

## **SBCCOG REPORT - California Council of Governments/CALCOG Britt Huff/ SBCCOG Board of Directors**

**1. March 10 Board of Directors meeting highlights.** CALCOG President, El Centro Mayor Cheryl Viegas-Walker, is also currently serving as President of the League of California Cities.

CALCOG is working with the Strategic Growth Council to relaunch regular meetings between its MPO planning directors and key staff from the Strategic Growth Council, Air Resources Board, Caltrans, California Transportation Commission, California State Transportation Agency, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. These meetings are good for the technical staff to have discussions about what specific programs are attempting to achieve and the obstacles that have to be overcome. The focus is on the best ways to implement existing policies (not create new policies) and learn about the challenges.

■ **CAPTI.** The State Transportation Agency is preparing the Climate Action Plan for Transportation and Infrastructure (CAPTI), which derives from a Governor's executive order N-19-19 to spend \$5 billion in annual transportation funding in a way that supports state climate goals. This plan will likely affect how the state selects projects from funding programs. CALCOG staff met with CalSTA to discuss the second draft.

■ **\$900 Million CRRSAA (Federal COVID).** The most recent COVID recovery bill included \$10 billion for DOTs. Approximately \$900 million will come to California. There have been major discussions amongst members about the fairest way to distribute the funding going to regional and local governments.

### **Services CALCOG provides:**

■ **State Transportation Program and Funding Expertise.** Under SB 45, CALCOG members maintain a strong partnership with the state to operate and maintain the transportation system. CALCOG maintains relationships with key personnel from the California State Transportation Agency, the California Transportation Commission, and Caltrans to assure open communications are beneficial and continuous.

• **Monitoring Developments in Washington DC.** CALCOG monitors events, helps coordinate state messaging, and works with national counterparts to ensure that the changes made in Washington are workable and benefit the California's regions, large and small.

■ **Sustainable Communities Planning.** CALCOG is the one agency that represents all 18 MPOs that are responsible for developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy within the Regional Transportation Plan to achieve a greenhouse gas emissions target set by the Air Resources Board. Accordingly, CALCOG staff are in constant contact with the Strategic Growth Council, Air Resources Board, California Department of Transportation, California State Transportation Agency, The Department of Housing and Community Development, and other state agencies. CALCOG also continually meets with and educates members of the State Legislature to provide them information to assure that the best policy outcomes are reached.

■ **CALCOG annually hosts the California Academy for Regional Leaders.** Started in 2018, "CARL provides leadership training for mid and upper-level managers and directors working for a regional agency. Each cohort includes about 25 to 30 people from around the state. The program focuses on teaching soft leadership skills and personal development. Participants also form relationships that will last a career developing "Espirit de COG."

**2. The March 22-23 Annual CALCOG Regional Forum**, attended by Britt and Jacki Bacharach, had an excellent selection of speakers. Jacki Bacharach was invited to provide a brief spotlight on the South Bay Fiber Network. Former US Secretary Anthony Foxx was the keynote speaker. He provided special insight into what the new administration is thinking about transportation policy. He also joined a panel with three other (all California) members of the Biden Transportation Transition Team: Toks Omishakin (Caltrans); Phil Washington (LA Metro) and Therese McMillian (MTC). The two new transportation committee chairs and the new ARB Chair to joined as well.

## **SCAG/Energy and Environment Committee Report- Britt Huff**

**March 4, 2021, SCAG, Energy and Environment Committee** and all other SCAG committees met with the Regional Council for its March 4 meeting, celebrating Black History month with a focus on equity. [Four outstanding presentations](#) were made addressing SCAG's Equity Efforts, Urban Renewal and Transportation Policies and Practices, Land Use and Housing Policies and Practices, and Understanding American Economic Inequity.

Guest speakers were :

- Charles Brown, Founder, Equitable Cities
- Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Executive Director, LISC
- Beth Osborne, Director, Transportation for America

### **April 1, 2021, SCAG, EEC/Energy and Environment Committee**

The Regional Council adopted Resolution 21-628-1 affirming a climate change crisis in Southern California and called on SCAG and other local and regional partners to join together to further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve regional resilience, and reduce hazards from a changing climate. The Regional Council's action will help to promote climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience in support of the 197 jurisdictions in Southern California and the 19 million residents who call the SCAG region home. This report serves as an update on the agency's progress for implementing the Resolution. Quarterly updates will be provided to the Energy and Environment Committee, which will oversee the work through the next several years.

Based on Regional Council action at its March 5, 2020 meeting, SCAG has set aside half of its Regional Early Action Program (REAP) housing funding, or approximately \$23 million, for the Subregional Partnership Program. As part of its action, the Regional Council authorized staff to develop a process and formula to make funds available relative to each subregion's total share of regional housing need, as determined by the adopted Final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Plan. The 6th cycle Final RHNA Allocation Plan was adopted by the Regional Council on March 4, 2021 and SCAG staff has updated the REAP funding available for each subregion based on these amounts.

The Regional Council approved the 2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD) applications and authorized staff to initiate the projects.

Upon Regional Council approval of guidelines, staff released the SCP Housing and Sustainable Development Call for Applications and received a total of twenty-six (26) project proposals across all project categories and types by the January 29th, 2021 deadline. Staff has completed an evaluation of proposals and has identified that all twenty-six (26) projects meet the SCP program requirements, pending staff verification for Regional Early Action Program (REAP) guidelines. Approximately \$4.8 million in State planning resources are expected to be available to cover anticipated project expenses

based on the HSD program's inclusion in REAP final application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff is seeking Regional Council approval of all HSD applications and authorization to begin contacting project sponsors in order to develop a program schedule and initiate projects.

**Presentations:**

--Connect SoCal, the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2024 RTP/SCS or Connect CoCal), introduced a series of new strategies, referred to as the plan's Key Connections, to meet increasingly aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals. These Key Connections aim to leverage new technologies and partnerships among land-use and transportation agencies and leaders in innovation to accelerate progress on regional planning goals. Accelerated Electrification is one of the five Key Connections, which are collectively responsible for 30% of the plan's per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by 2035, with vehicle electrification and charging infrastructure deployment serving as critical implementation strategies. SCAG staff has prepared a workplan to create a holistic and coordinated approach to decarbonizing or electrifying passenger vehicles, transit and goods movement vehicles. The workplan was created by a cross departmental team at SCAG, known as the Accelerated Electrification Team (AET), with the goal of accelerating state goals for clean technologies within the region. It catalogues current activities, as well as strategies to coordinate internally across modes, and to collaboratively support preparation for the 2024 RTP/SCS.

**Accelerated Electrification Key Connection Workplan**

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**San Gabriel Mountains Access Program**

--Bryan Matsumoto, Program Organizer for Nature For All, presented an overview of the San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program to create transit access for underserved communities to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. BACKGROUND: Nature For All is a non-profit, community-based organization and eleven-member coalition that is focused on environmental justice and park equity issues in Los Angeles County. Their mission is to develop access to nature. Nature For All works with underserved communities to both create new local parks and protect and improve public lands within the County, including the San Gabriel Mountains and urban watersheds for healthy outdoor recreation, habitat, water resilience, and environmental education. Their Outdoor Leadership programs empower urban residents and help develop a new, diverse generation of environmental and social justice leaders. Nature For All's Access programs provide transportation solutions to nature from underserved neighborhoods. The San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program's purpose is to create transit access to the most urban national forest in the nation – the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument/Angeles National Forest. Over 50% of Los Angeles County residents live in park-poor neighborhoods and the San Gabriel Mountains comprise 70% of the County's open space, yet there are no public transit routes into these public lands. Nature For All is working to correct this environmental justice issue by developing regional plans for shuttle routes which will connect Metro Gold Line stations near the foothills, to mountain destinations and trails, thereby providing equitable access to public lands from across the Los Angeles region.