

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



ACTION **REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTS 2021-22 BOARD OFFICERS**

The Regional Council today approved the nominations for the SCAG 2021-22 Board Officers as submitted by the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to Hon. Clint Lorimore (City of Eastvale), who will serve as the new SCAG President; Hon. Jan Harnik (Riverside County Transportation Commission), who will serve as First Vice President; and Hon. Carmen Ramirez (County of Ventura), who will serve as Second Vice President. The slate of new officers will be presented to the General Assembly for ratification at its meeting on May 6.

ACTION **REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES THE ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING TO TRANSIT OPERATORS**

To address the severe impact of the global pandemic on our nation, state and regions' transit systems, the federal government has approved three stimulus bills since the beginning of the pandemic that provide direct assistance to the transit operators. In urbanized areas, these funds are being passed through Federal Transit Administration's existing 5307 formula program to the eligible Urbanized Zone Areas (UZAs). In total, urbanized areas in the SCAG region will receive more than \$4 billion to support our transit operators. As the designated recipient for six UZAs in the SCAG region, two of which are multi-county UZAs, SCAG is responsible for allocating the funds apportioned to multi-county UZAs to each of the eligible county transportation commissions.

The Regional Council today approved the staff recommendation to allocate the second and third rounds of stimulus funds using operating costs as reported in the 2018 National Transit Database as a proxy for operators' needs (as specified in the respective appropriations bills). The result of this Regional Council action

is that in the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim UZA, by far the largest in the region, the eligible counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino will receive exactly 132 percent of their transit operators costs when all three rounds of stimulus funds are combined.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 26 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Regional Council today approved 26 local proposals that promote sustainable housing development as part of the 2020-21 Sustainable Communities Program.

The 26 proposals – spread from Santa Monica to Coachella – are designed to promote diverse housing types in communities served by multiple transportation options and create dynamic, built environments that support multimodal mobility and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

SCAG staff will work closely with the applicants to further define the scopes of work and develop a project initiation schedule and budgets. Approximately \$4.8 million in state planning resources are expected to be available to cover anticipated project expenses. Read more about the Sustainable Communities Program at scag.ca.gov/scp.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

CALL FOR COLLABORATION GRANTEES SELECTED

Last July, the Regional Council approved \$1 million of the Regional Early Action Planning grant funds to establish the Call for Collaboration program in partnership with the California Community Foundation, Irvine Foundation, and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. The program aims to seed and uplift diverse, community-driven approaches and strategic coalitions that address the tremendous challenge in meeting housing needs while addressing historic racial inequities.

SCAG received an overwhelming response of 47 applications to the program. A panel of housing and funding experts selected 15 recipients to receive nearly \$1.3 million in funding available. Many of the grantee's projects will cover a range of activities related to housing policy and land use, including deeper community engagement with low-income and communities of color. For a full list of approved grantees visit the [Call for Collaboration webpage](#).

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

The [Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice](#) spent the past nine months exploring how SCAG can help advance equity, diversity and inclusion in our region. These efforts were driven both internally within SCAG's process and procedures as well as outwardly in the region through the expertise of its committee members. The work of the committee was guided by the Regional Council's July 2020 resolution acknowledging systemic racism as a human rights and public health crisis.

The final committee meeting on March 30 focused on reviewing the Racial Equity Early Action Plan and how SCAG can ensure it is initiating work across the agency on equity and increasing representation from low-income and communities

of color on the Regional Council and supporting planning efforts in environmental justice communities to name a few. The Racial Equity Early Action Plan will be presented to the Regional Council for final approval at the General Assembly on May 6.

SCAG HOSTS “VIRTUAL FLY-IN” WITH D.C. LEADERSHIP

SCAG hosted a “virtual fly-in” to Washington, D.C. on March 17 – 18, where SCAG’s executive officers, several Regional Council members, and staff met with Representative Norma Torres (D-Pomona), member of the House Appropriations Committee and Rules Committee, and Representative Maxine Waters (D-Gardena), chair of the House Financial Services Committee. The delegation also met with key members of the U.S. Department of Transportation leadership, including Acting Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Christopher Coes and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs, Charles Small. The following week, the delegation virtually met with Representative Pete Aguilar (D-San Bernardino) who is also a member of the House Appropriations Committee. The focus was to develop relationships with SCAG’s congressional delegation and incoming staff and to engage them on our legislative priorities for the upcoming infrastructure stimulus package and surface transportation reauthorization. Read more about SCAG’s legislative priorities [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

On March 22, the California Department of Housing and Community development (HCD) approved SCAG’s 6th Cycle Final Regional Housing Needs Assessment Allocation Plan, which was adopted by the Regional Council at its meeting on March 5. SCAG will also be meeting with HCD’s Director, Gustavo Velasquez, in the coming month to discuss local challenges in preparing housing element updates and next steps as outlined in the resolution adopted by the Regional Council. Learn more about SCAG’s housing program at scag.ca.gov/housing.

SCAG & USC PRICE TO HOST 32ND ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP

SCAG and the University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy are pleased to invite you to the 32nd Annual Demographic Workshop. Join us on Tuesday, June 8, and Tuesday, June 15 for this year’s program focused on planning for “the post-pandemic city.” A demographic check-up panel will cover the latest trends in migration, fertility and vaccination, as well as the new 2020 census counts due for release. Additional panels will focus on myths and realities of California’s mass exodus and declining mobility, and the new trends in workplace, travel and residential locations. For more information about the event, visit scag.ca.gov/demographics.

Read the full [Executive Director's Report](#) for April 2021 and see past reports on the SCAG website.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL

- 20th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 27th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 29th Emerging Technologies Committee

MAY

- 4th Aviation Technical Advisory Committee
- 5th Executive Administration Committee
- 6th General Assembly
- 18th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 25th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 26th Modeling Task Force



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COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES

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