

From: Judy Mitchell

AQMD

The Board met on November 1, 2019. The board approved the following: (1) an endowment of \$625 Million to Cal State Los Angeles and to UC Irvine to support university graduate student scholarships for air quality and climate change research; (2) \$3 million in funding to replace CNG fuel tanks on school buses. The board approved amended Rule 1110.2, which cover NOx emissions reductions at RECLAIM facilities. The board questioned the decisions of local jurisdictions on their spending of AB 2766 funds, which requires the money to be spent *“for the reduction of air pollution from motor vehicles pursuant to, and for related planning, monitoring, enforcement, and technical studies necessary for the implementation of the California Clean Air Act of 1988.”* The chair ordered that a letter be sent to the California Legislature advising them of this issue. At the December meeting, the board will consider approval of Proposed Rule 1480, which covers ambient monitoring and sampling of metal toxic air contaminants (hexavalent chromium emissions).

Regional Council/SCAG

The Regional Council approved the release of the Connect SoCal Plan (RTP/SCS Plan for 2020), for public review and comment. The plan covers the period from 2020 to 2045. All materials are available on the Connect SoCal website. The comment period is scheduled to end on January 24, 2020. The Program Environmental Impact Report for the plan will also be released in late November and the comment period for the PEIR is expected to end on January 24, 2020.

There are 21 briefings throughout the region that are intended to inform elected officials, stakeholders and interested parties on the key investments and strategies in the draft plan and solicit feedback. There are 3 public hearings that will be held at SCAG’s Los Angeles office, with videoconferencing at regional offices (Please note that the SBCCOG will not have video conferencing until February, 2020):

1. Dec. 3, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.
2. Dec. 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
3. Dec. 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

The RC also considered the proposed RHNA methodology recommended by the HCED Policy Committee. Riverside proposed a separate methodology that pushed higher numbers from the Inland Empire to the coastal cities. This plan was supported by the City of Los Angeles. Mayor Garcetti and numerous city council members were in attendance to vote on this alternative and it prevailed with 19 RC members opposing. As a representative of coastal cities, I opposed this measure.

Energy and Environment Committee

EEC engaged in a joint meeting with the other policy committees to discuss the Connect SoCal Plan, which was forward to RC for a vote. EEC then met separately to consider and authorize the release of the PEIR for the Connect SoCal Plan.