

SBCCOG Board Meeting, May 2021 Reports - Britt Huff

SCAG Energy and Environment Committee delegate

May 6 – the Energy and Environment Committee met as part of the virtual annual SCAG General Assembly. Governor Gavin Newsom provided remarks to open the 56th Annual General Assembly. In his video to the delegates, Gov. Newsom credited SCAG as instrumental in fighting issues like COVID-19, promoting sustainable and affordable housing development, and improving statewide and regional transportation infrastructure.

SCAG President Rex Richardson/Long Beach, closed out his term as SCAG President by sharing a report of SCAG’s annual accomplishments for 2020-2021. Over the last year, the region has faced many challenges brought on by COVID-19. President Richardson’s top policy priority was to build an inclusive and equitable recovery strategy that addresses the health, social, and economic challenges created by the pandemic.

The General Assembly approved the nominations for the SCAG 2021-2022 Board Officers: Hon. Clint Lorimore (City of Eastvale), new SCAG President; Hon. Jan Harnik (Riverside County Transportation Commission), First Vice President; and Hon. Carmen Ramirez (County of Ventura), Second Vice President. Leadership.

The Regional Council adopted the [Racial Equity Early Action Plan](#) which will guide and sustain SCAG’s regional leadership in service of equity and social justice. Following the Regional Council resolution affirming a commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

. The four overarching goals include:

1. **Shift the Organizational Culture**, which is focused on SCAG’s internal work and practices.
2. **Center Racial Equity in Regional Policy & Planning**, which refers to SCAG’s regional planning functions.
3. **Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning Practices**, referring to how SCAG can influence the local elected officials and planning professionals with which it works and partners.
4. **Activate and Amplify**, in which SCAG commits to communicating more broadly its commitment to racial equity and joining with others in different fields and sectors to amplify impact.

In support of SCAG’s commitment to “early actions,” the General Assembly voted to amend the SCAG Bylaws to include an increase in representation of “communities of concern” in regional policy conversations. The Regional Council also approved \$1.37 million, as part of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Final Comprehensive Budget, for two new tasks focused on equity outreach and engagement for the 2024 update of Connect SoCal and to provide more planning resources to Environmental Justice communities.

The Regional Council approved 33 local proposals that promote walking and biking, traffic safety and expand opportunities for multimodal transportation options as part of the 2021 SCAG Regional Active Transportation and Sustainable Communities Programs, which consists of 23 projects totaling \$93.4 million that support walking and bicycling. One of these projects is the Sustainable Communities Program – Active Transportation & Safety, which includes 11 sub-projects totaling \$4.97 million that support active transportation and safety planning strategies. SCAG staff will submit the Regional Active Transportation Program to the California Transportation Commission for adoption at their June meeting.

SCAG is seeking stakeholder input on the findings and proposed recommendations for the final Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy. All stakeholders who live or work in the SCAG six-county region are encouraged to participate.