

**Regional Council
List of Public Comments**

Received **before** 5pm on Wednesday, May 1, 2024

	Date	Sender Name	Organization	Subject Matter
1.	05/01/2024	Cassandra Tabares on behalf of Councilmember Zack Schwank	City of Temecula	SCAG allocation of CMAQ and STBG Federal Formula Funding

Public Comment for May 2nd SCAG Regional Council Meeting

Cassandra Tabares <cassandra.tabares@temeculaca.gov>

Wed 2024-05-01 4:20 PM

To: ePublic Comment Group <ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov>

Cc: James Stewart <James.Stewart@TemeculaCA.gov>; Schwank, Zak <zak.schwank@temeculaca.gov>; Adams, Aaron <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Hawkins, Kevin <kevin.hawkins@TemeculaCA.gov>; Patrick Thomas <Patrick.Thomas@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Betsy Lowrey <betsy.lowrey@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>

 1 attachments (115 KB)

SCAG Regional Council Public Comment 05-02-24 Meeting.pdf;

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Good afternoon,

Attached is the written comment from the City of Temecula for the SCAG Regional Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Cassandra Tabares

Administrative Assistant

City of Temecula

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City of Temecula

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May 1, 2024

SCAG Regional Council
Email: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG Allocation of CMAQ and STBG Federal Formula Funding

For the last 30 years or so, RCTC has been responsible for managing and selecting projects for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) federal formula funding. This was based on California state law that delegates funding decisions to the county transportation commissions. Historically, RCTC provided federal funds to projects in the Riverside County Measure A Program and regional projects led by local agencies such as freeway interchanges and grade separations. Two years ago, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) decided California's procedures were inconsistent with federal regulations and issued California and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) a corrective action to change how projects in Southern California are selected for federal funding.

To address the federal corrective action, instead of each county receiving its formula "fair share" of federal dollars, the funding is now distributed by SCAG through a competitive process in coordination with the county transportation commissions such as RCTC. There are no guarantees of funding. RCTC worked with SCAG to develop a set of principles for selecting projects for federal funding, within the constraints of the new federal guidance. The principles are as follows:

1. SCAG will regularly conduct a call for project open to all cities, counties, transit operators and tribal governments in the SCAG region.
2. SCAG will evaluate and select projects to receive federal formula funding based on SCAG's adopted scoring criteria. Overall, SCAG is looking for projects that will implement and advance the goals of SCAG's RTP/SCS.
3. SCAG will try its best to maintain each county's funding targets; however, targets are not a guarantee of funding, nor a maximum of funding. In other words, a county can receive \$0 in a call for project cycle.

RCTC's top priority in western Riverside County for federal funding is the I-15 Express Lanes Southern Extension project between Cajalco Road and SR-74 in Lake Elsinore, which costs several hundred million dollars.

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The City of Temecula supports this project as a high priority regional project. Furthermore, in Riverside County, which is where the affordable housing is (the RHNA expects 167,000 units in Riverside County) and significant economic growth, highway capacity projects are necessary for our current and future residents.

The City of Temecula also requests the following be considered:

- o Ensure regional equity in how SCAG distributes federal funding. Riverside County should get its fair share.
- o Highway capacity projects are an essential part of the transportation system in the region, especially areas of high population growth and should be considered eligible for federal formula funding.
- o Riverside County carries a significant burden of providing the region with affordable housing, workforce, and logistics industry which fuels the coastal economy at the ports.

Although I will not be present at the Regional Council on May 2, 2024, I wanted to provide these comments to the Council.

Sincerely,



Zak Schwank
Council Member
RC District 5