

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

[Click here](#) for current and archived Regional Council meeting agendas.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING



REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION

ACTION COMMITS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A BROADBAND ACTION PLAN TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Regional Council voted to adopt a resolution to establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide.

ACTION
REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A BROADBAND ACTION PLAN

The Regional Council adopted a resolution to establish a Broadband Action Plan to assist in bridging the digital divide and increase broadband access in underserved communities throughout Southern California. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the digital divide more apparent as schools, many jobs, healthcare and a significant number of government services have gone online. Within the SCAG region alone, 10 percent of households do not have access to adequate internet speeds or have no internet access whatsoever. Without adequate broadband infrastructure, these underserved communities find themselves at a bigger disadvantage, resulting in a widening of the equity gap.

The resolution adopted today directs SCAG staff to develop a Broadband Action Plan, which would include:

- Developing a model resolution and policy paper for local jurisdictions, addressing the digital divide.
- Pursuing grant funding opportunities and partnerships to assist local jurisdictions with broadband implementation.
- Convening a working group to develop ways to facilitate rapid deployment of broadband technology such as streamlining the permit process, lowering fees to a reasonable level, and reducing the cost of entry and operation of broadband systems within underserved communities.
- Including broadband planning, data and research findings, and strategies as part of SCAG's work in promoting an inclusive Regional Economic Recovery and Strategy.

Learn more about SCAG's commitment to bridging the digital divide at scag.ca.gov.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2020/2021 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM – SMART CITIES & MOBILITY INNOVATIONS GUIDELINES

The Regional Council approved the release of guidelines for SCAG's [2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Program \(SCP\) - Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations](#). The program will provide resources for projects that support the implementation of three Connect SoCal key connections, focusing on smart cities and job centers, go zones, and shared mobility/mobility as a service, to expand upon our mobility ecosystems and advance the region's vision.

Program guidelines and application materials will be made available online on Monday, Feb. 8 and applications will be due to SCAG by 5 p.m. on April 23. All SCAG-member jurisdictions, including cities, counties and Councils of Governments are encouraged to apply.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

SCAG is hosting two application webinars, on March 8 and April 5, and one-to-one coaching for potential applicants. After reviewing and ranking applications, staff will seek Regional Council approval for funding recommendations in July 2021.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DEVELOPS DRAFT FRAMEWORK

For more details regarding the SCP - Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications or to register for application support visit scag.ca.gov/scp. The Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice, comprised of leaders from across six Southern California counties, was briefed in January on a draft framework to promote racial and social equity and an inclusive economic recovery strategy. SCAG staff presented an early action plan for the agency's overall equity and economic recovery work, including 20 to 30 small group strategy meetings across the region over the next two months. Those meetings, along with a survey of stakeholders, will help build out an action plan and identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

Among the potential components of the Regional Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy identified by staff:

- **Transportation:** Projects of regional significance that promote clean transportation, increase access to jobs and housing, are ready to move forward and will create equity-ready jobs.
- **Infrastructure:** Projects that promote sustainable infrastructure, improve quality of life and will create equity-ready jobs.
- **Sector Based Strategies:** Identifying the top needs of growth sectors and growing businesses that provide the greatest opportunities for family-supporting jobs and economic mobility.
- **Housing Production:** Support efforts to provide a range of housing for households at all income levels, as well as an economic generator for family-supporting construction jobs.
- **Human Capital:** Identifying the supportive infrastructure that creates opportunities for economic mobility, such as job training/education, childcare, public and mental health, access to capital and affordable housing.

Learn more about SCAG's Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice [here](#).

SCAG WELCOMES 15 NEW MEMBERS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND POLICY COMMITTEES

SCAG is pleased to welcome 15 new members to the Regional Council and SCAG's Policy Committees.

Regional Council

- Cindy Allen, Long Beach, District 30
- Adele Andrade-Stadler, Alhambra, District 34
- Lorrie Brown, Ventura, District 47
- Letitia Clark, Tustin, District 17
- Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, District 68
- Diane Dixon, Newport Beach, District 15
- Laura Hernandez, Port Hueneme, District 45
- Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, District 20
- Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake, District 11
- Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County
- Tim Shaw, Orange County Transportation Authority

Community, Economic and Human Development Committee

- Adele Andrade-Stadler, Alhambra, District 34
- Letitia Clark, Tustin, District 17
- Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, District 68
- Diane Dixon, Newport Beach, District 15
- Misty Perez, Port Hueneme, Presidential Appointment
- Andy Sobel, Santa Paula, Ventura Council of Governments
- Wes Speake, Corona, Western Riverside Council of Governments

Energy and Environment Committee

- Cindy Allen, Long Beach, District 30
- Laura Hernandez, Port Hueneme, District 45
- Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, District 20
- Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake, District 11
- Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County

AD



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6TH CYCLE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) appeals process was conducted throughout January to hear appeals filed by jurisdictions on the draft RHNA allocation. Eight hearing sessions conducted on Jan. 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 22 and 25 were conducted by the RHNA Appeals Board to hear 52 appeals filed on 47 jurisdictions. Of these filed appeals, two appeals were partially approved: one from the County of Riverside and one from the City of Pico Rivera. The successfully appealed units will be redistributed across the SCAG region per state law and the adopted RHNA Appeals Guidelines.

The determination of appeals, which will include the reallocation and the proposed Final RHNA Allocation Plan, will be reviewed by the RHNA Appeals Board at their last scheduled meeting on Feb. 16 at 1 p.m. The RHNA Appeals Board will also discuss the next steps for RHNA after the adoption of the Final Allocation Plan. The Final RHNA Allocation Plan is scheduled for adoption by the Regional Council at the March 4 meeting. Updated housing elements are due to the California Department of Housing and Community Development in October 2021. To view the appeals hearings and for more information, please visit

scag.ca.gov/rhna.

CALL FOR COLLABORATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED TO ADDRESS REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS

In partnership with California Community Foundation, SCAG is launching the [Call for Collaboration](#) program, which will fund the development of community-based policies and plans to help cities and counties reach 6th Cycle RHNA goals of planning for more than 1.3 million new housing units across the six-county SCAG region.

The program will fund several grants for non-profit organizations through two opportunities:

- **Partnership Programs:** Awards of up to \$125,000 to support the expansion and/or implementation of existing plans, initiatives, and/or partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.
- **Spark Grants:** Smaller, capacity-building grants of around \$50,000 to seed new models of collaboration and engagement to support community-driven approaches and partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.

The deadline for non-profits to apply is Feb. 23. Additional information about the Call for Collaboration program, as well as the request for proposals, is available on the [California Community Foundation website](#).

SCAG AND RAND LEADING REGIONAL GOVERNMENT-TO-UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Launched in February 2020, the SCAG- and RAND-led Los Angeles Government-to-University (G2U) initiative is one of five around the country that are addressing critical governance challenges by building regional networks of governments and universities. Initiated by the non-profit Volcker Alliance, G2Us sustainably connect government's hiring and research needs with local university capacity and is premised on the notion that bringing government and university leaders together is a powerful approach to strengthening government's ability to deliver on its mission. At the core of the G2U Initiative is a growing group of vibrant, regional networks connecting local, state, and federal government leaders with key faculty and administrators from surrounding colleges and universities.

The Los Angeles G2U recently launched a project to address barriers to talent and diversity in public sector careers. The project's objectives are to document challenges to attracting talented and diverse college and university students in public sector careers in the Los Angeles region, produce videos to support recruiting efforts, and support the Los Angeles G2U team in formulating action plans to address challenges and messaging for future communication campaigns. SCAG will host two webinars during the project research timeline to share information and broaden awareness and engagement.

For more information, visit the [Volcker Alliance website](#) or contact Debbie Dillon, SCAG Chief Strategy Officer, at dillon@scag.ca.gov, or Sandy Buchan, Executive Director of Career Services for RAND's Pardee Graduate School, at sbuchan@rand.org.

RECENT RESEARCH SHARED AT THE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCAG shared the results of a recent study at the Transportation Research Board Annual Conference in January 2021 in a poster session focused on strategies to mitigate mobile source emissions, improve air quality, and address climate change. Completed in partnership with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority in July 2020, Pathways to Clean Vehicle Technology and Alternative Fuels Implementation in San Bernardino County is one of several ongoing efforts to understand and help facilitate the region's transition to a cleaner goods movement system. The Transportation Research Board presentation described the development and application of the scenario analysis tool that quantifies emissions and cost impacts of alternative paths to clean vehicle and fuel implementation.

SCAG also presented four additional posters focused on the following topics:

- Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Initiative
- Environmental Justice & Equity: Spatiotemporal Analysis of Jobs-Housing Fit in Southern California
- *Go Human 2020: Case Studies in Equity-Centered Strategies Using the Go Human Kit of Parts*
- *Go Human Campaign*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

Read the full [Executive Directors Report](#) for February 2021 and see past reports on the SCAG website.

16th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

16th RHNA Appeals Board

23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group

25th Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

March

3rd Executive Administration Committee

4th Regional Council and Policy Committees

16th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee

18th Joint Meeting of the Environmental Justice & Public Health Working Groups

23rd Transportation Conformity Working Group

24th Modeling Task Force

31st Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee

31st Executive Administration Committee



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

COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES
Imperial | Orange | Riverside | San Bernardino | Ventura

Copyright © 2021, SCAG

[Subscribe to the SCAG Spotlight newsletter.](#)

CONNECT WITH US

