

SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MONTHLY REPORT

FROM JUDY MITCHELL

Representing District 40 on the Regional Council, and EEC & AQMD

RC Presentations

Economic Impacts of the Housing Crisis – Antonio M. Bento, Professor, Sol Price School of Public Policy, USC discussed and answered questions regarding the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Southern California. This presentation to both the CEHD Committee and Regional Council provided context for policy discussion and actions being considered by SCAG’s policy committees and Regional Council.

Report on the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program.

AB 101 establishes the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the purpose of providing regions with one-time funding. The legislation allocates \$250 million to HCD for councils of governments and jurisdictions to be used for technical assistance, the preparation and adoption of planning documents, process improvements to accelerate housing production and to facilitate the compliance with the 6th cycle of RHNA. In addition, all cities and counties in compliance with state housing law will receive between \$65,000 and \$1.5 million based on population for purposes of housing planning.

SCAG is expected to be eligible for approximately \$50 million to administer our RHNA and provide planning services to our cities and counties. Staff will share the proposed timeline and preliminary concepts for developing a program framework and funding proposal to be submitted to HCD for approval.

Report on the federal administration’s SAFE Rule.

As Part I of the final Safer, Affordable, Fuel-Efficient Vehicles (SAFE) Rule, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a widely anticipated and highly political and controversial final “One National Program Rule” (Rule) on September 19, 2019. The final Rule is designed to preempt state and local tailpipe greenhouse gas emissions standards, zero emission vehicle mandates, and fuel economy for automobiles and light duty trucks. The rule preempts California’s Advanced Clean Car Regulations and may potentially impact SCAG’s Connect SoCal under development, the upcoming 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and transportation projects in the SCAG region.

EEC Presentation

In September 2016, Governor Brown signed into law SB 1383, establishing methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) in various sectors of California's economy. Actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants are essential to address the many impacts of climate change on human health, especially in California's most at-risk communities, and on the environment. As it pertains to CalRecycle, SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. The law grants CalRecycle the regulatory authority required to achieve the organic waste disposal reduction targets and establishes an additional target that not less than 20 percent of currently disposed edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025.

Furthermore, SB 1383 builds upon California's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution statewide. Governor Brown identified reductions of short-lived climate pollutant emissions, including methane emissions, as one of five key climate change strategy pillars necessary to meet California's target to reduce GHG emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 as established in SB 32 (Pavley). SB 1383 will further support California's efforts to achieve the statewide 75 percent recycling goal by 2020 established in AB 341 (Chesbro) and strengthen the implementation of mandatory commercial organics recycling established in AB 1826 (Chesbro).

SCAQMD

The Board adopted Rule 1407- which governs the control of emissions of arsenic cadmium, and nickel from non-chromium metal-melting operations. Following the meeting, the annual luncheon was held and the Clean Air Awards were presented.

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



October 3, 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



Professor Bento provides a presentation to the Regional Council.

INFO
PROFESSOR ANTONIO BENTO DISCUSSES CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For a better understanding of the economic impacts of the ongoing housing crisis, Dr. Antonio M. Bento, a professor at the Sol Price School of Public Policy and the Department of Economics of the University of Southern California, provided a presentation to—and answered questions from members of—the Regional Council regarding challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Southern California. Bento’s presentation focused on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process and how an economic, market-based approach could efficiently allocate housing units across jurisdictions. It was suggested that both the identification of priority growth areas in Connect SoCal – the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and RHNA’s analysis of potential areas for new housing are good technical starting points, and that a needed next step (one that is not enabled by the current RHNA process) could potentially involve a new mechanism whereby jurisdictions may be able to maximize efficiency by trading housing allocations. Although Bento labeled his work as a thought exercise and one that is not necessarily ready as a potential policy solution, it is important that new ideas continue to be developed to aid policy discussions on how regions plan to accommodate and foster more housing.

INFO STAFF PROVIDES UPDATE ON FEDERAL ‘SAFE’ VEHICLES RULE WITH POTENTIAL FAR-REACHING IMPACTS

In a report to the Regional Council, SCAG staff indicated that the jointly published final rulemaking from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on Sept. 27 entitled, “The Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule Part One: One National Program” could have a number of significant impacts on the agency’s primary planning efforts. In the widely anticipated and controversial rule, the NHTSA is affirming that federal law preempts state and local vehicle fuel economy, tailpipe greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards, and zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) requirements and that the EPA is withdrawing the Clean Air Act preemption waiver that it granted to California in January 2013 as it relates to the state’s GHG and ZEV programs. Among other potential impacts, the rulemaking could impede the agency’s ability to perform the required transportation conformity analyses for both the Connect SoCal plan and the upcoming 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program. This could potentially lead to a situation where a transportation conformity lapse or highway sanctions—or both—would prevent SCAG from making changes or adding new projects to our regional transportation plans and programs, as well as prevent many important transportation projects from receiving necessary federal approval or federal funding. SCAG staff will continue to participate in a number of statewide efforts to address the impacts of this rulemaking and will keep the agency’s regional partners apprised of any updates.

INFO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROVIDES FEEDBACK ON CONNECT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Signaling a concern regarding the current state of the development of Connect SoCal, several Regional Council members commented that they felt there were not enough opportunities for the board to provide policy input into the development process. While staff was commended for its technical expertise and planning aptitude, the general consensus was that the elected officials that are ultimately responsible for the plan so far have been provided with a number of presentations and a lot of information, but not enough chances to comment directly on the policy considerations of the plan. SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise indicated that the agency will take the Regional Council’s direction and evaluate how additional feedback can be provided on the policy issues addressed in the Connect SoCal plan while adhering to the agency’s overall desire to deliver a comprehensive long-range transportation plan for the region on time.

12.05.2019

Thursday

10th
annual

southern
california
economic
summit

REGISTER
ONLINE
TODAY



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UPDATED DRAFT RHNA ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK WORKSHOP

On Sept. 23, SCAG held a workshop to provide the general public and local jurisdictions with an overview of the updated draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Methodology framework. Staff provided a presentation on the updated draft allocation methodology framework, which incorporates feedback received from the over 250 people that participated at the public hearings and over 300 comments received during the comment period and furthers the objectives of both SCAG's regional planning efforts and State housing law. The updated draft methodology addresses both existing need (determined by projected household growth, transit accessibility, and a new component on job accessibility that was added based on input received during the public comment period) and projected need (determined by projected household growth, future vacancy need and replacement need). As part of the workshop, SCAG staff also answered questions on the recommended draft methodology from members of the public.

The staff-recommended RHNA allocation methodology will be presented at the RHNA Subcommittee meeting on Oct. 7, which will provide its recommendation to a Special Meeting of the Community, Environment & Human Development (CEHD) Committee on Oct. 21. The CEHD recommendation will go to the Regional Council for approval on Nov. 7, after which the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will undergo a 60-day review of the methodology. It is expected that the Final RHNA Allocation Methodology will be approved in January-February 2020. For a schedule of upcoming meetings or for more information on RHNA, please visit the [RHNA webpage](#). If you would like to be added to the RHNA mailing list, please e-mail housing@scag.ca.gov.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

On Sept. 25, SCAG Regional Council President Bill Jahn, Executive Director Kome Ajise and staff hosted a New Member Orientation for 10 Regional Council and Policy Committee members who had joined SCAG from January 2018 through this year. Staff provided an in-depth presentation that covered multiple topics such as the agency's governing structure, member benefits, and major on-going projects. There was also an opportunity for members to ask questions on forms, bylaws, Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) filings, and more. Six longstanding Regional Council and Policy Committee members also participated as mentors to support the new members. The New Member Orientation will become a twice-per-year set event that will coincide with major elections.

GO HUMAN EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

The *Go Human* Kit of Parts has launched with appearances at CicLAvia: Meet the Hollywoods, the September 2019 Regional Council meeting, and the City of Los Angeles's Sylmar Taco Festival. There are an additional 11 events scheduled with more to come. The Kit of Parts are physical "pop-up" tools that SCAG partners can borrow to demonstrate safety such as pedestrian islands, bulb-outs, parklets and crosswalks. SCAG also celebrated September's Pedestrian Safety Month with *Go Human* Challenges at four events across the region to engage and educate residents on topics such as traffic safety, sustainability, and active transportation using games like tic-tac-toe, ring toss and transportation trivia. Last but not least, *Go Human* launched two bicycle-friendly business districts (BFBD) in Baldwin Park and El Monte/South El Monte. With over 200 overall attendees, the BFBD launches also featured beginner-friendly bicycle tours of local bicycle-friendly businesses and free samples. SCAG's *Go Human* program has some exciting things planned for Walktober. Please visit the [Go Human website](#) for updates on future programs, events and announcements.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October

7th RHNA Subcommittee

15th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

17th Technical Working Group

17th Joint Meeting of the Environmental Justice and Public Health Working Groups

21st Special Meeting of the Community, Economic & Human Development Committee

22nd Transportation Conformity Working Group

23rd Modeling Task Force

NOVEMBER

7th Joint Meeting of the Regional Council and Policy Committees

19th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

21st Technical Working Group

21st Active Transportation Working Group

21st Natural Lands Working Group

26th Transportation Conformity Working Group