

Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region
August 6, 2015

RC Report

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND POLICY COMMITTEES

ACTION – TC RECOMMENDS AVIATION DEMAND FORECAST FOR DRAFT RTP/SCS

At a special meeting today, the Transportation Committee took two important actions to address future ground access to and from the region's airports. The first action recommended that a regional aviation demand forecast of 136.2 million annual passengers in 2040 be included in the Aviation Element of the Draft 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). The Transportation Committee next approved staff's recommended distribution of future regional aviation demand to the 12 airports in the SCAG region, allowing staff to proceed in the development of the Draft 2016 RTP/SCS. For more information about the aviation demand distribution, please view the presentation in today's [meeting agenda](#).



Steve PonTell, President and CEO of National Community Renaissance, provides a presentation to the Special Joint Meeting of the Regional Council and Policy Committees on affordable housing issues in the region and potential solutions.

INFORMATION – 2016 RTP/SCS OPEN HOUSE RECAP

SCAG staff today gave a summary report on the 23 open houses that were held throughout the six-county region from May to July. The open houses engaged residents on the development of the 2016 RTP/SCS and provided an overview of some of the key topics that will be discussed in the draft plan, including – transportation, air quality, land use development, open space and the region's vital goods movement industry. Participants were asked to take quick surveys at multiple computer kiosks and were encouraged to provide input on their priorities. The survey was also made available online for those who could not attend. In all, approximately 700 people attended the open houses, with nearly the same number filling out a survey. SCAG also received close to 200 public comment cards with additional input. Some of the initial findings included preferences for using transportation funds for infrastructure maintenance and preservation, additional bikeways and greenways, better transit fare integration, improved air quality, preference for mixed-use walkable communities and preserving open space. SCAG staff will make the survey results available on the [2016 RTP/SCS website](#), and continue analyzing the feedback received to identify any important differences and/or omissions from policies/strategies considered in the Draft Plan.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Guest panelists from today's "California Gold" workshop provided an update on new funding opportunities, and include (from left) Cynthia Marvin, from the Air Resources Board; J.R. DeShazo, from the UCLA Luskin Center; Allison Joe, from the Strategic Growth Council; Courtney Smith, from the California Energy Commission; and Steve Sanders, from the Institute for Local Government.

'CALIFORNIA GOLD' WORKSHOP

Over 200 people today attended SCAG's regional forum, "California Gold: Bringing Cap and Trade Dollars to Southern California," aimed at helping cities and stakeholders better understand new funding opportunities from the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, as well as strategize on ways to collaborate on upcoming opportunities. The first panel, consisting of representatives from state and local agencies, discussed the components of the proposed \$2 billion FY 2015-2016 expenditure plan, which includes funding for various programs related to transportation, energy efficiency and natural resources. A second panel focused on lessons learned from the first year of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program, administered by the Strategic Growth Council.

The "California Gold" workshop was held in response to the low number of projects from the region being invited to apply for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program earlier this year. In late June, the Strategic Growth Council awarded \$27.5 million in funding for nine projects from the SCAG region. With the SCAG region having some of the worst air quality challenges in the state and over 67% of the disadvantaged communities in the state, the Regional Council approved an action plan in July to address the inequities in the state funding program and bolster the region's competitiveness for future opportunities. Approximately \$400 million is proposed for this year's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program, up from \$120 million last year. Presentations from today and an archived video of the workshop will be made available on SCAG's [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund webpage](#).

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 22, a comprehensive six-year surface transportation legislation that would fully authorize for the first time a national freight program, as well as provide moderate funding increases in highway infrastructure and metropolitan planning. The House may now consider the bill upon resuming session after the summer recess, which ends on Sept. 8. Additionally, Congress passed a three-month extension to the existing MAP-21 legislation, extending status quo funding through the end of October. Meanwhile in the California Legislature, over 20 bills addressing the state's transportation infrastructure crisis have been introduced. Of these, SBX1-1 by Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jim Beall (D-San Jose) is presently the primary vehicle for comprehensive transportation funding reform. The bill includes a number of provisions very beneficial to Southern California, including significantly increased transportation funding overall, particularly for high volume trade corridors, as well as a 50/50 split for state highways and local streets and roads. SCAG will continue to work with state lawmakers to pass comprehensive, enhanced infrastructure funding this special session.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

August

- 18th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 18th Environmental Justice Workshop - Los Angeles
- 20th Joint Meeting of the Regional Council & Policy Committees
- 20th Technical Working Group
- 25th Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 31st Environmental Justice Workshop - Ontario

September

- 3rd Regional Council & Policy Committee Meetings
- 15th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 17th Technical Working Group
- 22nd Transportation Conformity Working Group

SCAG MAIN OFFICE
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 236-1800 | www.scag.ca.gov

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