

Southern California Association of Governments

SPOTLIGHT

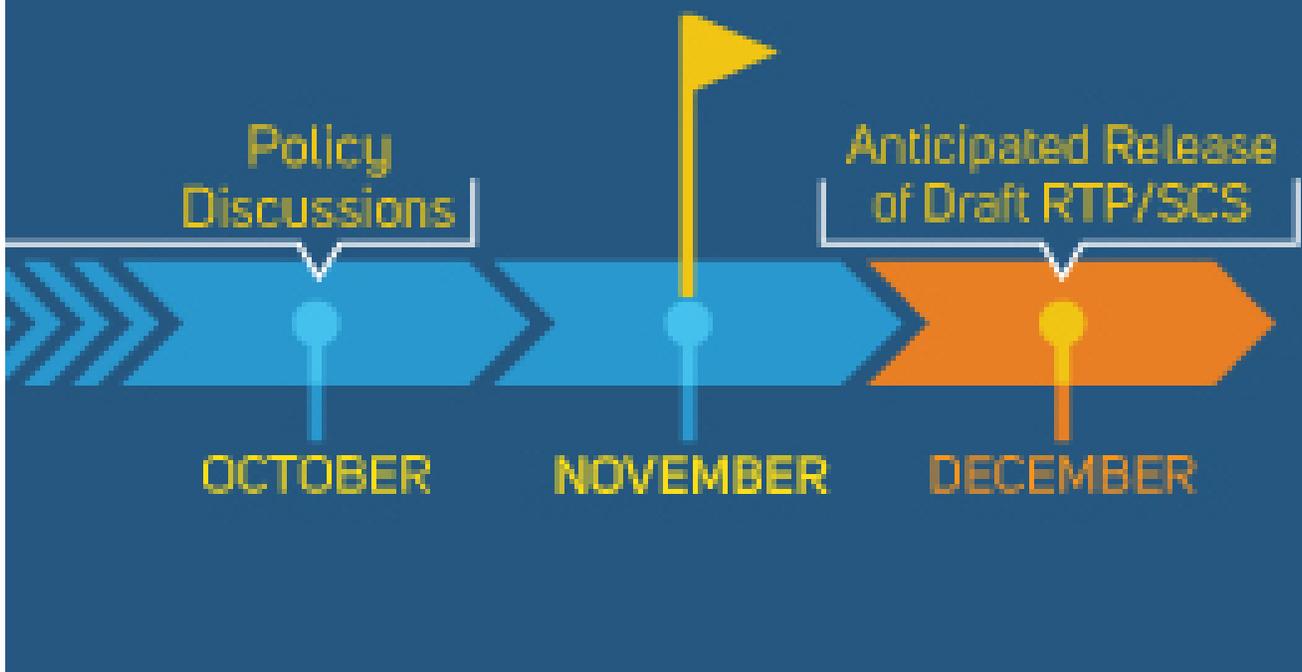


Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

November 5, 2015

RC Report

2016 RTP/SCS Where are we now



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION – POLICY COMMITTEES RECOMMEND RTP/SCS RELEASE

Members of all three Policy Committees voted in today's Special Joint Meeting to direct staff to prepare and finalize the Draft 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) and its Draft Program Environmental Impact Report, as well as recommend to the Regional Council that both documents be released for public review and comment on Dec. 3.

Today's meeting was a culmination of many months of discussions in each of the Policy Committees. The chairs of the three Policy Committees each gave summaries of these discussions and the committee guidance on various elements of the plan. Transportation Committee Chair Alan Wapner presented on highways and arterials-related strategies, alternative transportation strategies, strategies to improve the region's core economic sectors, the role of technology and the 2016 RTP/SCS financial plan. Community, Economic & Human Development Committee Chair Bill Jahn presented on outreach and engagement with local jurisdictions on growth projections and the policy growth forecast. Energy and Environment Committee Chair Deborah Robertson gave a presentation on the environmental justice outreach and analysis, how SCAG is developing its Program Environmental Impact Report, the guiding principles and framework for the public health component of the plan and how SCAG will address natural lands and farm lands.

SCAG's Executive Director Hasan Ikhata then spoke on the critical issues, explained the scenarios being considered and described the key policy recommendations and potential outcomes associated with the plan. He provided highlights on the plan's performance and benefits, including how the plan exceeds the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets and reduces congestion. The plan's transportation projects would boost the local economy through hundreds of thousands of new jobs annually and the plan's land use strategies would also provide residents with more mobility options by encouraging growth near high quality transit.

INFORMATION – RC MEMBER OUTREACH TOOLKIT

SCAG staff reported today that in anticipation of the Dec. 3 release of the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS, staff is preparing an outreach toolkit that will provide Regional Council members with collateral materials and talking points to build awareness of the draft plan and generate widespread public participation during the public comment period, which will conclude on Jan. 29. SCAG will be conducting a series of elected official briefings and public hearings on the draft plan, and Regional Council members will play an important role in raising the awareness and the participation of local elected officials, residents and other stakeholders. The toolkit will include key highlights and benefits of the RTP/SCS for their subregion, links to videos, invitations to workshops, sample calendar postings and social media posts which they can distribute through their existing communications or other local channels.

SCAG Employee Recognition



At today's RC meeting, SCAG operations technician Edward Venegas was recognized for his exemplary service. Edward is pictured here with, from left, Second Vice President Margaret Finlay, President Cheryl Viegas-Walker, First Vice President Michele Martinez and Executive Director Hasan Ikhtrata.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UPCOMING CAP-AND-TRADE WORKSHOPS

To take advantage of the upcoming Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant and other cap-and-trade funding opportunities, SCAG is offering members two upcoming workshops in the region. On Nov. 18, SCAG is partnering with the Southern California Gas Company for a workshop on how to access state cap-and-trade grant funding. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the SoCalGas Energy Resource Center in Downey. Cities and counties interested in applying for cap-and-trade funds are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Sarita Figueroa at (213) 244-3621.

For those interested in applying for an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant, SCAG and its regional partners are planning a follow-up to the successful "California Gold" workshop on Dec. 8, at SCAG's headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. "California Gold: Partnerships for Cap-and-Trade Success" will focus on two competitive grants: Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation and the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities program. A portion of the workshop will be dedicated to providing technical assistance to applicants seeking funding for transformative projects that will implement Southern California's regional and local plans. To RSVP, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov/californiagold. For more information on how to sign up for technical assistance, please contact Kristen Pawling at pawling@scag.ca.gov.

**CALTRANS TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE
DEC. 2-4**

Caltrans, in collaboration with SCAG and UCLA, is hosting the 2015 California Transportation Planning Conference, "Partnering for Sustainable Transportation," Dec. 2-4, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. This interactive, three-day conference will explore the latest developments in transportation planning from a national, state and local perspective. Conference panels include discussions on strategies to achieve a sustainable, multi-modal transportation system; innovative transportation funding mechanisms; the context for the future of transportation; best practices for meeting state and federal planning requirements; and new opportunities for collaboration to efficiently develop and deliver transportation plans and programs. The conference is open to anyone involved and interested in the transportation planning process. For more information and to register, please visit: <http://2015ctpc.org/>.

GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) is now accepting applications from eligible community-based nonprofit groups and federally recognized tribal governments to support environmental justice-related projects across California. More than \$1 million is available for this program. Applicants should address a variety of environmental and public health objectives, including reducing diesel emissions, ensuring safe drinking water and participation in the environmental decision-making processes at the state and local levels. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and applications must be received by CalEPA by Jan. 22, 2016. Awards will be announced in May 2016. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1P7YN4Z>.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

SCAG Main Office (with videoconference options)

Visit: www.scag.ca.gov/californiagold

California
PARTNERSHIPS FOR CAP-AND-TRADE SUCCESS
Gold



UPCOMING MEETINGS

November

- 17th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 17th** Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 19th** Technical Working Group
- 26th** Thanksgiving Holiday (SCAG Offices Closed)
- 27th** Day After Thanksgiving Holiday (SCAG Offices Closed)

December

- 3rd** Regional Council Meeting
- 8th** California Gold: Partnerships for Cap-And-Trade Success
- 14th** Audit Committee
- 15th** Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 17th** Technical Working Group
- 22nd** Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 25th** Christmas Day (SCAG Offices Closed)

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COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES
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