

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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ABOUT

The Regional Council is the governing board of the Southern California Association of Governments and consists of 86 elected officials representing 191 cities, six counties, county transportation commissions, transportation corridor agencies, tribal governments and air districts in Southern California.

AGENDA

For current and archived Regional Council meeting agendas & videos, visit: bit.ly/SCAGagendas.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING

ACTION

RC APPROVES REVISED REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD GROWTH TOTAL FOR FUTURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS

SCAG's Regional Council yesterday voted to amend the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Consultation Package to include a revised total regional household need of 430,289 units, to better reflect local input. The consultation package is a document that provides data and assumptions related to existing and projected housing need for the six county region, and is part of the ongoing and continuous communication with the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in developing the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The 6th Cycle RHNA will determine each jurisdiction's "fair share" of the region's total housing need during the planning period of October 2021 through October 2029, and is considered a valuable strategy in how the region will address our current and future housing needs collectively.

What's next: After SCAG submits the revised RHNA Consultation Package for HCD consideration, HCD will present its Regional Need Determination (total housing need for 2021-2029) for the SCAG region by August 2019. An overall timeline is available [online](#). SCAG understands there are huge social and economic impacts if we do not take action in addressing the housing affordability crisis, and is committed to an open and transparent process, inclusive of public input. Our RHNA board subcommittee, made up of elected officials and non-elected officials, oversees the RHNA development. Information about RHNA and meetings are available on SCAG's [website](#).

ACTION

RC APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Regional Council today voted to approve the Scholarship Committee recommendations for the 2019 SCAG Scholarship Program Awards. This year, SCAG received 111 applications from high school and community college students from across the region. 10 outstanding students were selected for scholarships, representing all six of SCAG's member counties. The SCAG Scholarship Program provides each winner with both a monetary award of \$4,000 and a two-week internship with SCAG or a local planning agency, in order to help students build the foundation for a career in urban planning and local government. The scholarship recipients are as follows: Mariano Peinado (El Centro), Arianna Gonzalez (North Hills), Do Khym (Cerritos), Morgan Kopecky (Irvine), Daniel Sosa (Riverside), Kayla Ferrer (Adelanto), Sarah Laufenberg (Thousand Oaks), Darling Gonzalez (Bell Gardens) and Shaun Howard (Aliso Viejo). Congratulations to these future leaders in Southern California's planning and governing community!

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONNECT SOCAL UPDATE: UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

Bring your ideas and concerns about how the region will develop over the next 25 years to an upcoming Connect SoCal workshop! SCAG is hosting a series of open-house events throughout Southern California over the next month as part of the development of Connect SoCal, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The workshop series kicked off May 14 and will run through mid-June. Stop by to learn about how the region is anticipated to grow, understand the choices we have about where growth occurs and provide input on how to keep the region moving. Up next is a workshop June 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in San Bernardino; June 5, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in El Monte; June 6, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., in Buena Park; and June 6, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. [More workshops](#) are scheduled across the region.

But you don't have to attend in person to participate: There is a telephone town hall scheduled for June 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., that will allow people all over the region to join us virtually to learn more about Connect SoCal and share feedback on their hopes and priorities for Southern California. [Register here](#) and our telephone town hall automated dialing system will call you at the scheduled date and time. We're also collecting input via an [online survey](#), and if you haven't yet filled it out please do! Visit connectsocial.org to learn more about the Connect SoCal development process and follow the latest updates.

ADVOCATING IN SACRAMENTO FOR THE REGION'S HOUSING NEEDS

On May 28, we met with Ben Metcalf, Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and his staff. I was present along with SCAG's Acting Director of Planning Sarah Jepson and the SCAG housing team. This is part of an ongoing informal consultation process between SCAG and HCD as we work on developing 6th cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Once the Regional Council approves a proposed consultation package, SCAG will continue to engage HCD in formal consultation the department makes its final decision on the regional numbers.

On May 29, I had the privilege of meeting with the members of the Los Angeles County Legislative Caucus in Sacramento to discuss our region's critical need for more housing. Other discussion items included Governor Newsom's housing budget proposal, which allocates \$750 million to cities and counties to increase housing production. The caucus is chaired by Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove and members in attendance included Senator Maria Elena Durazo, Senator Holly Mitchell, Senator Bob Archuleta, Senator Connie Leyva, Senator Steve Bradford, Assemblymember Christie Smith, Assemblymember Luz Rivas, Senator Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian, Assembly Member Wendy Carillo, Assemblymember Laura Friedman, Senator Ben Allen, and Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell.

SCAG DELEGATION VISITS D.C. TO MEET WITH FEDERAL LAWMAKERS

A delegation of SCAG's leadership traveled to Washington, D.C., May 14-15 to attend a major freight conference and advocate on behalf of the Southern California region. The SCAG envoys included SCAG President Bill Jahn, First Vice President Randon Lane, Immediate Past President Alan Wapner, Regional Council member Ray Marquez and Executive Director Kome Ajise, as well as staff from SCAG's Legislation department. On May 14-15, the group attended the annual meeting of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors, a trade association dedicated to increasing federal investment in the nation's freight infrastructure. The delegation then held a series of sit-downs with federal lawmakers, designed to further develop SCAG's relationship with our region's congressional representatives as well as highlight priority legislative issues. The biggest issue of focus in those discussions was funding for transportation and infrastructure, specifically the reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The SCAG delegation urged legislators to support the program, which provides essential stable and long-term investments into the national infrastructure and transportation system. We are committed to continuing to work with Southern California's elected representatives in Washington and Sacramento to advance SCAG's legislative priorities. For more information on SCAG's Legislation program, visit the [department webpage](#).