

Report for January 2021 SBCCOG Board of Directors – Britt Huff: meetings attended

California Council of Governments / CALCOG- Friday, 1/15/ 2021, virtual 1:00-3:00

Southern Calif. Assoc. of Governments/SCAG - Energy and Environment Committee: Thurs., 1/7/2021

CALCOG – 1/15/2021

Save the DATE: CALCOG Regional Leadership Forum: March 22 and 23, mornings. Virtual meeting: Keynote Speaker: Former US Secretary Anthony Foxx, focusing on what the new administration is thinking about transportation policy. Foxx will also be part of a panel with three other (all California) members of the Biden Transportation Transition Team: Toks Omishakin (Caltrans); Phil Washington (LA Metro) and Therese McMillian (MTC). The two new transportation committee Chairs and ARB Chair are also expected to join.

HOUSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. SUMMARY

CALCOG was instrumental in negotiating the budget language that resulted in the Regional Early Action Program (REAP), with a \$125 million allocation to regional agencies (that exercised authority under the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process) to assist their member agencies address issues related to housing elements and the Sixth Cycle Allocation. These the regional entities that are developing programs to meet the needs of their regions.

--REAP Funding Workgroup. CALCOG has been facilitating conversations with project leads at regional agencies for this program and facilitating conversations with HCD staff to assure that this new program is effectively implemented.

- **New: \$200,000 Contract for Housing Technical Assistance.** CALCOG is a subcontractor for the successful bid for a Technical Assistance contract for REAP (signed in December). The primary contract (\$4 M) was awarded to PlaceWorks. CALCOG's role is to assure that assistance resources address the needs of COGs; develop best practice case studies, and monitor housing legislation. Funds must be spent by the end of 2023.

- **Policy Development.** The Budget Act includes language that allows COG staff to assess the RHNA process. This analysis will be forwarded to HCD and OPR prior a state report (due in 2023) that analyzes how RHNA can be “revamped” to better address state housing needs. This requirement was written into the statute, but allows the COGs involved in RHNA to help frame the issues for the state report.

KEY STATE ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES FOR 2021 (not ranked)

- **CAPTI.** The State Transportation Agency is preparing the Climate Action Plan for Transportation and Infrastructure (CAPTI), which derives from a Governor's executive

order N-19-19 to spend \$5 billion in annual transportation funding in a way that supports state climate goals. This plan will likely affect how the state selects projects from funding programs. CALCOG staff has a meeting with CalSTA in early February to discuss the second draft. **(Priority)**

- **CTP 2050 Publication and Implementation.** The California Transportation Plan 2050 should be published soon. AB 285 by new Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Laura Friedman requires the Strategic Growth Council to analyze how other state programs can be adapted to implement the CTP 2050. For more information about our concerns with the draft CTP 2050 (although Caltrans is likely to address our major concern in the final draft), see: *The CTP 2050 is Really A Statewide APS* (<https://calcog.org/ctp2050/>).

Monitor Closely.

- **Mobile Source Strategy and Scoping Plan Update.** The Scoping Plan is the framework that ARB shall use to achieve the states emission reduction goals. Its kind of like a local general plan: its objective based and requires subsequent regulations to implement (like the general plan requires zoning). As a result, its an important policy document. The Mobile Source Strategy includes important assumptions about vehicular travel that will be incorporated as a Scoping Plan baseline. CALCOG will focus on the elements of both plans that directly affect regional planning responsibilities. **Priority**

- **Housing Issues, Including Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.** There are a number of housing issues that will relate to local and regional planning efforts. One is the repercussions of an scathing audit related to the management of state housing programs. We also expect a memo on the implementation of AFFH in the first half of the year. Regions have a new responsibility to survey local jurisdictions to inventory AFFH policies in the region. CALCOG's focus will be on issues that relate to the regional housing needs allocation process more than changes to the housing element (where the League and CSAC are focused). **Monitor Closely.**

- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure & Regulation.** Electric and zero emission vehicle infrastructure is an emerging field of interest. **Monitor, Engage as Needed.**

- **Broadband Programs.** Efforts to leverage infrastructure projects to expand broadband will become more prevalent; we expect additional funding. **Monitor, Engage as Needed.**

- **Monitoring SB 743 Implementation.** Now that most of the policies have been published, we will monitor implementation of programs, particularly as it relates to transportation and transit projects. **Monitor Closely.**

- **\$900 Million Covid Recovery Funds.** The most recent COVID recovery bill included \$10 billion for DOTs. Approximately \$900 million will come to California. We are not yet sure which programs will be supported. But this issue may be decided shortly. **Priority.**

D. KEY FEDERAL ISSUES FOR 2021 (not ranked)

- **Change in Administration.** The change in leadership in Washington will dramatically change the emphasis of federal policy. This includes the type of projects that might be emphasized, a federal emphasis on climate and equity, and many other policies. Staff anticipates a significant information sharing function to make sure members understand the developments of new policies as they occur. **Monitor.**

- **FAST Act Reauthorization.** Given the change in information, the new Reauthorization should be dramatically different. That requires significant work with Caltrans to figure out how funding can be shared between state and regions (traditionally, there has been a 60/40 split between the state and regions). The last significant change was MAP-21, where CALCOG and RTPA representatives were successful in pointing out policies that lead to an addition of \$120 million over 5 years going to local program. Monitor Closely.
- **Infrastructure Package and COVID Recovery.** There may be other potential federal legislation with funding for transportation, housing, infrastructure, and economic development that will be of interest to regions. **Monitor**

E. STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2021 (not ranked)

- **Housing.** The end of last session left many key housing bills on the floor as time expired. We expect many of them back, including the pro tem's bill allowing up to four units to be built on a single lot and Senator Wiener's bill to streamline housing regulations in sustainable corridors. Also of note is the Governor's new proposal to have a department that would "monitor" local agency housing decisions as they occur. **Monitor and Engage.**
- **SB 375 Reform?** We are expecting new versions of bills that will seek to make sure that SB 375 is more stringently implemented. There are a number of ways these bills can be drafted. We expect these ideas to get a more favorable hearing in the Transportation Committees under new leadership. **Priority.**
- **Broadband.** Already, bills have been introduced that would substantially improve the quality and range of broadband throughout the state. **Monitor, Engage as Needed.**
 - ** **Muratsuchi introducing bill to extend Fiber Network funding to low income areas; helping low-income students access schooling online.**
- **Resiliency (Fire, Flood, Sea Level Rise, Economic, Financial).** There should be a fair amount of funding to enable planning for these efforts. **Monitor and Engage.**
- **Regions Rise Together (AB 106).** This bill would fund regional collaboratives associated with California Forward. There are several new collaboratives in the state. CALCOG has sought amendments to assure that there is communication between the collaboratives and regional agencies. Two CALCOG members have indicated support for this kind of funding.
 - Seek amendments to coordinate with existing regional planning processes..**
- **Brown Act and Technology.** We expect bills to be introduced that would permanently allow use of remote participation in meetings. There is strong interest within CALCOG to support this kind of effort. **Monitor and Engage.**

SCAG/Energy and Environment Committee: 1/7/2021

■ Action taken:

EEC recommended that the Regional Council adopt Resolution No. 21-628-1 on Climate Change Action.

■ Presentations:

1. Ted Bardacke, Exec. Director, Clean Power Alliance, presented power-point on the Changing Marketplace. Pew Research Center found that public support for confronting climate change is growing and they are more willing to conserve and ready to de-carbonize.

--power-ready back up facilities need to be available to prevent outages. Lithium battery prices are being reduced. Large customers have big-use demands; recommended installation of batteries on site to draw from during critical times. Excess land should be used to install back-up battery system onsite.

2. Dr. Philip Fine, Deputy Executive Director, South Coast AQMD, for Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources: Overview of 2022 SCAQMD Plan and Near-term Air Quality Planning Challenges. (Co-Partner with SCAG).

---2020 had highest ozone levels in decades due to wildfires and record heat waves.

3. Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh, South Coast AQMD : Update on AB617 Community Plans in the SCAQMD; designated communities for planning/CERP. Reviewed issues in five South Coast designated communities. A 6th will be added pending CARB approval.