



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Cindy Allen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<b><i>Long Beach</i></b>	<b>District 30</b>
<b>Hon. Ray Marquez, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<b><i>Chino Hills</i></b>	<b>District 10</b>
<b>Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b><i>Santa Paula</i></b>	<b>District 47</b>
<b>Sup. Curt Hagman, Imm. Past President</b>		<b>San Bernardino County</b>
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair CEHD	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair CEHD	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Rick Denison, Chair EED	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair EEC	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Mike Judge, Chair, TC	<i>VCTC</i>	Ventura County
Hon. Thomas Wong, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Monterey Park</i>	District 34
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Vice Chair LCMC	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President’s Appt.	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President’s Appt.	<i>ICTC</i>	Holtville
Hon. Jan Harnik, President’s Appt.	<i>RCTC</i>	Riverside
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Hon. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Karen Bass, President’s Appt.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-At-Large

**Staff Present**

- Kome Ajise, Executive Director
- Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
- Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
- Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
- Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer

Carmen Flores, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Jonna Hart, Acting Deputy Clerk

### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and asked Regional Council Member Jan Harnik, RCTC, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Allen opened the Public Comment Period.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran acknowledged there were no written public comments received.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Allen closed the Public Comment Period.

### **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### 1. 2026 Public Participation Plan Update

There were no public comments on Item 1.

Ana Vallianatos, Department Manager, noted before the presentation that there were errors in the page numbers in the comment matrix attached to the staff report. She indicated that this was due to pagination differences in their working document versus the final output. She informed the Committee that the attachment would be updated on the website. She explained that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) was a compliance document that the federal government required all agencies, receiving federal funding, to have outlining how they would meet federal public participation requirements. She further noted that SCAG was also subject to state requirements for public participation, and that his document outlined how they would meet those requirements. She indicated that PPP's provide guidance for staff who ultimately conduct engagement activities as part of their day-to-day work. She shared that at SCAG they had traditionally updated the PPP in coordination with the Connect SoCal update cycle. She explained that the plan had been simplified and restructured to align with SCAG's 2024 strategic plan, focusing on three main audience categories: public entities, stakeholders, and the general public. It was noted that the proposed update had been through several review stages, including a 45-day public comment period that

received 42 comments. She indicated that a full list of the comments received, along with their responses, and where they were incorporated into the document, were included in the agenda packet.

Regional Council Member Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, asked staff if they were surprised with the number of comments received. Staff explained that this was like the number of comments received during the last cycle.

Regional Council Member Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, shared that the city of Mission Viejo made comments and stated that she really appreciated the way staff listened and incorporated the comments.

A MOTION was made (Shapiro) to recommend that the Regional Council adopt the 2026 update to SCAG's Public Participation Plan. Motion was SECONDED (Finlay) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Allen, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Denison, Finlay, Goodsell, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Marquez, Ramos, Rhodes, Shapiro, and Wong (14)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

## 2. Revision to SCAG's Standard Contract Provisions: Removal of Required Penalty Clauses

There were no public comments on Item 2.

Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel, explained that back in 2010, the Regional Council directed staff to impose penalty provisions on consultants for late invoices and late delivery of completed work. He stated that the intent at that time was to encourage timely invoicing and on-time project completion. He indicated that because of that direction, they added two penalty provisions to their standard contract template, which was a \$1,000 flat penalty for late invoices and the other was a 10% penalty of the total contract value for each 30-day period a deliverable was late. He shared that in the subsequent 16 years, California law had evolved in these issues, and currently this language was contrary to the law, which did not allow punitive damages. He indicated that while they can certainly have language requiring structured processes and penalties, a flat \$1,000 penalty on something like an invoice would likely be seen as punitive given that it probably doesn't correlate to the actual cost of administrative burden and things like that. He shared that in the past they had contractors who had asked to negotiate these terms but because it was direction from the Regional Council, they were unable to remove it. He also noted that they had never enforced these provisions. He explained that as part of a comprehensive refresh of their contract template, they were looking at ways to improve and streamline this process, and this was one of the things that they would like to change. He indicated they were asking for approval to remove and rescind the

2010 requirements. He further noted that this would not prevent them from having language in contracts enforcing or ensuring compliance.

A MOTION was made (Finlay) to recommend that the Regional Council (RC) authorize staff to remove required penalty clauses from SCAG's standard contract agreement, superseding the 2010 RC action requiring their inclusion. Motion was SECONDED (Marquez) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Allen, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Denison, Finlay, Goodsell, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Marquez, Masiel, Ramos, Rhodes, Shapiro, and Wong (15)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

#### Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meeting – December 3, 2025
4. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 24-012-MRFP 17, City of Los Angeles, Scaling Housing Development on City-Owned Land Strategy
5. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-018-C01, 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games Community Hubs Toolkit
6. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-029-C01, Federal Advocacy Services
7. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-041-C01, SCAG Transportation Safety Predictive Modeling & Analysis Platform
8. Approve SCAG Participation in the 2026 Milano-Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Games Observation Program and Study Tour
9. Contracting to Implement the Quick-Build Transportation Safety Demonstration Projects
10. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

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Receive and File

11. Purchase Orders, Contracts and Contract Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
12. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Ramos) to approve Consent Calendar Items 3 and 10 and Receive and File Items 11 and 12. Motion was SECONDED (Rhodes) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Allen, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Denison, Finlay, Goodsell, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Marquez, Masiel, Ramos, Rhodes, Shapiro, and Wong (15)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

**INFORMATION ITEM**

13. 2028 Games Program Progress Update and Next Steps

Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer, presented an update on their overall progress in advancing the priorities that were approved by the EAC and the RC in the Program Development Framework for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, highlighting key activities and funding for mobility planning, transportation demand management, and community hubs. She reminded the EAC that the approved framework establishes four overall objectives that guide their work, including a focus on leveraging the game's planning and mobility investments to accelerate the implementation of the policy concepts and projects that are in the Connect SoCal plan. She reported that the Transportation Committee would receive an update on the progress of their passenger and freight transportation demand management and strategic plans. Additionally, she shared that in the spring they would provide recommendations to the board on a subset of the transportation demand management-related strategies, to prioritize for the greatest impact in the region. She noted that based on the board's direction they would then develop more detailed implementation plans for working with the public and private partners. She also shared that they would release a transportation demand management toolbox that would be applicable across the region, and that toolbox would be part of the final deliverables for the study that would be completed in the summer. She also noted that under the Consent Calendar they had approved a consultant contract in support of the development of the Community Hubs Activation program. She explained that the consultant would develop a toolkit for any jurisdiction interested in creating activation zones and celebration spaces and band zones during large-scale events. They were also going to help them design a process to select up to 12 sites where they will work directly with the cities on the activation. She also noted that on the agenda was an item authorizing them to move forward with an expedited process for implementing safety demonstration projects through their Quick-Build

program. She explained that these quick-build projects were competitively selected through the Sustainable Communities Program and were located across the region. She noted it was a total of 12 projects and that they were working directly with the City of Los Angeles to administer the grant that they received to enhance pedestrian connections to venues. She reported that that \$20 million was budgeted for the multi-year effort, with additional funding identified for future budget cycles.

The committee discussed lessons learned from the 1984 Games, the importance of transportation demand management, and the need for a cultural exchange program.

Ms. Jepson emphasized the focus on legacy projects, including transportation improvements and shifting mindsets towards alternative transit options.

Regional Council Member Patricia Lock Dawson thanked SCAG staff for the Inland Empire Regional Housing Summit that was held in her city. She indicated it was an information session for cities to come together and share best practices. She also shared that they had practitioners there who talked about what they were doing to help increase their housing supplies in their different cities

#### **CFO REPORT**

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that this month's CFO report included highlights of some recently completed projects, as well as their financial charts that they provide on a quarterly basis. She indicated that they were in the final year of REAP 2 with the expenditure deadline approaching at the end of this calendar year. She noted that staff was working feverishly in support of their subrecipients to ensure the funds were expended appropriately, and that projects were delivered on time. She also noted that a lot of work was going in support of the upcoming 2028 games and that they were going to be presenting their draft fiscal year 27 budget next month. She reported there would be no budget rest because they would be back the following month in April with Budget Amendment 2 to their current fiscal year. She also reported that one of the major initiatives that they had internally was the revamp of the procurement manual which had been completed. She noted they were going to begin training staff on the updated manual. Lastly, she reported that the ERP project continued to make great progress and that the RFP was out. She stated that they were expecting to begin reviewing proposals in early March and noted that funding for the contracting and implementation of the new ERP was included in the fiscal year 27 budget.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Allen reported on the 2026 Regional Conference and General Assembly which was scheduled for May 7-8 at the JW Marriott in Palm Desert. She shared that early bird registration would open on Monday, February 9 but that Regional Council and Policy Committee members would receive special registration instructions from the board clerk following Regional Council meeting. She encouraged members to register and reserve their room as soon as possible. She also recognized Host Committee Chair, Jenny Crosswhite, who was already hard at work and on track to

break records for sponsorships this year. She also reported that the annual 2026 SCAG Scholarship Program application period would open February 9. She noted that in partnership with the California Transportation Foundation, this program provided nine \$4,000 scholarships for high school or community college students from the SCAG region. She indicated that students of any field of study were invited to apply, and that applications were due Friday, March 20. She encouraged members to share this opportunity with youth in their communities. She noted that they could also contact Government Affairs Officer Rachel Wagner for more information and for a copy of the fact sheet. She also reported that the 2026 SCAG Student Showcase was open for submissions. She explained that the Student Showcase challenges students to create presentations that use data to tell compelling stories, create insights, and showcase plans and projects. She noted that submissions were due March 12 and that this was another great opportunity to share with students in their local communities. Lastly, she reminded the members that the next regular meeting of the EAC was scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 3 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, thanked Mayor Lock Dawson for hosting SCAG, and housing staff for putting the program together. He reported on several key items, including the FHWA Programming Procedures which would be going before the Regional Council. He noted that programs like Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) provided billions in transportation funding to their region. He explained that the programming procedures were intended to prevent and minimize loss of federal funds to the SCAG region and allow flexibility in delivering transportation projects. He further noted that they also assist the region in managing obligation authority and meeting federal financial constraints. He also reported that Senate Bill (SB) 79 was signed last October and established new requirements for transit-oriented development by defining where certain land use streamlining and incentives may apply. He noted that the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) was responsible for providing guidance on the work they would be doing as an MPO, which was developing a map that would identify "Stops, Zones, and Tiers Map" for its region. He indicated that SCAG was engaging with HCD to secure final guidance so that they could provide consistent regional data sets to help their local agencies, cities, counties, and transit agencies. Pending HCD guidance, he noted that they planned to share the map sometime in the springtime. He reported that they continue to work on SB375 modernization which has been very useful in driving regional planning and improving the regional planning process but it's also at a point where there's a need to revisit the intent and the operationalizing of the bill. He reported that they had been working with the MPO's to look for ways to improve this and expected to have the opportunity to create better processes. He stated that they were not trying to walk away from the requirements of SB 375, rather they were looking at ways to spend more time implementing the plan than going back and forth with the state on plan approval. He indicated this was intended to create stronger tools for regions to implement their SCS and support achievement of state and local policy goals. He also reported that that SCAG recently published a county-specific report for a deeper look at the economic conditions across all of the six counties in the SCAG region. He noted that these county-level reports expand on the findings included in the 2025 Southern California

Economic Update that was presented at Joint Policy Committee in December. He shared that the reports would be in their newsletter. He indicated the report could be found on the website and hoped that they found it useful. He also reported that Darin Chidsey, Kevin Gilhooley, and him joined David Salgado in Imperial County for the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) General Assembly. He noted that they joined Caltrans District 11 Director Ann Fox and ICTC Executive Director David Aguirre in giving remarks at the event. He shared that Mr. Chidsey, Mr. Gilhooley, and Mr. Salgado took a tour of the Downtown Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center. He noted that it was an important mobility hub that was going into place in Calexico. He indicated that they were glad to be a part of it and noted that about one million REAP funding went into this. He shared they broke ground in February of last year and was expected to be finished this Spring. Lastly, he reported they were proud to have launched the inaugural cohort of the Future Leaders Initiative program which had its first meeting on January 22. He noted this was a six-month civic leadership pilot program that was designed to help young adults across Southern California develop knowledge and skills related to how local and regional government collaborate. He noted that the program received 244 applications across all counties in the region, showing a very strong interest in this civic engagement. He indicated that they were only able to engage 24 of them, in this 4–6-month cycle and expected to have other cohorts to follow. He indicated that the first cohort would complete their program in June.

There were no public comments for the CFO report, President’s report, or the Executive Director’s report.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Regional Council Member Mike Goodsell, ICTC, reported that the city of Holtville would be hosting their Carrot Festival and that the carnival was in town with a parade on Saturday. He invited members to visit.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the Meeting of the Executive/Administration Committee at 3:56 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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**Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report**

2025-26																	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	5-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	
Hon. Cindy Allen, President, Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1		1	0	1	1		1				8
Hon. Ray Marquez, 1st Vice Chair	Chino Hills	District 10	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 2nd Vice Chair	Santa Paula	District 47	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Curt Hagman, Imm. Past President		San Bernardino County	1	0	0	1		1	1	1	1		1				7
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair, CEHD	Calabasas	District 44	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair, CEHD	Simi Valley	District 46	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Rick Denison, Chair, EEC	Yucca Valley	District 11	1	1	0	0		0	1	1	0		1				5
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair, EEC	Adelanto	District 65	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Mike T. Judge, Chair, TC		VCTC	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Thomas Wong, Vice Chair, TC	Monterey Park	District 34	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	1	0	0	1		1	1	0	1		0				5
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Vice Chair, LCMC	Duarte	District 35	0	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				8
Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0				0
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.	Mission Viejo	District 13	1	1	0	1		1	1	0	1		1				7
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President's Appt.		ICTC	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1				9
Hon. Jan Harnik, President's Appt.		RCTC	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	0		1				8
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	1	0	0	0		0	1	1	0		1				4
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Mar	Business Representative	1	1	1	0		0	1	0	1		1				6
			16	14	12	14	0	14	16	14	14	0	16	0	0	0	130