

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



September 5, 2019

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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

REGIONAL COUNCIL VOTES TO FILE OBJECTION TO HCD OVER REGIONAL HOUSING NEED DETERMINATION

Today, the Regional Council voted to file an objection to the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Regional Housing Need Determination of 1,344,740 total housing units for the planning period beginning June 30, 2021 and ending October 15, 2029. Per statute, SCAG has 30 days to file an objection with HCD following its receipt of the determination from HCD on Aug. 22. Members of the Regional Council acknowledged that there is a housing crisis and that there is a dire need for housing production in the region, but overall felt that HCD's determination does not reflect SCAG's Growth Forecast, data inputs, or analysis, all of which were developed collaboratively during the consultation process. "The agency is committed to doing everything within its authority to help resolve the housing crisis, but the RHNA process also has to have integrity," said SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise. "We will continue to work with the state to ensure that the determination is on the firmest possible technical ground, and that ultimately the needs of our communities are met."

SCAG is currently seeking public comments on several options for a Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology through Sept. 13. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, SCAG staff will present a Final Proposed RHNA Allocation Methodology recommendation to the Regional Council for approval at its Nov. 7 meeting.

For more information, please visit SCAG's [RHNA webpage](#). For questions or comments about RHNA, please e-mail housing@scag.ca.gov.

ACTION

CHANGES TO SCAG'S REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICER LINEUP

The Regional Council today approved the nomination of Eastvale City Councilmember Clint Lorimore to the position of Second Vice President. Lorimore most recently served as Chair of SCAG's Legislative/ Communications and Membership Committee. Randon Lane, who resigned recently as Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Murrieta and as SCAG's First Vice President, accepted a role with the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, DC. Rex Richardson, a Long Beach City Councilmember, replaced Lane as SCAG's First Vice President. The Regional Council Nominating Committee met on Aug. 22 to review candidates for succeeding Richardson as Second Vice President and nominated Lorimore to the position.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS EARLY PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR CONNECT SOCAL

Outreach has been one of SCAG's key priorities in the development of Connect SoCal, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. In spring and early summer 2019, SCAG conducted dozens of outreach activities to provide the general public an opportunity to prioritize concerns, discuss the challenges our region is facing in the next 25 years, and provide solutions to address them. A [new report](#) offers a summary of what we heard, and how that input will be used in the final plan. In total, SCAG received over 4,000 surveys and over 12,000 comments either at the workshops or through the open-ended survey responses. This feedback has given SCAG a substantial pool of data to consider as the agency makes progress towards the draft Connect SoCal plan, anticipated to be released in November. For more on Connect SoCal, please visit ConnectSoCal.org.

REGION-WIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKSHOPS

SCAG held four traffic safety workshops across the region in August. More than 170 government agency staff attended, including city planners, law enforcement, traffic engineers, public works and public health staff. These workshops intended to educate member agencies about traffic safety issues and resources available to support safety improvements in their communities. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from traffic safety experts and learn proven tactics for reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. SCAG will also be hosting four webinars in September 2019 following the workshop series. SCAG also developed a safety pledge tool kit to motivate action to improve safety at the jurisdictional level. Local agencies that take the pledge will also be eligible to attend the webinar series free of cost. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Anyone interested in the webinar series should contact Hina Chanchlani, Assistant Regional Planner, at chanchlani@scag.ca.gov.

MEETINGS WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

As part of SCAG's outreach efforts to the region's Congressional Delegation during the summer recess, Executive Director, Kome Ajise, and members of the policy and public affairs team met with Congressman Ted Lieu on Aug. 12. They discussed important issues on transportation and air quality, including the federal surface transportation reauthorization. Congressman Lieu sits on the Judiciary Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee. In a separate meeting on Aug. 21, Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey and members of the policy and public affairs team met with Congressman Harley Rouda. Congressman Rouda is a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

- 17th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 19th Technical Working Group
- 19th Active Transportation Working Group
- 24th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 25th Audit Committee

OCTOBER

- 3rd Regional Council and Policy Committees
- 7th RHNA Subcommittee
- 15th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 17th Technical Working Group
- 17th Environmental Justice Working Group
- 17th Public Health Working Group
- 21st Special Meeting of the Community, Economic & Human Development Committee
- 22nd Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 23rd Modeling Task Force



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