hearing, filed and served	March 29, 2024
Status Conference	April 2, 2024
Final Exhibits, served	April 15, 2024
Deadline for Pre-Hearing Motions	April 15, 2024
Status Conference	April 19, 2024
Evidentiary Hearing	April 23-25, 2024
Opening Briefs, filed and served	May 24, 2024
Reply Briefs, filed and served (matter submitted)	June 17, 2024
Proposed Decision, issued	September 2024

TO: LAS VIRGENES MALIBU CITIES COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 4/16/2024 MEETING (AS PREPARED APRIL 5)

DIVISION LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Legislature: As Cal Cities works to provide our members with information on legislation, our efforts have been slowed by a flurry of bills being gut-and-amended in the last couple weeks as legislators try to advance their bill ideas. This rush of activity is the result of upcoming twin deadlines for fiscal and non-fiscal bills to pass out of policy committees in their first house by April 26 and May 3 respectively. Following these deadlines, the legislature will focus on Floor votes to advance bills to the second house by May 24. They will then turn their attention to budget hearings to resolve the projected \$39-68 billion deficit in order to pass a budget by June 15.

PRIORITY LEGISLATION You can find a complete list of Cal Cities priority legislation [HERE](#)

Housing

Development Fees Ø AB 1820 (Schiavo) Housing Development Projects: Applications. Fees And Exactions.

This measure would require local agencies to provide an estimate of all taxes and fees within 10 business days of a request from a project applicant during the preliminary application process.

Cal Cities Position: Pending *HOT*

Housing Element Ø AB 1886 (Alvarez) Housing Element Law: Substantial Compliance: Housing Accountability Act.

This measure would allow the Builder's Remedy to begin as soon as the Department of Housing and Community Development or a court determines a jurisdiction's housing element is out of compliance.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

Ø AB 1893 (Wicks) Housing Accountability Act: Housing Disapprovals: Required Local Findings.

This measure would allow the Builder's Remedy apply if the Department of Housing and Community Development determines that a local jurisdiction is not in compliance with Housing Element Law and a proposed development project provides a minimum of 10% of the units for low-income or very low-income residents. This measure would limit the Builder's Remedy only to areas zoned for residential and mixed-use development and caps maximum density.

Cal Cities Position: Pending *HOT*

Public Safety

Retail Theft Ø SB 982 (Wahab) Crimes: Organized Theft.

This measure permanently repeals the sunset date on the organized retail theft statute which is currently January 1, 2026.

Cal Cities Position: Support Ø AB 1779 (Irwin) Theft: Jurisdiction.

This measure would no longer limit jurisdictional rules for specified theft crimes to criminal action brought by the Attorney General.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Ø AB 1990 (Carrillo) Criminal Procedure. Shoplifting

This bill would authorize a peace officer to make a warrantless arrest for a misdemeanor shoplifting offense not committed in the officer's presence if the officer has probable cause to believe that person has committed shoplifting.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Ø SB 1242 (McGuire) Community Correctional Facilities.

This measure is a spot bill that is expected to be amended to address penalties for criminals who start fires in order to engage in retail theft.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Ø SB 1416 (Newman) Retail Theft.

This measure increases penalties on professional organized retail theft for large-scale resale schemes.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Ø AB 1960 (Soria) Sentencing Enhancements: Property Loss.

This measure would create sentencing enhancements for taking, damaging, or destroying property in the commission or attempted commission of a felony.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Ø AB 1772 (Ramos) Theft.

This measure would make changes to Proposition 47 including reinstating felony theft with a prior conviction.

Cal Cities Position: Pending Ø SB 923 (Archuleta) Theft

This bill would require a person convicted of petty theft or shoplifting, if the person has 2 or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses, to be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, or for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years, and would make conforming changes. This would require the voters approve changes to Prop 47.

Rev & Tax

Property Taxes Ø AB 2564 (Boerner) Property Tax Postponement: Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Fund.

This measure would reinstate General Fund support for the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Program.

Cal Cities Position: Support Ø SB 1164 (Newman) Property Taxation: New Construction Exclusion: Accessory Dwelling Units.

This measure would exempt new ADU construction from property tax assessment for 15 years from the date of completion or until the property is sold.

Cal Cities Position: Pending *HOT* Ø SB 1494 (Glazer) Local Agencies: Sales and Use Tax: Retailers.

This measure, as of January 1, 2024, would prohibit a city from entering a sales tax rebate agreement with a retailer. As of January 1, 2030, this measure would make all existing sales tax rebate agreements void and unenforceable.

Cal Cities Position: Pending *HOT* Ø AB 2854 (Irwin) Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law.

This measure is a spot bill dealing with the Bradley-Burns local sales and use tax.

Cal Cities Position: Pending *HOT*

Gap Funding Ø SB 955 (Seyarto) Office of Planning and Research: Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program.

This measure, upon appropriation, would establish the Infrastructure Gap-Fund Program at the Office of Planning and Research to provide grants to assist cities and counties with infrastructure projects.

Cal Cities Position: Support

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE CAL CITIES OR DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

The League of California Cities is currently seeking members to fill several vacancies on our Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors Executive Committee and the Cal Cities (statewide) Board of Directors. For anyone looking to engage more with Cal Cities policy making and direction these opportunities may be for you.

Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors Executive Committee is pleased to announce TWO openings on our Division's Executive Committee:

- The Vice President is a member of the Executive Committee and acts in the place of the President during the President's absence or inability to act. In addition, the Vice President is Chair of the Legislative Committee

- The Secretary/Treasurer is a member of the Executive Committee and works closely with the Division's Executive Director to monitor the Division's finances, keep accurate records of the membership and business transacted.

Both positions are for one-year terms with the expected ascension to Division President over the course of two to three years. Any mayor or council member from a member city may submit a letter of interest for either of these positions. To be considered for either of the positions, please send a letter indicating your interest along with a resume no later than

Friday, May 3, 2024 to:

Nominating Committee Chair

c/o League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division jquan@calcities.org

Cal Cities Board of Directors (statewide): Cal Cities is seeking to fill SIX At-Large board positions and the second vice president position on the executive committee (the 2nd VP position requires previous experience on the Cal Cities Board).

Details on the duties and commitment involved in these positions are available [HERE](#). Applications must be completed online [HERE](#) by Wednesday, April 24.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17 - 19: City Leaders Summit – Registration Now Open! (Sacramento)

May 8 - 10: City Attorneys Spring Conference -- Save the date! (Rancho Mirage)

May 31: Los Angeles County CitiPAC Fundraiser (Magic Castle, Hollywood Los Angeles)

June 6: Los Angeles County Division General Membership Meeting (LA Air Force Base, El Segundo)

October 16 - 18: Annual Conference and Expo -- Save the date! (Long Beach)

Subject: SCAG Update April 2024
To: LVMCOG Governing Board and Executive Director
From: Rachel Wagner, SCAG Senior Government Affairs Officer
wagner@scag.ca.gov; (805) 276-0429

Highlights from the April 4, 2023, SCAG Regional Council Meeting

ACTION

CONNECT SOCAL 2024 APPROVED

The formal adoption of Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) by SCAG's Regional Council marks a significant milestone, putting forward a long-term vision for the future that balances mobility and housing needs with economic and environmental goals over the next 25 years.

If fully implemented, Connect SoCal 2024 would reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and improve the region's long-term economic viability through more than \$751 billion in transportation investments and a more sustainable regional development pattern. Of the investments identified in the plan, \$303 billion is specific to transit projects and operations, \$75 billion to state highway operations and maintenance, \$62 billion to goods movement and \$38 billion to active transportation.

Unique to this plan cycle, SCAG developed a set of Regional Planning Policies to guide decision-making in the region toward integrated land use and transportation planning and other goals in Connect SoCal 2024. Twenty-two policies—in areas such as complete streets, housing the region, air quality and workforce development—are included in the plan, created with direction from SCAG's Regional Council, policy committees and special subcommittees. The plan also includes a detailed project list, and strategic investments to bridge local plans with overarching regional performance targets and goals.

The Regional Council also certified the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) on April 4. SCAG, as the Lead Agency, prepares a PEIR for the RTP/SCS in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The PEIR is a first-tier, programmatic document that provides a region-wide assessment of potential environmental impacts of Connect SoCal 2024 while complying with the

requirements of the CEQA. Pursuant to CEQA, the PEIR considers regional planning and implementation strategies prior to application of CEQA mitigation measures that can avoid or reduce significant adverse environmental impacts of Connect SoCal 2024 and discusses two book-end alternatives that could feasibly avoid or substantially lessen any significant adverse environmental impacts of the

plan while attaining most of the basic plan objectives. To view the certified PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024, visit the PEIR website.

Stakeholder feedback and public consultation for both documents spanned two years, involving thousands of individual comments, hundreds of meetings and dozens of formal comment letters.

As work on Connect SoCal 2024 transitions to implementation, SCAG emphasizes the importance of collaboration at all levels to realize the plan's transformative potential. From here, SCAG will pursue implementation through collaboration and policy leadership; federal funding administration; data collection, analysis and research; and local technical assistance resources. Visit the Connect SoCal 2024 website to subscribe to get involved in implementation and receive progress updates.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE 2025 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

At its April 2024 meeting, SCAG's Regional Council approved Regional Guidelines for the 2025 Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP). The guidelines outline the process by which SCAG, in collaboration with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and the six county transportation commissions within the SCAG region, will recommend funding awards for the 2025 Regional ATP, which will have an estimated \$118 million in available funding.

In addition to considering applications not funded in the statewide competition, SCAG's Regional ATP includes more than \$10 million for a supplemental call for projects administered through SCAG's Sustainable Communities Program - Active Transportation & Safety component (SCP-ATS). The SCP-ATS aims to align technical assistance with regional planning priorities and opportunities outlined in Connect SoCal 2024. SCAG staff anticipate releasing the SCP-ATS call for projects this summer.

SCAG staff will continue to work with the region's county transportation commissions, the CTC, Caltrans and other partners to provide outreach to eligible

applicants with information on ATP funding opportunities and technical assistance, resources and support to facilitate regional competitiveness. More details will be shared on the SCAG website as it becomes available.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLEAN CITIES COALITION STRATEGIC PLAN The completion of SCAG's inaugural Clean Cities Coalition Strategic Plan marks a pivotal step in the SCAG Clean Cities Coalition's mission to foster the transition toward cleaner fuels and vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. Introduced in fiscal year 2024 as part of the coalition's annual work with the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE), this strategic plan leverages current and ongoing SCAG initiatives and aligns regional, state and federal objectives. The strategic plan also addresses the barriers to electrification of the transportation sector, such as cost and infrastructure, and outlines activities to shift the region to cleaner transportation. The strategic plan is intended to integrate with Connect SoCal 2024 regional priorities and strategies.

By approving the strategic plan on April 4, the SCAG Regional Council provides the SCAG region continued eligibility for exclusive U.S. DOE funding. For the next update to this plan, SCAG staff are planning to enhance stakeholder engagement through expanded participation and strengthened partnerships, reinforcing the coalition's commitment to dynamic growth and sustainable progress.

News from the President

PANEL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There's still time to register for SCAG's 59th Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert from May 2-3.

The Regional Conference and General Assembly is a unique opportunity to gather with regional elected officials and business and community leaders to collaborate on the region's transportation and housing challenges and improve the quality of life for all Southern Californians. The agenda for the event is now available online, with details of panels focused on implementing the vision laid out by the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy: · Transit Recovery and Beyond: Means, Methods and Better Mousetraps · Running on Empty: Zero Emissions Vehicles and Transportation Funding · Investing in Economic Resilience · Creating Complete Communities

Online registration ends on April 26. Please note that the conference room rate for May 2 is sold out; our website includes information on additional accommodation options near the venue. **ADVOCATING FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN SACRAMENTO** Regional Council President Art Brown led a delegation of SCAG leaders to Sacramento for the agency's annual Sacramento Summit on March 19-20. The trip focused on three important goals: 1) protecting the Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 grant program from proposed budget cuts; 2) supporting Assembly Bill 2485, authored by Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (D-Palmdale) that would increase transparency and accuracy Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) determination process; and 3) honoring promises made to the Active Transportation Program and Infill Infrastructure Grant program that fund local infrastructure needs that support regional goals related to climate, housing and roadway safety.

News from the Executive Director

SCAG RESPONDS TO U.S. EPA'S PROPOSED DISAPPROVAL OF AQMD AIR QUALITY PLAN The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently proposed a rejection of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) 2019 Contingency Measure Plan for the 1997 Federal Ozone Standard. In the past month, SCAG and the county transportation commissions in the region prepared and submitted a joint letter outlining the significant regional implications of this potential disapproval. The letter recommends that the U.S. EPA approve the air plan rather than proceeding with the proposed disapproval. As an alternative, the letter proposes a conditional or partial approval that supports meaningful partnerships and provides a practical pathway to resolve the underlying issues and to avoid highway sanctions. If the issues raised by the U.S. EPA are not addressed within the 24-month period, a highway sanction and a federal air plan would be imposed in the South Coast Air Basin, which covers all of Orange County and the urbanized areas of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. A highway sanction would prevent impacted highway capacity projects from receiving federal approval or funding. The U.S. EPA must finalize its action by July 1. SCAG staff at all levels are proactively addressing the proposed disapproval, but there are no easy solutions to resolve the underlying air plan issues and lift the highway sanction once imposed. SCAG will continue to proactively monitor, evaluate and consult with regional partners and report future developments to the Regional Council.

REAP 2.0 UPDATE

As previously reported, Governor Newsom's proposed draft fiscal year 2025 state budget would reduce SCAG's \$246 million REAP 2.0 allocation by 50 percent. SCAG staff have worked expeditiously to develop a program for the region and have already suballocated \$193 million of this award via formula-based and competitive

programs. We continue to urge the governor to reconsider these cuts and are committed to our advocacy efforts. We have received strong support from our state leadership on this front—as was evident in our visit to Sacramento in March.

However, amid this uncertainty, SCAG planning staff are preparing for all potential scenarios. These suballocations support Connect SoCal implementation, and while we recognize the need for these projects, we face complex challenges in determining how to move forward.

SCAG planning staff presented concepts for a phased, four-year expenditure plan to the Executive/Administration Committee. This plan could potentially allow some work on REAP-funded projects to restart this summer with Regional Council approval. A staff report outlining the potential concepts for this phased approach is included in the agenda packet for the April Regional Council meeting. SCAG staff will be seeking input from stakeholders during a listening session and plan to initiate a public comment period later in April.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL

15th Scholarship Committee
16th Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee
16th Housing Working Group
23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group
30th Toolbox Tuesday: Environmental Justice Tools for Local Planning

MAY

1st Executive/Administration Committee
2nd Regional Conference and General Assembly
7th Aviation Technical Advisory Committee
21st Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee
22nd Modeling Task Force
28th Transportation Conformity Working Group
29th Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee