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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 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Regional Council voted today to approve the Scholarship Committee recommendations for the 2021 SCAG Scholarship Program Awards. SCAG received 75 applications from students across the region with interests in planning and public service. Eleven outstanding high school and community college students were chosen for this year's program, representing five of the six SCAG member counties. The scholarship recipients include Brenna Bell (Murrieta), Leslie Busch (La Verne), Rhett Bourne (San Juan Capistrano), Ryan Byrne (Murrieta), Gabriel Cao (Chino Hills), Hyun-Soo Choi (El Centro), Rocco Fantini (Northridge), Carly Granda (Claremont) and Priscila Jimenez (El Centro). Following a partnership that began with the 2019 awards and continued last year, the California Transportation Foundation agreed to fund two additional

scholarships for 2021, which will be awarded to Andrew Ballard (Oak Hills) and Miles Riehle (Laguna Beach).

The [SCAG Scholarship Program](#) provides each awardee with a monetary scholarship of \$4,000. SCAG congratulates these future leaders in Southern California's planning and public service community!

## INFORMATION

### SCAG STAFF DETAILS THE FIRST DATA PRODUCED FROM THE 2020 CENSUS

As the first data from the 2020 Census are released, SCAG staff provided a presentation to—and answered questions from members of—the Regional Council regarding the state apportionment count and the general trends present in the latest Census count. California's number of seats in the US House of Representatives dropped from 53 to 52. The loss of a seat indicated that the population of California grew slower than the nation. California's population grew by 6.1% during the 2010s to 39,538,223, below the U.S. growth rate of 7.4% and ranking 24th amongst U.S. states. Staff explained that slower population growth is attributable in part to declining birth rates and foreign immigration. Though COVID-19 significantly increased mortality in the state and region such that both lost population during 2020, this is not expected to continue, though the trend of very slow growth is. The SCAG region is also experiencing a widening of the gap between new people moving into the region and existing populations leaving. In preparation for developing a growth forecast for the 2024 regional plan, SCAG will be investigating these trends in more detail in the coming months beginning with the [32nd Annual Demographic Workshop](#), held over two days on **Tuesday, June 8, and Tuesday, June 15**. The next Census 2020 release is known as the redistricting file and will be released beginning in August 2021.

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## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT LORIMORE

I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve Southern California in this capacity as President of SCAG, and I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of collaboration this agency is known for. While the pandemic shut down our region, state and nation for over a year, we are now seeing signs that the worst of our situation might very well be behind us. Yet even with the recovery, we still face a housing crisis, serious traffic problems and high unemployment. People are hurting, and we need to focus our efforts—together—to come back even stronger in this recovery than where we were before.

In the wake of the adoption of our long-range transportation plan, we have an opportunity to refocus, re-engage with our partners, build relationships and strengthen those relationships for the long-term betterment of our region. To do this, I will be convening the Executive/Administrative Committee to kickstart a comprehensive overhaul of the agency's strategic plan. This will be the first step in establishing a platform for success for the future of our agency and region. We learned very quickly in the pandemic that we had the capacity to adapt, the ability

to do what was previously unthinkable in order to get things done. Collaboration has been the hallmark of this agency, and as we find new ways to engrain this spirit of collaboration into the work that we do, I know we will be able to accomplish great things for our region.

## **NEW MEMBERS AND PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS TO POLICY COMMITTEES**

President Lorimore announced updates to SCAG's Policy Committees.

### **Community, Economic and Human Development Committee**

- John Mirisch, Beverly Hills, Presidential Appointment
- Ariel Pe, Gateway Cities Council of Governments

### **Energy and Environment Committee**

- Jesus Silva, Fullerton, Presidential Appointment

### **Transportation Committee**

- Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach, Presidential Appointment
- Paul Marquez, Caltrans, District 7, Ex Officio, Presidential Appointment
- Jeremy Smith, Canyon Lake, Presidential Appointment
- Jess Talamantes, Burbank, Presidential Appointment
- Colleen Wallace, Banning, Presidential Appointment

### **Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee**

- Sean Ashton, Downey, District 25
- Letitia Clark, Tustin, District 17
- Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35
- Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County
- Jan Harnik, Riverside County Transportation Commission
- Peggy Huang, Transportation Corridor Agencies
- Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, District 63
- Ray Marquez, Chino Hills, District 10
- Frank Navarro, Colton, District 6
- David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46
- Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8
- Ali Saleh, Bell, District 27
- David J. Shapiro, Calabasas, District 44
- Jose Luis Solache, Lynwood, District 26
- Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1
- Donald Wagner, Orange County
- Alan Wapner, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

### **Audit Committee**

- Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, District 63
- Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County
- Marty Simonoff, Brea, District 22
- Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1
- Alan Wapner, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
- Edward Wilson, Gateway Cities Council of Governments

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS PLANNING FOR “THE POST-PANDEMIC CITY”

SCAG and the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy will be hosting the [32nd Annual Demographic Workshop](#) in two parts on **Tuesday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 15**. This year’s workshop contemplates life in “the post-pandemic city.” [Register here to attend](#).

#### Part 1: Changing California Demographics

Starting on **Tuesday, June 8 from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m.**, join us for an update on the latest in demographic trends, including migration, fertility and aging, and a look at the unequal impacts of COVID-19.

#### Part 2: The Post-Pandemic City

The next webinar in the series will be held on **Tuesday, June 15 from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m.** and will feature a keynote address by **Tiffany Chu**, designer, planner and the former chief executive officer and co-founder of Remix, and now the senior vice president at Via, on the emerging neighborhood-centric mobility patterns seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional panels will include a 2020 Census update and a discussion on the post-pandemic workforce, housing and transportation.

Each part of the series will also include expert-led roundtable discussions to build skills about topics presented throughout the day. The cost of this year’s workshop is free to all individuals who [register](#). For additional details about the event, visit [scag.ca.gov/demographics](https://scag.ca.gov/demographics).

### BROADBAND INITIATIVE UPDATE

On May 14, SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Executive Director Hasan Ikhata participated in a panel discussion moderated by Sunne Wright McPeak, President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Emerging Technology Fund and former secretary of the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. The panel focused on regional efforts from metropolitan planning organizations to adopt region-wide digital equity resolutions and regional efforts to address the digital divide. SCAG and SANDAG have worked collaboratively to bring resources to Southern California and highlight current efforts to support further broadband deployment. The panel focused on the ongoing collaboration and the focused leadership both agencies have provided to Southern California in leading efforts to bridge the digital divide, highlight best practices and advocate for more resources and collaboration.

### SCAG ANNOUNCES 2021 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

SCAG is proud to announce the 2021 Sustainability Award recipients! Recipients of this year’s 14th annual awards include municipalities, agencies and nonprofit organizations—all recognized for excellence in coordinating land use and transportation to improve mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability. The

2021 Sustainability Award recipients by category:

**Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability:** The City of Santa Ana, for the Santa Ana Arts Collective (SAAC) Affordable Housing and Adaptive Reuse Community

**Active, Healthy and Safe Communities:** The City of Palm Desert, for its San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project

**Clean Cities – Alternative Fuels and Infrastructure:** Sunline Transit Agency, for Driving the Future of Hydrogen

**Efficient and Sustainable Land Use:** Kounkuey Design Initiative and the City of Los Angeles, for its Adopt-A-Lot Program

**Housing Innovation:** Clifford Beers Housing Inc., for its Isla de Los Angeles development

**Green Region Initiative:** The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, for the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan

[Watch the videos](#) to learn more about each project. For more information on the SCAG Sustainability Awards and to view past winners visit [scag.ca.gov/sustainability-program-awards](https://scag.ca.gov/sustainability-program-awards).

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### JUNE

- 10<sup>th</sup> Transportation Safety & Active Transportation Working Groups and *Go Human* Steering Committee: Part 1
- 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 17<sup>th</sup> Transportation Safety & Active Transportation Working Groups and *Go Human* Steering Committee: Part 2
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 24<sup>th</sup> Equity Working Group
- 24<sup>th</sup> Climate Adaptation Working Group
- 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee
- 30<sup>th</sup> Executive Administration Committee

### JULY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Council and Policy Committees
- 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 27<sup>th</sup> Transportation Conformity Working Group
- 24<sup>th</sup> Emerging Technologies Committee
- 28<sup>th</sup> Modeling Task Force



CONNECT WITH US



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