

SBCCOG Board Meeting, October 26, 2023 Report - Britt Huff  
**SCAG Energy and Environment Committee, Oct. 4, 2023**

1. The EEC committee reviewed and recommended that the Regional Council approve the 2020 Sustainable Communities Program – Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice (SCP CEEEJ) Award Recommendations and authorize staff to initiate projects. Applicants submitted a total of 17 project proposals by the June 5 deadline. Nine were submitted under the Housing and Land Use Strategies category, valued at approximately \$3.9million, and eight were submitted under the Multimodal Communities category, valued at approximately \$3.0 million. Staff completed evaluation of proposals and identified 11 projects for funding totaling approximately \$4.3 million. Staff seeks Regional Council approval of award recommendations and authorization to initiate projects.

This call for applications was directed as part of the Racial Equity Early Action Plan, which the SCAG Regional Council adopted in May 2021 as part of its ongoing commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California, per Resolution 20-623-2. SCAG is committed to work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve historically disinvested communities. SCP CEEEJ, guided by the Connect SoCal Goal “to support healthy and equitable communities,” aims to prioritize resources where there is a demonstrated need, and that directly benefit Communities of Concern, SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, and other Priority Populations by encouraging racial equity in local planning practices.

2. The EEC reviewed proposed future agenda items for the Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal for 2024, with extensive discussion and recommendations for additions. Priority recommended items were:

Water Action Resolution & Landscape Analysis

Climate Change Action Resolution & resilience planning

- Sustainable growth & conservation
- Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning and Greenprint Tool
- Clean transportation technologies\*
- Environmental compliance
- Climate action and resilience funding

The Committee emphasized the need to focus on nature-based solutions. Housing and environment are often competing, with trees and green space being replaced by housing and hardscape, which increases temperatures.

3. The Committee also received a report on the Orange County Sustainability Decathlon in which fourteen collegiate teams designed and built sustainable homes that will be judged in ten categories. They could be viewed at the Orange County Fair and Event Center in Cost Mesa in October.

4. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, established by the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), will invest \$5 billion in economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies that substantially reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, and reduce energy costs. A report to the EEC provided an overview of the program goals and objectives, structure, and timeline and the roles that SCAG is playing to position the region to maximize the amount of funding it will receive from CPRG. As a result of early conversations with partners through the region, SCAG is supporting each of the three metro areas that have received CPRG planning grants to establish climate action plans, which are a prerequisite for applying for the program’s approximately \$4.6 billion in competitive implementation grants.