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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 DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024**

The Regional Council has moved to approve SCAG's Draft Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24, including the [Draft Overall Work Plan \(OWP\)](#). The framework for developing the Draft Comprehensive Budget is SCAG's multi-year Strategic Plan, which focuses on SCAG's vision and priorities to improve the organization and its operations.

The Regional Council's vote also authorized the release of the Draft OWP for a 30-day period of public review from March 2 to April 3. Comments may be sent by email to [nguyenk@scag.ca.gov](mailto:nguyenk@scag.ca.gov) or by completing the [comment form](#).

At the close of the public comment period, the Final OWP will be submitted to the Regional Council for approval on May 4. The General Fund Budget and the Membership Assessment will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval, also in May.

## **ACTION** **REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION AND CALL TO ACTION TO SUPPORT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S CRITICAL LOGISTICS INDUSTRY**

The Transportation Committee recommended on Feb. 2, that the Regional Council approve the [Goods Movement Supply Chain Resolution](#); today, the resolution was adopted.

The SCAG region is home to the largest port complex in the country – the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (together called the San Pedro Bay Ports)– and has an extensive intermodal freight network that supports the flow of goods throughout the nation. Goods movement significantly contributes to the region's economy and generates more than one-third of jobs in Southern California.

As part of the presentation, experts from the California Trucking Association and Pacific Merchant Shipping Association spoke about recent supply chain disruptions, the regulatory challenges ahead, loss of market share and uncertainty. For instance, the San Pedro Bay Ports had 26 consecutive months of growth from 2019, spurred by the pandemic, with only five months seeing growth below 10 percent; the last four months, however, have shown declines. Overall, container trade volumes through U.S. West Coast ports fell to some of their lowest levels in years. Specifically, January 2023 container traffic at the major U.S. and Canadian ports on the Pacific Coast was uniformly down from pre-pandemic January 2019, while the opposite is true at U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports.

There was uniform agreement and support for the transition to zero emission technologies, with acknowledgement that significant challenges remain that require collective coordination and support at all levels of government. With heightened volatility and uncertainty, the focus on how to improve goods movement is at an all-time high. In response, SCAG has been working with partners and stakeholders to support a regional call-to-action including [five core principles](#) for addressing critical goods movement supply chain challenges and needs in the region. The [adopted resolution](#) codifies the five principles, including integration with Connect SoCal 2024 – Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and reaffirms SCAG's regional leadership role in addressing current and future goods movement supply chain challenges.

## **ACTION** **REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES PROGRAMS TO ACCELERATE TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (PATH) APPLICATION**

The Regional Council today approved the [REAP 2.0 PATH program application](#) and authorized its Calls for Applications. The PATH program, formerly named the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program, is one of the three major funding areas in SCAG's [REAP 2.0 Program Development Framework](#). The [program guidelines](#), which the Regional Council adopted on Nov. 3, 2022, outline the program's components, requirements, eligibility and application process, and staff recommendation to set aside \$88.835 million of SCAG's REAP 2.0 funding to support the program.

The PATH program supports actions that accelerate infill development that facilitates housing supply, choice and affordability; affirmatively furthers fair housing; and reduces vehicle miles traveled. Funding opportunities in this

program are designed to bring housing production to scale in transit-supported infill areas across the Southern California region to meet the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

Following state approval of SCAG's REAP 2.0 application, SCAG anticipates releasing Calls for Applications for the Notice of Funding Availability and Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands programs in April 2023. The Call for Applications for the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing program is anticipated to be released in Summer 2023. For more information on REAP 2.0, visit [scag.ca.gov/reap2021](https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021).

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## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **ANNUAL STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ESTABLISHED**

Last week, under the strategic leadership of Jose Luis Solache, the Legislative/ Communications and Membership Committee discussed legislative priorities for the Sacramento Summit in April. SCAG's top four legislative priorities will focus on:

1. Protecting transportation budget priorities that the Governor proposed cutting back on in his January budget;
2. Communicating our region's housing progress, especially the good happening with our REAP funds;
3. Recognizing the important role that regions play in helping the state achieve our shared climate goals;
4. And asking the Legislature to establish a statewide task force to evaluate comprehensive modernization for the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA.

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## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

[Register](#) today for SCAG's [58th annual Regional Conference and General Assembly](#) to join Southern California's most influential leaders on May 4–5, at the JW Marriot Desert Springs Resort & Spa. This two-day event brings together elected officials, policymakers, business and civic leaders, transportation and environmental stakeholders, government staff and others for solution-oriented discussions on crucial challenges facing communities across the SCAG region.

Register by Friday, March 31 to get \$100 off the general admission price. The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the region.

For more information about the event, please visit [scag.ca.gov/ga2023](https://scag.ca.gov/ga2023). Interested in becoming a sponsor? [Click here](#).

## UPDATE ON REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PLANNING AND SOCAL GREENPRINT

The Regional Council approved the [Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning \(RAMP\) Policy Framework](#) in February. RAMP is a process to expedite project delivery by planning for environmental mitigation to reduce environmental impacts earlier in the planning process and at a wider scale.

This decision supports advanced mitigation in the region and directs the creation of the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to ensure the future SoCal Greenprint tool is aligned with policy objectives identified in the framework. Recruitment for the TAC will begin in the next month, with letters to agencies and organizations asking for nominations, as well as outreach to SCAG's advisory groups to help spread the word.

The TAC will convene in Spring 2023 and will advise staff on the development of SoCal Greenprint – a tool to help stakeholders make early and informed decisions about infrastructure, growth and conservation, and to mitigate the environmental impacts of Connect SoCal, the Regional Transportation

Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

SCAG staff are currently initiating a competitive procurement process for a consultant to facilitate the TAC and complete the SoCal Greenprint tool.

## **SURVEY TO SUPPORT PERMIT STREAMLINING FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE NOW OPEN**

To support the expansion of broadband access across the region, SCAG and the San Diego Association of Governments are working towards creating a universal permit and model ordinance to expedite the permitting process and have developed a survey seeking input from local jurisdictions in developing a Permit Streamlining Manual to support the rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure.

The survey has two sections, "Planning" and "Public Works," to reflect different roles in permitting broadband infrastructure, and seeks to understand the existing laws, policies and resources affecting conditions in each jurisdiction.

- [Permit Streamlining Survey for Planning](#)
- [Permit Streamlining Survey for Public Works](#)

The surveys are open through March 23. For more details on SCAG's permit streamlining survey efforts, contact Roland Ok at [ok@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ok@scag.ca.gov).

## **GO HUMAN COMMUNITY HUBS GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE**

The guidelines for the 2023 [Go Human Community Hubs Program](#) were released last month. The program offers funding opportunities for community organizations to implement local traffic safety and community engagement strategies that leverage community gatherings, resource sites and networks. The program will award up to \$40,000 to selected projects; interested applicants are invited to review the [Program Guidelines](#) in anticipation of the Spring 2023 Call for Applications. SCAG expects to host an informational webinar when the Call for Applications opens.

The full March Executive Director's Report is available here: [scag.ca.gov/edr-mar-23](https://scag.ca.gov/edr-mar-23).

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **MARCH**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Equity Working Group
- 15<sup>th</sup> SCAG/SANDAG Housing Forum
- 16<sup>th</sup> Technical Working Group
- 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Safe and Active Streets Working Group
- 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Host Committee

### **APRIL**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Administration Committee
- 6<sup>th</sup> Community, Economic and Human Development Committee
- 6<sup>th</sup> Energy and Environment Committee
- 6<sup>th</sup> Transportation Committee
- 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Council

23<sup>rd</sup> Development Streamlining Workshop #1  
28<sup>th</sup> Transportation Conformity Working Group  
29<sup>th</sup> Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee

13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Host Committee  
13<sup>th</sup> Development Streamlining Workshop #2  
18<sup>th</sup> Housing Working Group  
25<sup>th</sup> Transportation Conformity Working Group



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