

Report from Mark Henderson
Councilman from Gardena and SCAG Regional Council member
July 23, 2020 SBCCOG Board meeting

There was one item that garnered much of the time and discussion. It is the resolution below that eventually passed. Staff report attached

RESOLUTION NO. 20-6232

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) STATING CONVICTION THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS WHICH RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION.

The flavor of the discussion was if SCAG was going beyond its mission by acknowledging some of the social issues versus those that felt that this is a part of the mission because SCAG has a focus on the environment and the "environment" is all inclusive. An overwhelming majority voted to support the resolution and future collaborations to improve our communities.



RC AGENDA ITEM 1 REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
July 2, 2020

To: Regional Council (RC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Kome Ajise, Executive Director, Executive Management,
213-236-1835, Ajise@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Presentation on Racial and Social Justice and SCAG's Policy
Statement (Regional Discussion and Action on Equity and
Social Justice)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution No. 20-623-2

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The unjust and tragic death of George Floyd, among many more, by law enforcement, in the midst of a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted communities of color, has revealed uncomfortable truths about the systemic racism in our society – including in the way we have planned and designed our communities and transportation systems. In Southern California, where we champion our diversity as one of our greatest strengths, the data reveals patterns of inequity and injustice that exist nationwide. To provide context for a conversation among Regional Council members on SCAG's role in addressing equity and social injustice, Professor Michael Lens, an Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy and Associate Faculty Director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, will provide a presentation on planning's role in institutionalizing and perpetuating inequities in communities, and how regional and local policymakers and planners can work to repair the past harms and build communities where all can thrive.

BACKGROUND:

Communities nationwide and across Southern California continue to express their anguish, anger, and calls for action over the senseless and violent deaths of Tony McDade, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks, among others, and the systemic injustice that their deaths, and too many more, reveal in our society. Over the course of the past month we have been grieving these losses and considering how we, as a metropolitan planning

OUR MISSION

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.

OUR VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

OUR CORE VALUES

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous

organization, can do more to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in our region. For years we have been working to bring our diverse residents and local partners together through our plans, projects, and programs to unify the region and increase access to opportunity. While we have done some good work, it has not been enough, and we know that we must do more to combat systemic racism and the inequities that exist in our region.

Our region's greatest asset is its diversity, particularly in its people. People of color currently represent more than 68 percent of the region's population and our diversity is only expected to increase as we move towards 2045, when people of color will represent nearly 80 percent of our population. Our region's residents have among the most geographically diverse origins of any metropolitan region in the nation. There is a disproportionate burden of poverty on people of color relative to their white counterparts. Black (21.5%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (19.4%), and Hispanic (19%) communities experience the highest rates of poverty in our region compared to the white population (13.5%) and Asian population (11.5%). The region's low income families and communities of color also tend to reside in areas of the region where they experience more poor air quality, resulting in more asthma emergency room visits (e.g., areas near freeways and high traffic roads). What we know and what continues to be reinforced through the analysis of our conditions and now through COVID-19 is that where you live matters. A range of economic and social impacts such as health outcomes, education, employment, housing conditions, the likelihood of incarceration, and life expectancy, vary vastly in this region based on race, income and census tract. Across the region, life expectancy ranges drastically, from 68 to 93 years, depending on where you live.

As a regional planning organization, understanding the disparities that result from geography and the built environment are central to our work to plan for a more racially just, equitable future. Our long-range plan, Connect SoCal, includes an extensive Environmental Justice (EJ) Technical Report with detailed analyses on current conditions and the consequences of the region's transportation projects on low income communities and communities of color. Consideration of EJ stems from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which establishes the need for transportation agencies to disclose the benefits and burdens of proposed projects on communities of color. The goal is to avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental impacts on low income families and communities of color. In an effort to support communities as they develop their own Environmental Justice Elements to comply with SB 1000, SCAG embedded an Environmental Justice Toolbox within the EJ Technical Report. The Toolbox includes recommended strategies and resources to address potential impacts to EJ Areas, Disadvantaged Communities, Communities of Concern, and other EJ related communities, and it presents optional policy recommendations that may be effective in addressing EJ impacts after a comprehensive review of impacts and consultation with all stakeholders.

SCAG is also active in state, regional, and local conversations on how to embed public health considerations into land use and transportation planning. Specifically, at the statewide level, SCAG staff currently serves on California's American Planning Association Planners 4 Health Steering Committee, which aims to increase local capacity for creating stronger, healthier communities, and promote greater coordination between planners and public health professionals at the state, regional, and local levels. At the regional level, Connect SoCal includes a robust, data-driven Public Health Technical Report which is grounded in the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), a public health framework which is centered on the built environment and conditions in which we live, work, play and age. We know that the SDOH contribute to a wide range of disparate health outcomes depending on where you live, and that the rates of asthma, diabetes, and other chronic diseases in communities of color is greater than those for the region as a whole. It has become all too common to blame adverse health outcomes on individual behaviors when in fact the science is clear: the root cause of health inequities is racism and discrimination and how it limits access to the very opportunities and resources each of us need for optimal health and well-being. Science also tells us that that lifetime stress associated with experiences of daily acts of discrimination and oppression play a major role.¹ When we see elevated numbers of deaths in communities of color in our region due to COVID-19, we are witnessing the consequences of these long-standing inequities.

We are fortunate that the planning profession has evolved to take health equity and equity more broadly into account, and that it is now widely recognized that while transportation and land use decisions are shaping neighborhoods, they are also influencing health outcomes, access to education and employment, housing conditions, and life expectancies. Unfortunately, federal and state policies that now support this focus (e.g., Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898, and California Senate Bill 1000) were preceded by decades of policies that were often explicitly racist and resulted in inequities that persist to this day. Specifically, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which was established in 1934, furthered segregation by refusing to insure mortgages in and near predominantly Black neighborhoods — a policy that came to be known as "redlining" or the delineation of geographic areas for investment. At the same time, the FHA was subsidizing builders who were mass-producing entire subdivisions for white people, with the requirement that none of the homes be sold to Black people. Years later, with support from the Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954 and the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, entire neighborhoods were cleared out in the name of urban renewal, displacing residents using tactics such as eminent domain and condemnation laws. These federal economic and housing policies led to racial segregation, where neighborhoods of color struggled with isolation, high concentrations of poverty, chronic disinvestment, high rates of unemployment, and poor life outcomes. They also denied people of color access to the same opportunities to accumulate household wealth through homeownership contributing to enormous wealth and income gaps that remain today between white families and communities of color.² We

¹ Gee, Gilbert C. and Ford, Chandra L. *Structural Racism and Health Inequities: Old Issues, New Directions*, (accessed June 27, 2020).

² Rothstein, Richard. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (New York: Liverwright Publishing Corporation, 2017).

can see evidence of these policies in our region where roughly 60 percent of white people own homes, compared to about 40 percent of Hispanic people and 35 percent of Black people.

Recently adopted legislation will help us work towards improving the availability of housing for all residents. In 2018, the State of California adopted legislation requiring local governments to “affirmatively further fair housing.”³ Under State law, to affirmatively further fair housing means “taking meaningful actions, in addition to combatting discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics.”⁴ The new law strengthened provisions of the State Housing Element law, which require general plans of all cities and counties to plan for housing for all Californians. SCAG is required, through the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) process, to work with local jurisdictions to update their housing elements to plan for their fair share of housing. This involves modifying land use and zoning codes and developing supportive policies and programs for development of a variety of housing types for all income groups, including programs for preservation and construction of affordable housing, and removal of government barriers.

As a government agency focused on planning, we have the opportunity, and in some cases the legal obligation, to analyze and address the inequities that government and the planning profession have created by systemically driving and perpetuating societal differences along racial lines that have resulted in vastly different living and social conditions and access to opportunities. While we consider low income families and communities of color impacts in our regional growth, transportation, and economic development planning and analysis, we recognize that more affirmative approaches that seek to counter the effects of historic practices, like those being pursued through state housing law to overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities, are needed to advance equity and social justice across the region.

Planning for Equity and Social Justice

If Southern California is going to be the healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient region we aspire to be, we need to dramatically improve outcomes for low income families and communities of color. By addressing the barriers faced by these communities, we will improve outcomes for other communities as well and strengthen our region. We need to plan for our future by addressing the long-standing systemic and institutional barriers that have fostered racial inequities in health, wealth, and opportunity, and created obstacles for low income families and communities of color.

To further these objectives, President Rex Richardson directed staff to prepare a resolution that would: 1) affirm SCAG’s intent to stand side-by-side with those working toward a fair and just

³ AB 686 Summary of Requirements in Housing Element Law, California Department of Housing and Community Development Memorandum to Planning Directors et. al, April 23, 2020; AB 686, Ch. 958 (Santiago) Statutes of 2018.

⁴ California Government Code § 8899.50 (a)(1).

society, and with those calling for systemic change and for the breaking down of barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared prosperity; and 2) outline SCAG's intentions to consistently incorporate equity awareness into every aspect of its work guided by a Regional Council policy statement on equity and social justice. The President is also proposing the formation of a Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to recommend a set of policies to the Regional Council and any necessary bylaw changes to the General Assembly to help SCAG meet its objectives. The work of the committee may include, but not be limited to:

- Establishing an agency-wide definition of "equity" to have a shared understanding of it.
- Providing guidance on the development of SCAG's internal Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work plan that prioritizes, supports, and invests in equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Reviewing SCAG's public participation plan and stakeholder engagement strategies to lift up voices of communities of color and other disadvantaged communities to ensure meaningful engagement and capacity-building opportunities for communities most impacted by racial and social injustice.
- Developing an Equity Inventory Report, which would catalogue the existing equity-related activities throughout SCAG's departments.
- Establishing an Equity Framework containing quantitative and qualitative indicators of existing inequities and disparities that exist in the region, and how communities and people in the region experience SCAG's desired outcomes.
- Preparing a set of policies and recommended changes to SCAG bylaws as necessary to guide and sustain SCAG's regional leadership in service of equity and social justice.

To ensure progress, SCAG staff would report back on the work of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice at regular intervals - 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months, with the expectation that a final set of recommendations shall be prepared, including any recommendations to SCAG's bylaws within 9 months, for consideration by the Regional Council and General Assembly in May 2021. We stand ready to work with all of you in the months ahead to build a more just, equitable, and prosperous region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Project 21-050.0169.08.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution No. 20-623-2
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RESOLUTION NO. 20-623-2

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700 Los Angeles, CA 90017 T: (213) 236-1800 www.scag.ca.gov

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) STATING CONVICTION THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS WHICH RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION AND HOUSING AND REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Rex Richardson, Long Beach

First Vice President Clint Lorimore, Eastvale

Second Vice President Jan C. Harnik, Riverside County Transportation Commission

Immediate Past President Bill Jahn, Big Bear Lake

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive/Administration Rex Richardson, Long Beach

Community, Economic & Human Development Jorge Marquez, Covina

Energy & Environment David Pollock, Moorpark

Transportation Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

WHEREAS, SCAG is the largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the United States covering six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), and serving 19 million people pursuant to 23 USC § 134 et seq. and 49 USC § 5303 et seq. subject to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1994 Presidential Executive Order No. 12898 on Environmental Justice; and

WHEREAS, SCAG is responsible for bringing Southern California's diverse residents and local partners together with unifying regional plans, policies, and programs that result in more healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, communities across Southern California and nationwide continue to show their pain, anger, and calls for action over the senseless and violent deaths of Tony McDade, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, among others, as well as the systemic injustice in our society that led to these deaths and of too many more people of color by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, SCAG acknowledges the historic role government and the planning profession have played in systemically driving and perpetuating societal inequities along racial lines that have resulted in vastly different living and social conditions and access to opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic disruption have exposed the gross inequities that exist in our society; and

WHEREAS, SCAG recognizes that systemic racism resulting from the inherent biases and prejudices within social and political organizations, groups, or institutions continue to create barriers to success for people of color; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism negatively impacts the social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care; and

WHEREAS, SCAG seeks to lead and/or join efforts to reverse the effects of the inequitable policies, processes, and practices of the past, and recognizes that it has a role to play in understanding and communicating the impacts that planning decisions have on low income families, communities of color and other disadvantaged communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments, that;

1. SCAG stands in solidarity with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change to eliminate all barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared values and ability to thrive; and SCAG affirms its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and SCAG declares its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the region.
2. Furthermore, based upon this affirmation, an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice shall be established by the President to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice throughout the agency's activities, and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. Regular reports shall be provided to the Regional Council on the work of the committee and a final set of recommendations shall be prepared, including any recommendations to amend SCAG's bylaws within 9 months, for consideration by the Regional Council and General Assembly in May 2021.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at its regular meeting this 2nd day of July, 2020.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Rex A. Richardson
President, SCAG
Councilmember, City of Long Beach

Attested by:

Kome Ajise
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:

Justine Block
Acting Chief Counsel

SPOTLIGHT

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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 Michael Lens from the University of California Los Angeles provides a presentation on historical inequities in planning to the Regional Council.

ACTION

TWO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED TO ADDRESS EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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The Regional Council today adopted two resolutions to affirm SCAG's commitment to addressing longstanding issues related to equity and social justice in the agency's planning efforts. The first resolution, [No. 20-623-2](#), signals SCAG's intent to stand side-by-side with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change and for the breaking down of barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared prosperity. The resolution also calls for SCAG to consistently incorporate equity awareness into every aspect of its work guided by a Regional Council policy statement on equity and social justice. SCAG President Rex Richardson also proposed the formation of a Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to recommend a set of policies to the Regional Council and any necessary changes to the bylaws to the General Assembly to help SCAG meet these objectives. To provide context for conversation among Regional Council members, Professor Michael Lens, Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy and Associate Faculty Director of the University of California Los Angeles's Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, gave a presentation focused on institutionalized and perpetuating inequities in communities and how regional and local policymakers and planners can work to bring about change by repairing past inequities and build communities where all can thrive.

The second resolution, [No. 20-623-1](#), authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the California Community Foundation that would provide grant funding for the Call for Collaboration partnership program. In the wake of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities, President Rex Richardson has outlined opportunity areas and a comprehensive work program. Central to this framework is bringing new voices to the table and fostering innovative partnerships and collaborations that leverage the strength of the region's diversity to realize an inclusive economic recovery. Complementary to the President's priorities and as part of the agency's broader Housing Program, the Regional Council set aside \$1 million out of the \$11 million allocation of the region's early application for the Regional Early Action Program (REAP) grant to establish the Call for Collaboration partnership program with the intent to support new partnership models and engage a wider range of stakeholders to advance the region's housing goals. The Call for Collaboration partnership program is anticipated to launch later this year, augmenting subregional and local planning efforts supported by REAP, and other state funding programs, to update housing elements and accelerate housing production.

INFORMATION

STAFF PROVIDES 60-DAY PROGRESS REPORT ON CONNECT SOCAL ACTIVITIES



Staff today provided a 60-day progress report on Connect SoCal-related activities in accordance with action taken by the Regional Council at its meeting on May 7. While Connect SoCal was adopted at that time for federal transportation conformity purposes only, SCAG delayed the transmittal of Connect SoCal to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) for up to 120 days due to concerns about missing entitlements and a desire to examine potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the plan. Some of the activities completed so far include dialogue with local jurisdictions on correcting the issue of missing entitlements, an online survey to gather input on the short-, medium- and long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the plan, and a listening session that took place on June 24 to gather additional input from partners and stakeholders on how the COVID-19 pandemic will impact local jurisdictions.

In terms of next steps, SCAG staff is planning to host additional stakeholder meetings to provide further opportunities for feedback and also integrate the necessary technical modifications to the Sustainable Communities Strategy data. At the next Regional Council meeting in September, staff will present Connect SoCal for Regional Council approval, as well as a Connect SoCal Implementation Plan and a 2024 Connect SoCal Emerging Issues Outlook that will describe areas of additional analysis to be pursued to better understand the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on future plan updates. For updates on Connect SoCal, [please visit ConnectSoCal.org](#).

ACTION

RC APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



The Regional Council today voted to approve the Scholarship Committee recommendations for the 2020 SCAG Scholarship Program Awards. This year, SCAG received 93 applications from high school and community college students from across the region. Ten outstanding students were selected for scholarships, representing all six of SCAG's member counties. The scholarship recipients include: Aaliyah Felix (El Centro), Ashley Anderson (Covina), Doyup Kwon (Torrance), Chloe Niebla (Westminster), Mirabella Smith (Canyon Lake), Ysabella Sardillo (Apple Valley), Kimiko Stafford (Thousand Oaks), Emily Hardesty (Long Beach), and Andrea Hansen (Chino Hills). Continuing the partnership established from the 2019 awards, the California Transportation Foundation agreed to fund an additional scholarship for 2020, which will be awarded to Chiari Palagi (Riverside). The SCAG Scholarship Program provides each awardee with both a monetary scholarship of \$4,000 and a two-week internship with SCAG or a local planning agency, in order to help students build the foundation for a career in urban planning and local government. Congratulations to these future leaders in Southern California's planning and governing community!

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP ADDRESSED CHALLENGES FOR 2020 CENSUS AND IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOUSING AND ECONOMY



Thank you to our event speakers and everyone who joined us for the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop. The event was co-hosted by SCAG and the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy over two sessions via videoconference—one on Thursday, June 11, and the other on Thursday, June 18—due to the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing together over 500 attendees. The event theme, “Accelerating Planning to Catch Up to 21st Century Demographics,” encompassed a range of discussions that provided new research findings and expert insights on responding to demographic changes across the region and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first session, *The Changing Demographic Outlook and Housing Trends*, provided an update on the latest in demographic trends including migration, fertility, and aging, as well as their implications on regional planning as we begin a new decade. The second session, *Impact of COVID-19 on Housing and Economy*, included a keynote speech by Chris Porter, Chief Demographer at John Burns Real Estate Consulting, a 2020 Census update by James T. Christy, Assistant Director for Field Operations at the U.S. Census Bureau, and a panel discussion on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both sessions closed with applied roundtable discussions.

We thank our key program partners: the U.S. Census Bureau, California Department of Finance’s Demographic Research Unit, and California Department of Housing and Community Development. To view presentations and videos from the event, [please visit the Demographic Workshop page on the SCAG website](#).

STATE ADVOCACY SUPPORTS LOCAL EFFORTS TO MEET REGIONAL HOUSING NEED GOALS AND STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES



SCAG formally submitted a letter on June 8, addressed to Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) and Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) requesting deadline extensions on Housing Element submissions and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grants Program applications. Draft budget trailer bill language indicates early support for extending the LEAP deadline for local cities and counties. Regarding Housing Element submissions, housing element updates are due in October 2021. The letter, which was also jointly signed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), asks for a six-month extension for housing element updates in order to give local jurisdictions flexibility as they balance more immediate concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Copies of the letters were provided to members of the budget and housing committees of both chambers and shared with COGs in the region.

The state budget was another focus of SCAG’s advocacy efforts. Letters were submitted to Senate Budget Committee Chair Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) and Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) expressing support for the legislature’s increased allocation of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act funding for cities and counties, and to establish a floor allocation of \$50,000 per city. Additionally, SCAG expressed support for AB 617 Implementation funding, which brings air monitoring to a more localized level, and asked for the program to be prioritized in light of reduced cap-and-trade auctions in May 2020.

SCAG UNVEILS COVID-19 VULNERABILITY INDICATORS DASHBOARD



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic’s severe and unprecedented implications on a wide range of areas that SCAG plans for, including public health, transportation, housing, public finance, and the economy, [SCAG has published an interactive dashboard](#) that includes indicators of potential vulnerability to COVID-19 for each of the 191 cities and six counties in the region. The datasets provide a wide range of variables related to economic, social, health, and housing vulnerability indicators. The dashboard was presented and well received by the attendees at the SCAG 31st Annual Demographic Workshop.

The purpose of the indicators is to provide context and insightful information for local jurisdictions and stakeholders to better understand the impacts of the pandemic through data. The comprehensive list of vulnerability indicators is made up of slightly more than 70 variables from various sources from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, California State Controller’s Office, InfoUSA, and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee/Department of Housing and Community Development.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July

3rd Independence Day Holiday *OBSERVED*

9th TwitterChat on Connect SoCal and COVID-19 Recovery

16th Technical Working Group

21st Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

21st Toolbox Training: Measuring the Region's Progress with the Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators Map

22nd Modeling Task Force

28th Transportation Conformity Working Group

29th Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee

August

-No Meetings- Regional Council & Policy Committees

4th Aviation Technical Advisory Committee

18th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

20th Technical Working Group

25th Transportation Conformity Working Group

27th Emerging Technologies Committee



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