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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



In December 2021, SCAG leadership joined senior city officials for an informative presentation and tour of some of the exciting happenings in the City of Anaheim.

ACTION REGIONAL COUNCIL VOTES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY PLANNING VOTER INITIATIVE

SCAG's Regional Council today voted to support the proposed Community Planning Voter Initiative. The proposed initiative would amend the state's constitution to specify that local city and county land-use and zoning laws override state laws when they conflict. It does make some exceptions for coastal land-use regulations, power generating facilities, and the development of water, communication, or transportation infrastructure projects. Furthermore, it prevents the Legislature and local legislative bodies from passing laws invalidating voter-

approved local land-use or zoning initiatives. Lastly, the proposed measure would prohibit the state from changing, granting or denying funding to local governments based on their implementation of this measure. As of Nov. 1, 2021, proponents of the initiative have 180 days to collect nearly one million signatures needed to appear on the November 2022 election ballot.

ACTION

SCAG AIMS TO SPONSOR STATE LEGISLATION FOR 2022

The Regional Council today voted to pursue an expansion to the “Infill Infrastructure Grant Program” and “Incentives for RHNA Production” as its first and second choice concepts, respectively, for a SCAG sponsored legislative bill for the 2022 state legislative year. Additionally, SCAG will pursue a long-term legislative goal of serving as a leader and convener of an effort to modernize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). SCAG staff will provide regular updates to the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) on the progress of the legislative concept and advise on partnership, coalition building and advocacy opportunities and efforts. Learn more about SCAG’s legislative and advocacy efforts at scag.ca.gov/legislation.

INFO

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES ONE-TIME FUNDS FOR TWO SCAG PROGRAMS

The Regional Council today approved the acceptance of one-time funds for the study of Supporting Infrastructure for Medium and Heavy Duty Zero Emission Trucks and SCAG’s Broadband Program respectively.

STUDY OF SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MEDIUM AND HEAVY DUTY ZERO EMISSION TRUCKS

Connect SoCal, the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, includes a technology advancement plan with the focus on the long-term goal of a zero-emission goods movement system where technically feasible and economically viable. The Electric Power Research Institute, on behalf of the California Energy Commission Research Hub for Electric Technologies in Truck Applications Grant, has provided a grant of \$600,048 to support SCAG’s study of Supporting Infrastructure for Medium and Heavy Duty Zero Emission Trucks. Through this grant, SCAG will develop a zero-emission charging and fueling infrastructure plan for medium and heavy-duty trucks.

BROADBAND PROGRAM

On Feb. 2, 2021, SCAG’s Regional Council resolved to assist in bridging the digital divide in underserved communities. To support this endeavor, the California Emerging Technology Fund has provided a grant of \$250,000 for overall general support for SCAG’s Broadband Program. Funding would assist in the procurement and development of general broadband strategic services and technical studies to develop solutions to assist in the rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure and technology.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

SCAG KICKS OFF THE REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PLANNING ADVISORY TASK GROUP

SCAG held the kickoff meeting for the Regional Advance Mitigation Planning – Advisory Task Group (RAMP-ATG) on Dec. 10, 2021. The RAMP-ATG is chaired by President Clint Lorimore and includes Regional Council members Sean Ashton, Curt Hagman, Peggy Huang, and David Pollock. The meeting included a brief overview presentation from SCAG staff on Regional Advance Mitigation Planning, including its benefits for regional growth and examples of established initiatives across the SCAG region.

The RAMP-ATG will meet at least three more times before disbanding upon reporting to both the Regional Council and Energy & Environment Committee, which is anticipated in April 2022. The next meeting is planned for Jan. 28 from 3 to 5 p.m. Upcoming meetings will include presentations on existing regional advance mitigation programs, a review of feedback from interviews with the county transportation commissions, a presentation of the RAMP white paper outline and final draft, and the finalization of recommendations on a policy framework for advanced mitigation, including guidance for aligning the SoCal Greenprint and its data layers with related policy objectives. All meetings are open to the public and stakeholders are encouraged to submit public comments. For more information, please visit scag.ca.gov/ramp-atg.

SCAG LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH NEW ASSEMBLY HOUSING COMMITTEE CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY HOUSING WORKING GROUP

SCAG leadership met with Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), the newly appointed Chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, and Assemblymembers Robert Rivas (D-Salinas) and Timothy Grayson (D-Concord), in follow-up meetings to the Roundtable meetings hosted by the State Assembly's Housing Working Group last fall.

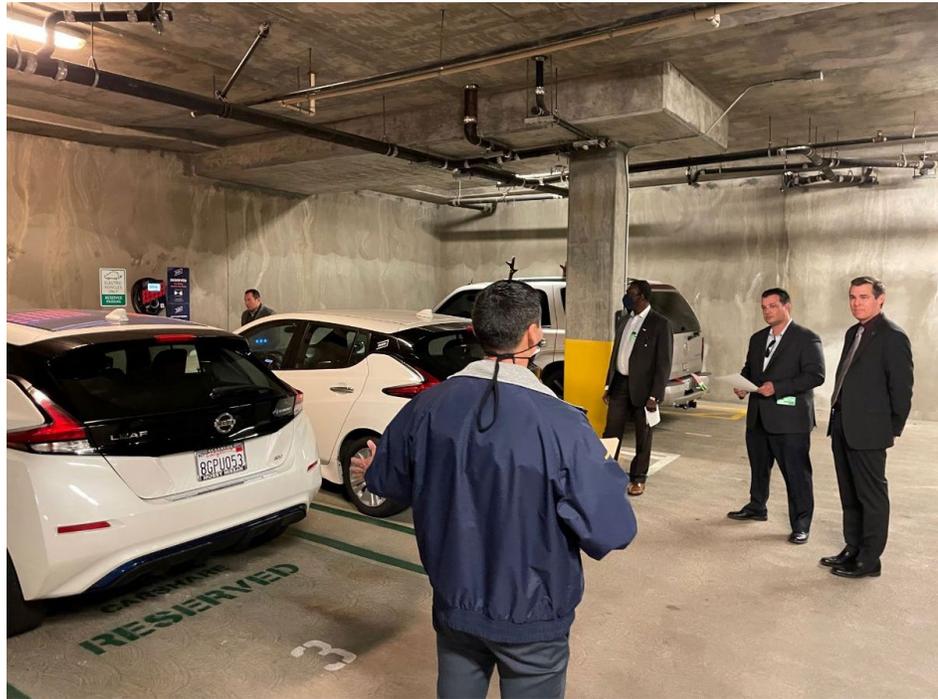
On Dec. 16, 2021, SCAG President Clint Lorimore, LCMC Chair Alan Wapner, and LCMC Vice –Chair Peggy Huang met with Assemblymember Rivas (D-Salinas), who expressed his support for more local tools to address housing affordability, including tax increment financing and revisiting redevelopment. He also suggested that the Assembly would focus its attention on housing production and the projected budget surplus in 2022.

On Dec. 20, 2021, President Lorimore, First Vice President Jan Harnik, Second Vice President Carmen Ramirez, LCMC Chair Wapner, and LCMC Vice-Chair Huang met with Assemblymember (D-Concord). Assemblymember Grayson expressed his support for regional solutions to the housing crisis instead of one-size-fits-all policies. As the former Chair of the City of Concord's Redevelopment Agency, Assemblymember Grayson appreciated SCAG's continued support for tax increment financing to fund housing development and the infrastructure to support it.

In the meeting with Chair Wicks, the board officers and LCMC leadership were anxious to lend their Southern California experience and expertise. Chair Wicks recognized that the state's diverse regions face different challenges to address

the housing crisis and that the Housing Roundtables helped to convey that. She expressed the need for ongoing funding to incentivize the creation of affordable housing and expressed support for housing for the “missing middle.” While the Chair’s goal is to focus on housing production, she also stated that there will be ongoing conversations surrounding balancing local control and meeting the state’s housing production goals.

SCAG leadership will continue to meet with other Assemblymembers who attended the Housing Roundtables and continue to share the Regional Council’s housing legislative priorities with them.



SCAG TOURS THE CITY OF ANAHEIM

SCAG President Clint Lorimore and Executive Director Kome Ajise joined Regional Council member Trevor O’Neil and senior city officials for an informative presentation and tour of some of the exciting happenings in the City of Anaheim. Topics covered included the city’s housing element and recent affordable housing developments, Smart Center City Anaheim parking guidance and mobile application (which received SCAG grant funding), and the income-qualified electric vehicle rideshare program developed by Anaheim’s municipal public utility. Participants also learned about the proposed pedestrian-friendly ocV!be project that will bring many benefits for Anaheim residents and visitors. The City of Anaheim was an early leader in mixed-use development and allows for by-right housing development when certain conditions are met. Many recent projects in the city have placed a strong emphasis on walkability and overall quality of life.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SCAG is now accepting nominations for the [2022 SCAG Sustainability Awards](#). Each year, the Sustainability Awards celebrate plans and projects that use innovative planning to promote a healthier, happier, and resilient Southern California. **Now through Thursday, Jan. 13**, nominations will be accepted for the following award categories:

- Active, Healthy and Safe Communities
- Clean Cities: Alternative Fuels & Infrastructure
- Efficient & Sustainable Land Use
- Equity
- Green Region Initiative: Resource Conservation & Climate Action
- Housing Innovation

For questions regarding the 2022 Sustainability Awards, please contact Lyle Janicek at janicek@scag.ca.gov. For more information on the SCAG Sustainability Awards including the award criteria or to view past award winners visit scag.ca.gov/sustainabilityawards.

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY FOR THE HOUSING POLICY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The deadline to apply for the [Housing Policy Leadership Academy](#) is coming up! Apply today to join local and regional leaders in advancing policies to create more inclusive, vibrant communities with housing at all income levels.

Funded with support from the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant program, the Housing Policy Leadership Academy engages emerging and established community leaders in a free, 10-session virtual workshop focused on best practice housing policy. Sessions explore how policy shapes our housing ecosystem, the fundamentals of housing policy and legislation, and opportunities to advance pro-housing policy in your community and region.

Submit your application by Monday, Jan. 10. Learn more about the program at scag.ca.gov/hpla.

Read the full [Executive Director's Report](#) for January 2022 and see past reports on the SCAG website.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY

- 10th General Assembly Host Committee
- 18th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 20th Technical Working Group
- 20th Sustainable and Resilient Communities & Natural and Farm Lands Working Groups
- 25th Regional Transit Lanes Technical Advisory Committee

FEBRUARY

- 1st Aviation Technical Advisory Committee
- 2nd Executive/Administration Committee
- 3rd Regional Council and Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees
- 15th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee
- 18th Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning – Advisory Task

25th Transportation Conformity Working Group
26th Modeling Task Force
28th Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning – Advisory Task
Group
31st Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee

Group
22nd Transportation Conformity Working Group
23rd Audit Committee
24th Emerging Technology Committee



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