

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



June 4, 2020

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.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY EDITION

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) provided remarks via videoconference to open up the 55th Annual General Assembly.

ACTION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS 2020-2021 BOARD OFFICERS



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The General Assembly today approved the nominations for the SCAG 2020-2021 Board Officers as recommended by the Regional Council. Congratulations to Hon. Rex Richardson (City of Long Beach), who will serve as the new SCAG President; Hon. Clint Lorimore (City of Eastvale), who will serve as First Vice President; and Hon. Jan Harnik (Riverside County Transportation Commission), who will serve as Second Vice President. Leadership also took time to recognize Hon. Bill Jahn, [who served as President for 2019-2020](#) and will continue on as a board officer in the role of Immediate Past President.

ACTION

FY2020-2021 BUDGET, MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APPROVED



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The General Assembly adopted the General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment Schedule for FY2020-2021. The General Fund is the designated financial resources for the operating budget of the Regional Council and supports SCAG activities that are not funded by, or are not allowable charges to, federal or state grant funds. With much of the region facing economic difficulties due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, member jurisdictions will have the option to utilize a 20 percent waiver on their FY2020-2021 membership dues if needed. Funds for the implementation of the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) are not factored into the FY2020-2021 budget as the agency was awarded Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant Program funds in April 2020.

2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



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NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[UPDATE ON REGIONAL COUNCIL'S 120-DAY DIRECTIVE FOR CONNECT SOCIAL](#)

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On May 7, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council approved Connect SoCal, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, for federal transportation conformity purposes while approval for all other purposes was postponed for up to 120 days. This delay was intended to allow more time for SCAG to consider the short- and long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the plan. Additionally, in response to Regional Council direction, SCAG staff will provide additional analysis, and work with local authorities to address stakeholder's questions and concerns related to the neighborhood-level Growth Forecast utilized for modeling purposes for the Sustainable Communities Strategy. As part of this process, SCAG reached out to all jurisdictions on May 27, 2020, to outline the next steps SCAG staff are taking as we consider refinements related to the neighborhood-level Growth Forecast on the issues of entitlements and locally planned growth capacities. Local jurisdictions will have the opportunity to review the data and provide feedback to SCAG by June 9, 2020. SCAG will continue to conduct further targeted outreach with jurisdictions and other stakeholders over the 120-day period. For updates on Connect SoCal, please visit connectsocial.org.

DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP WEBINARS EXPLORE COVID-19 IMPACT



SCAG and the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy will be hosting the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop over two sessions – one on Thursday, June 11, 2020, and the other on Thursday, June 18, 2020 – virtually via videoconference. The theme of this year's program, "Accelerating Planning to Catch Up to 21st Century Demographics," is focused on responding to demographic changes across the region and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Part 1: The Changing Demographic Outlook and Housing Trends** will provide an update on the latest in demographic trends including migration, fertility and aging, and their implications on regional planning as we begin a new decade.
- **Part 2: Impact of COVID-19 on Housing and Economy** will include a panel on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an update on the progress and challenges of Census 2020.

Both of the Demographic Workshop sessions will feature a panel of experts and applied roundtable discussions. The cost of this year's workshop is free to all individuals that [register on the event webpage](#). For additional details about the event, please contact John Cho at choj@scag.ca.gov.

WHITE PAPER ASSESSES POTENTIAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19



On May 14, 2020, SCAG released a white paper that provides an initial assessment of potential employment and taxable sales implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region as of the end of April 2020. The white paper, "Potential Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in the SCAG Region," assumes a low-point in the regional economy occurring around June 1, 2020, with a resumption of some economic activity thereafter, but a long, slow recovery extending through the end of 2021. Additionally, numerous assumptions are made about the decline and potential recovery trajectory in individual industry sectors. As the pandemic unfolds and additional data become available, these assumptions, modeling strategies and outputs can be revised. The white paper is [available on the SCAG website](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June

- 11th 31st Annual Demographic Workshop: Part 1
- 16th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 18th 31st Annual Demographic Workshop: Part 2
- 18th Technical Working Group
- 18th Joint Meeting of the Public Health, Sustainable Communities and Climate Adaptation Working Groups
- 22nd Toolbox Training
- 23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 24th Connect SoCal Virtual Townhall

July

- 2nd Regional Council & Policy Committees
- 16th Technical Working Group
- 21st Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 22nd Modeling Task Force
- 28th Transportation Conformity Working Group



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