

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



March 1, 2018

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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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



California Strategic Growth Council Executive Director Randall Winston presented updates on state funding programs investing in building more sustainable communities.

INFO

STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL DIRECTOR DISCUSSES COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Randall Winston, Executive Director of the California Strategic Growth Council, joined today's meeting of the Regional Council to share updates on the agency's community investment initiatives, including the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program. Supported through revenue generated by California's cap-and-trade system, the TCC program provides funding to help disadvantaged communities in the state become more sustainable, healthy and economically strong. Mr. Winston noted that the SCAG region had submitted a very high number of the TCC applications received in the past grant cycle, and applauded the results of increased technical assistance to prospective applicants.

He also highlighted the investments that have already been committed to the region: Early last month, it was announced that the City of Ontario and the Los Angeles neighborhood of Watts would receive \$35 million in grants through the TCC program. He had an engaged discussion with the Regional

California.

AGENDA

For current and archived Regional Council meeting agendas and videos, visit:

bit.ly/AgendaRC.

Council, who expressed commitment to ensuring that the SCAG region, which is home to nearly half of the state's population and two-thirds of its disadvantaged communities, receives the resources it needs. Further grants from the TCC program will be announced by the Strategic Growth Council later this year.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTS 2018-2019 BOARD OFFICERS



The Regional Council today unanimously approved the nominations for the SCAG 2018- 2019 Board Officers, as submitted by the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to Hon. Alan Wapner, from the City of Ontario and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority representative, who will serve as the new SCAG President; Mayor William "Bill" Jahn, City of Big Bear Lake, as First Vice President; and Hon. Randon Lane, City of Murrieta, as Second Vice President. The slate of new officers will be presented to the General Assembly for ratification at its meeting on May 3.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Regional Council voted to approve legislative priorities for the 2018 state and federal legislative sessions. The adopted slate of priorities aligns with the agency's long-term objectives and builds on established Regional Council-endorsed policies. This follows approval from the Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee, who voted to recommend the adoption of the 2018 legislative priorities at their Feb. 20 meeting.

At the state level, SCAG is committed to supporting robust sources of transportation funding and revenue, regional equity in resource distribution under the state's cap-and-trade program and incentive-based approaches to increasing development of housing, including affordable housing. In Washington, we will pursue increased federal support for transportation systems and freight infrastructure. To read the 2018 Legislative Priorities in full, or to learn more about our Legislative Program, visit

scag.ca.gov/legislation.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The Regional Council has moved to approve SCAG's Draft Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, including the Draft Overall Work Plan (OWP). This program outline's the agencies major strategic initiatives for this year, and aligns with SCAG's newly adopted Strategic Plan.

The Regional Council's vote also authorized the release of the Draft OWP for a 30-day period of public review. SCAG welcomes comments, which will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on April 2. To view the full Draft FY 2018-2019 OWP and learn how to submit comments, visit:

scag.ca.gov/about/Pages/DraftFY2018-2019OWP.aspx.

At the close of the public comment period, the Final OWP will be submitted to the Regional Council for approval on May 3. The General Fund Budget and the Membership Assessment will be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval, also in May.



Mayor James Butts of the City of Inglewood also made a presentation to the Regional Council, sharing a preview of major economic development coming to his city and to the region. Mayor Butts is pictured at center, along with Strategic Growth Council Executive Director Randall Winston (left) and SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhata (right).

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGISTER TODAY FOR SCAG'S PREMIER ANNUAL EVENT



SCAG's 53rd Regional Conference and General Assembly will convene on May 3-4 at the Renaissance Indian Wells Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, CA. This year's program, themed "Southern California at a Crossroads," will feature a diverse slate of expert panels, keynote presentations and technical demonstrations designed to equip the region for navigating major changes. Nearly 1,000 of Southern California's most influential leaders and innovators are expected to attend, including local elected officials, CEOs, business and civic leaders, transportation and environmental stakeholders, local government staff and others. The conference will send attendees home with fresh insights and new resources to help them better address future challenges in their own communities. The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the region, and a special early bird is currently available. To register for the 2018 Regional Conference, visit scag.ca.gov/GA2018.

SHARE YOUR INPUT ON SCAG'S DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, SCAG released for public review and comment our new Draft 2018 Public Participation Plan. This updated plan was developed to reflect changes in communication technologies and public engagement best practices. In addition, the plan has been revised from previous to be more readable and accessible to a general audience, and more adaptable in anticipation of evolving technologies and practices. This plan is key to ensuring that our approach to public engagement is effective and inclusive, so please share your input! SCAG's Draft 2018 Public Participation Plan is available for public review and comment period for 60 days, which will conclude on Saturday, April 21, at 11:59 p.m. (PST). The Draft Public Participation Plan is available on the SCAG website. At the end of the comment period, staff will review, address and incorporate as appropriate all comments received. We anticipate bringing a draft final plan to the Regional Council for adoption in Summer 2018. To submit comments, or ask any further questions, please contact Margaret de Larios at delarios@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS LAUNCHES COLLABORATIVE OPEN-DATA MAPPING PROJECT

To assist with the development of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, SCAG has launched a new crowd-sourced data project calling on college and university students to help identify and map transit-supportive features in the region's neighborhoods. The programs and policies that will be mapped for this project will help identify how our region is meeting its climate change goals. Students will have the opportunity to contribute data that will aid SCAG in better understanding how neighborhood-oriented policies can encourage residents to take transit and to walk or bike more in their communities—thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the road and in traffic. A prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to the student with the highest number of confirmed data field entries. Submissions are due by May 31 - more information is available on the [RTP/SCS website](#).

UPDATE ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS

On Feb. 21, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) shared an updated staff report that includes recommendations for regional targets for reducing per-capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Since Senate Bill 375 was passed in 2009, CARB has set targets at both the state and regional level for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. After an ongoing collaborative dialogue with SCAG and other agencies, CARB has proposed an updated target of a 19% per capita GHG reduction by 2035 in the SCAG region, which is consistent with the recommendation approved by the SCAG Regional Council in November 2017. This staff report makes recommendations for CARB Board actions at their March 22 meeting. In addition, CARB staff has proposed a broader target-update framework, with specifics to be further developed. The framework incorporates added reporting and tracking of investments, project performance analysis and implementation efforts related to the Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy. ARB staff is expected to convene working group meetings with the state's metropolitan planning organizations over the next several months to identify tools, incentives and tracking methodology, as well as to revise the SB 375 Program Guidelines. SCAG will continue to provide updates during this important process.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2018 SCAG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SCAG is now accepting applications for its scholarship program through April 27. Our scholarship program offers financial support and professional development to the region's high school and community college students.

Seven scholarships of \$4,000 will be awarded to eligible students across the six-county SCAG region. Winners will also complete a two-week internship with a local planning agency or council of governments, getting the opportunity to meet with elected officials and practicing planners to learn more about careers in public service. Community college students or high school juniors and seniors who live in the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino or Ventura are eligible to apply. Application materials and additional details are available at scag.ca.gov/scholarship. If you have questions, contact Houston Laney at laney@scag.ca.gov.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

15th Technical Working Group
20th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
27th Transportation Conformity Working Group
28th Modeling Task Force

April

5th Regional Council & Policy Committees
17th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
19th Technical Working Group
24th Transportation Conformity Working Group



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