

Southern California Association of Governments

SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

July 7, 2016

RC Report

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



Steve Westly, managing partner of the Westly Group, gives a presentation to the Regional Council on new economic trends and how governments can adapt.

INFORMATION – CALIFORNIA REINVENTING THE NEW ECONOMY

Former State Controller and Chief Fiscal Officer Steve Westly was invited to today's meeting of the Regional Council to present on the ways in which California is reinventing the new economy. Westly, now a managing partner of a clean technology-oriented venture capital firm located in Menlo Park, highlighted that California had just passed France to become the world's sixth largest economy, and that measure of success is due to a combination of world class universities, significant government funding, venture capital and immigrants. He also asserted that California's economic shift is being driven by three key factors: A new economic ethos, under which businesses and governments must be ready to adapt and outperform themselves or else be rendered obsolete by rivals; new customers, as millennials replace baby boomers as the most powerful buying cohort on the planet, they are

prioritizing smaller carbon footprints, complete connectivity and clean water, air and food; and new business models, in the form of the sharing economy, the “Internet of things” and Big Data. Westly also discussed what should be anticipated in the global economy, how the people can build a world-class government and how we as a state can improve California’s business environment.

ACTION – RC APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCAG SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Regional Council voted today to approve the Scholarship Committee’s recommendations for the 2016 SCAG Scholarship Program, which provides financial support to a select group of high school and community college students and offers local planning experience that students can use to develop their long-term career goals. At its meeting on June 22, the committee recommended a total of seven students, with one student each from Imperial, Orange, Riverside and Ventura counties; two students from Los Angeles County; and an additional recipient from Imperial County to receive a 2016 SCAG Scholarship Program Award. No qualifying applications were received from San Bernardino County. In addition to a monetary award of \$4,000, recipients will also participate in a two-week internship with SCAG or a local planning agency.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Draft 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) has been released for public review and comment. The 30-day public review and comment period begins July 8 and ends August 8, 2016. The FTIP is a federally mandated list of transportation investment priorities in the SCAG region. The 2017 FTIP reflects how the region is moving forward in implementing the transportation policies and goals of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and includes approximately 2,000 projects for the region, totaling nearly \$28 billion over a six-year period. Two public hearings will be held during the public review period, on July 14 and July 21 at SCAG’s Los Angeles office. Video-conferencing will be available.

SCAG SEEKS INPUT ON BUILDING BETTER TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO

SCAG, in cooperation with San Bernardino Associated Governments and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is conducting an Inter-County Transit and Rail Planning Study. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders in the eastern San Gabriel Valley and the western San Bernardino Valley are invited to attend one of two open house-style community to provide feedback about transit and rail plans for these areas: One on Tuesday, July 12, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the George M. Gibson Senior Center in Upland; and a second on Wednesday, July 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the Palomares Academy of Health Sciences in Pomona. Members of the public who are unable to attend the meetings in person can participate by completing an online [survey](#). Find out more at the [study website](#).

SCAG SUBMITS JOINT LETTER ON DRAFT SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT PLAN

SCAG and several other regional agencies submitted a comment letter on the Draft California Sustainable Freight Action Plan, which was released for review in May. The Draft Action Plan is intended to integrate investments, policies and programs across several state agencies to help realize a unified vision for California’s freight transportation system. It is a coordinated effort by the California Air Resources Board, California Department of Transportation, Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development and the California Energy Commission. The Draft Action Plan highlights broad recommendations to the Governor focusing on specific policies and programs related to freight transportation, including a long-term 2050 Vision and guiding principles for freight transportation as well as targets to guide the state toward meeting the vision. In its letter, SCAG joined with 12 other agencies in requesting additional details to strengthen the plan and facilitate collaboration with state agencies. The joint letter is available for download here: www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/SustainableFreightPlan-CSFAP_July2016.pdf.

OP-ED: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS GETTING CHEATED ON CAP-AND-TRADE

On June 24, the Los Angeles Daily News published an opinion column authored by SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhrata and Southern California Leadership Council President Kish Rajan that addresses Southern California’s disproportionate allocation of cap-and-trade funds. Read the op-ed here: bit.ly/SoCalCapTrade.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

July

12th Transit and Rail Planning Public Meeting

13th Transit and Rail Planning Public Meeting

14th Draft 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Public Hearing #1

19th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

21st Technical Working Group

21st Draft 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Public Hearing #2

26th Transportation Conformity Working Group

27th Modeling Task Force

August

4th No Meetings - Regional Council & Policy Committees

16th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

16th Audit Committee

18th Technical Working Group

23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group

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COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES

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