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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



ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY FINAL REPORT

The Regional Council today approved the [Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy](#) (IERS). The Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy is a central piece of SCAG's more than yearlong effort to promote diversity, equity and inclusion after declaring racism a public health crisis in June 2020.

Collaborating with stakeholders throughout the region, SCAG staff developed the strategy to foster greater opportunity for all and to narrow the economic disparities that exist locally and regionally. The report provides recommendations that focus on four areas – housing, transportation and infrastructure, growth sectors and human capital – and identifies opportunities to promote equity-oriented industry growth, job creation, entrepreneurship and small business success.

To continue this work, SCAG secured a \$3.5 million budget allocation, thanks to the leadership of Senator Susan Rubio (D-West Covina), to help our agency with the next steps in implementing the IERS. Moreover, the final IERS recommendations align with Governor Newsom's proposed \$100 billion "California Comeback Plan," thus positioning SCAG and its cities, counties and partners to leverage the knowledge gained in the IERS process to fund and implement the recommended strategies. The Governor's plan includes \$600 million for the Community Economic Resiliency Fund, and the targets for this funding are directly aligned with many of the IERS recommendations. Staff will work with partners and the state to secure funding and support partnerships to implement the IERS recommendations that require additional resources.

For more information on IERS and to read the final report visit scag.ca.gov/inclusive-economic-recovery-strategy.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES PUBLIC HEARING ON SOCAL GREENPRINT

In a presentation to the Regional Council, SCAG staff provided an update on the [SoCal Greenprint](#). SCAG has been developing the SoCal Greenprint, a required mitigation measure in the Program Environmental Impact Report certified for the Connect SoCal, to provide a practical, accessible resource to help stakeholders prioritize lands for growth and conservation based on the best available scientific data. The SoCal Greenprint will serve as a web-based tool that compiles more than 100 existing data sources into interactive maps that help stakeholders visualize how to better integrate nature into future growth and development. Regional Council members engaged in a robust discussion regarding the tool and voted to pause the implementation for at least 30 days to hold a public hearing at a future date for further discussion. More information on the SoCal Greenprint can be found at scag.ca.gov/greenprint.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES EIGHT SMART CITIES & MOBILITY INNOVATIONS PROJECTS

The Regional Council today approved eight local proposals that promote innovative approaches to addressing and solving regional mobility issues as part of the [2020 Sustainable Communities Program](#).

The Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Projects supports 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. The eight selected proposals will develop new solutions to curb space and parking management by utilizing mobility technology, ultimately supporting healthy and equitable communities through the equitable allocation of public resources and air quality improvements.

SCAG staff will work closely with the awarded agencies to further define the scopes of work and develop a project initiation schedule and budgets. Read more about the Sustainable Communities Program at scag.ca.gov/scp.

ACTION **REGIONAL COUNCIL RELEASES DRAFT CONNECT SOCAL & 2021 FTIP AMENDMENTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

SCAG's Regional Council today approved the release of the Draft Connect SoCal, the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, Amendment #1 and 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Consistency Amendment #21-05 for public review and comment.

Connect SoCal, the 2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and the addendum to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report were unanimously approved and fully adopted by the Regional Council in September 2020. Connect SoCal is a long-range visioning plan that builds upon and expands land use and transportation strategies established over several planning cycles to increase mobility options and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern. A major component of the Connect SoCal is a Project List containing thousands of individual transportation projects. Since the plan's adoption, some of these projects have experienced technical changes that are time-sensitive. In addition, the county transportation commissions in the SCAG region have also identified new project priorities in addition to projects that are no longer priorities. The proposed amendment to Connect SoCal and the 2021 FTIP is needed in order to ensure these projects move forward in a timely manner.

The 30-day public review and comment period begins on **July 1, 2021, and ends on July 31, 2021, at 5 p.m.** The [Draft Connect SoCal Amendment #1](#) and the [2021 FTIP Amendment #21-05](#) are now available online. More information on how to participate in the public review and comment process or attend the public hearing is available [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT



EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CONVENES FOR 2021-22 STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

On June 24, SCAG President Clint Lorimore convened the Executive Administration Committee (EAC) for a two-day work planning session at the Mission Inn in the city of Riverside. The session provided EAC members an opportunity to reflect on the past year and included a discussion on strategic planning for the year ahead. A full report will be provided at the September Regional Council meeting.

SCAG LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH STATE SENATOR OCHOA BOGH ON HOUSING

SCAG's executive board officers, including President Lorimore and Second Vice President Carmen Ramirez, joined Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee Chair Alan Wapner and Vice-Chair Peggy Huang to meet with first-term State Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), who represents California's 23rd Senate District. They were also joined by Regional Council members Randall Putz, Larry McCallon and Rey Santos. Senator Ochoa Bogh shares SCAG's priority of increasing housing affordability while protecting local control. In addition, Senator Ochoa Bogh serves as the Chair of the Inland Empire Caucus and is focused on helping children and families in California thrive. She expressed a desire to continue the conversation and leverage SCAG's resources and knowledge as she continues to advocate for Southern California in Sacramento.

PRESIDENT LORIMORE PRESENTS AT RIVERSIDE COUNTY WATER TASK FORCE

President Lorimore and SCAG's Planning Director Sarah Jepson presented at the Riverside County Water Task Force on the impacts of growth on the Riverside region and water resources. The task force meeting also included presentations from Dr. Mark Grey of the Building Industry Association and Zoe Rodriguez del Rey of the Coachella Valley Water District. Presenters discussed finding the difficult balance in Southern California of creating enough housing for

all while using natural resources in a sustainable way. Much of the discussion focused on changes in technology and building practices that could assist in reaching regional housing goals.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Since the Regional Council adopted the [Racial Equity Early Action Plan](#) on May 6, staff have been working towards researching and implementing actions.

Highlights of these activities include:

- Exploratory discussions are underway with the Lincoln Land Institute and the Claremont Lincoln University regarding potential listening and learning opportunities to provide foundational education to various audiences in the region.
- SCAG's cross-divisional Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness (IDEA) team is amid a foundational educational workshop series entitled "IDEA Foundations."
- The IDEA team piloted a workshop entitled "Addressing Microaggressions in the Workplace" in June. After attending the pilot education session, SCAG has proceeded to offer the workshop to all staff.
- For June, SCAG's logo was updated to celebrate Pride Month, signifying our support of the LGBTQ+ community. With the modification to our logo, we hope that SCAG can do its part to increase visibility and offer support and a sense of belonging to those within the LGBTQ+ community – both within SCAG and in the region we serve.
- This June, SCAG highlighted the importance of Juneteenth and provided space for staff to take time to celebrate this critical day in U.S. history. As a commitment to advancing racial equity at SCAG and within the region, staff was encouraged to celebrate Juneteenth in their own ways, while providing several resources that educate, uplift and celebrate.
- Research is underway to develop and provide more opportunities for small businesses to learn about SCAG's procurement processes and how to submit bids.
- Human Resources is evaluating SCAG's current recruitment process as a key component of preparing an inclusive and equitable talent management strategy. We have completed the discovery stage, which included a review of current documentation, a review of the agency's diversity, equity and inclusion strategy and objectives related to recruitment, and interviews with staff who have recently engaged in various aspects of the recruitment process.

More information on SCAG's work regarding inclusion, diversity, equity and awareness, including SCAG's definition of Racial Equity, can be found [here](#).

Read the full [Executive Director's Report](#) for July 2021 and see past reports on the SCAG website.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JULY

- 15th Technical Working Group
- 15th Draft Connect SoCal & 2021 FTIP Amendment Public Hearing
- 20th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 27th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 28th Modeling Task Force

AUGUST

- 3rd Aviation Technical Advisory Committee
- 17th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 24th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 26th Emerging Technologies Committee



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