



**NO. 678  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The Regional Council (RC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held a regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Cindy Allen, President</b>	<b><i>Long Beach</i></b>	<b>District 30</b>
<b>Hon. Ray Marquez, 1st 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>
Sup. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Michael Goodsell		ICTC
Hon. Jan Harnik		RCTC
Hon. Trish Kelley		TCA
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Gil Rebolgar	<b><i>Brawley</i></b>	District 1
Hon. Gary Gardner	<b><i>Desert Hot Springs</i></b>	District 2
Hon. Linda Krupa	<b><i>Hemet</i></b>	District 3
Hon. Clint Lorimore	<b><i>Eastvale</i></b>	District 4
Hon. Frank Navarro	<b><i>Colton</i></b>	District 6
Hon. Helen Tran	<b><i>San Bernardino</i></b>	District 7
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	<b><i>Fontana</i></b>	District 8
Hon. John Dutrey	<b><i>Montclair</i></b>	District 9
Hon. Rick Denison	<b><i>Yucca Valley</i></b>	District 11
Hon. John Gabbard	<b><i>Dana Point</i></b>	District 12
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<b><i>Mission Viejo</i></b>	District 13
Hon. William Go	<b><i>Irvine</i></b>	District 14
Hon. Debbie Baker	<b><i>La Palma</i></b>	District 18
Hon. Ryan Balius	<b><i>Anaheim</i></b>	District 19
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<b><i>Seal Beach</i></b>	District 20



Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. Jeff Wood	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Hon. Emma Sharif	<i>Compton</i>	District 26
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Andrew Lara	<i>Pico Rivera</i>	District 31
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Shaunna Elias	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Thomas Wong	<i>Monterey Park</i>	District 34
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Nikki Perez	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. David J. Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Daniel Ramos	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Steve Sanchez	<i>La Quinta</i>	District 66
Hon. Marsha McLean	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	District 67
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Larry McCallon		Air District Representative
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

**Sup. Curt Hagman, Imm. Past President**

- Sup. Martha Cardenas-Singh
- Sup. Kathryn Barger
- Sup. Hilda Solis
- Sup. Don Wagner
- Sup. Karen Spiegel
- Hon. Carlos Leon
- Hon. Alan Wapner
- Hon. Zak Schwank
- Hon. Lauren Kleiman
- Hon. Valerie Amezcua
- Hon. Jon Dumitru
- Hon. Fred Jung
- Hon. Claudia Frometa

**Members Not Present**

- Temecula*
- Newport Beach*
- Santa Ana*
- Orange*
- Fullerton*
- Downey*

**Members Not Present**

**San Bernardino County**

- Imperial County
- Los Angeles County
- Los Angeles County
- Orange County
- Riverside County
- OCTA
- SBCTA
- District 5
- District 15
- District 16
- District 17
- District 21
- District 25



Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Austin Bishop	<i>Palmdale</i>	District 43
Hon. Eunisses Hernandez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 48
Hon. Adrin Nazarian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49
Hon. Bob Blumenfield	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 50
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Katy Young Yaroslavsky	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 52
Hon. Imelda Padilla	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 53
Hon. Monica Rodriguez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 54
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 55
Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 56
Hon. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Traci Park	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
Hon. John Lee	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 59
Hon. Hugo Soto-Martinez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 60
Hon. Ysabel Jurado	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 61
Hon. Tim McOsker	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Butch Twining	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. Ulises Cabrera	<i>Moreno Valley</i>	District 69
Hon. Karen Bass	<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  
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer  
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Jonna Hart, Acting Deputy Clerk of the Board

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Allen called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. and asked Regional Council Debbie Baker, La Palma, RC District 18, to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, noted that Mayor Frank Navarro, RC District 6, would be participating through an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Allen opened the Public Comment Period for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda.

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

Seeing no public comment speakers for items not listed on the agenda, President Allen closed the Public Comment Period.

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

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

David J. Shapiro, Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee (CEHD) Chair, reported that the CEHD Policy Committee heard two information items. He shared the first item had three presentations on community development funding programs and how these programs can be strategically leveraged to address local needs and align with long-term planning goals. He indicated that SCAG Senior Regional Planner Anikka Van Eyl provided an overview of the importance of these programs and afterwards, Diana Sasser, Managing Director at Grow America, discussed brownfield redevelopment and the role of financing tools in advancing community and economic development projects, and Jeannette Ortega, Deputy Director of Administrative Services at the City of Placentia, presented on their work to develop an enhanced infrastructure financing district in the City of Placentia. He reported that the second information item, was a presentation from Camille Guiriba, Senior Regional Planner at SCAG, who outlined the process and timeline for development of Connect SoCal 2050. Lastly, he noted that they welcomed two new members: John Gabbard (Dana Point) and Cynthia Moran (Chino Hills).

There were no comments on the CEHD Chair report.

Rick Denison, Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) Chair, reported that they received presentations on three information items. The first one was an overview of the Connect SoCal 2050 process, the next item was an update on the Innovative Clean Transit Regional Assessment Study Update, which will support regional efforts to transition to Zero Emissions Buses by 2040 in accordance with CARB's Innovative Clean Transit regulation, and a presentation from LADWP on

their Stormwater Master Plan and the role of distributed stormwater infrastructure to address localized flooding and increase groundwater recharge

There were no comments on the EEC Chair report.

Mike T. Judge, Transportation Committee (TC) Chair, indicated they were scheduled to have three presentations but only had two due to lively discussion. He reported that the Transportation Committee took action to approve and forward the FHWA Programming Procedures for FHWA-Administered Federal Funding. He noted that this item was critical to the administration of the recently approved CMAQ/STBG Program which awarded over \$1.25 Billion across 132 projects throughout the SCAG region. He indicated that they were looking forward to working on subsequent calls for projects with their members to further the goals of Connect SoCal. He also reported that they received a presentation from Metrolink Chief Executive Officer Darren Kettle who provided an overview of Metrolink's ongoing services and programs. He explained that Metrolink works closely with member agencies, regional partners, and state and federal stakeholders to ensure the passenger rail system in the region supports the ongoing rider needs and demands. He stated that they appreciated hearing about the critical role Metrolink plays in connecting the region. Lastly, he shared that they also received a presentation on SCAG's ongoing work to support the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. He reported that SCAG staff presented on the "Road to LA 28: A Regional Transportation Demand Strategy" in collaboration with the Greater Ontario Convention and Visitors Bureau (GOCAL). He indicated that they looked forward to continuing this work in support of the region to ensure the LA28 games meet the future demands to move the visitors and enthusiasts throughout the region in 2028.

There were no comments on the TC Chair report.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – December 4, 2025
2. Revision to SCAG's Standard Contract Provisions: Removal of Required Penalty Clauses
3. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 24-012-MRFP 17, City of Los Angeles, Scaling Housing Development on City-Owned Land Strategy
4. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-018-C01, 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games Community Hubs Toolkit
5. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-029-C01, Federal Advocacy Services

6. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-041-C01, SCAG Transportation Safety Predictive Modeling & Analysis Platform
7. Approval of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Programming Procedures
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. Regional Transportation Safety Targets for 2026
11. 2026 Public Participation Plan Update
12. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

13. February 2026 State and Federal Legislative Update
14. Purchase Orders, Contracts and Contract Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
15. CFO Monthly Report

There were no public Comments on the Consent Calendar.

Regional Council Member Steve Sanchez, La Quinta, RC District 66, stated he would like to pull item 8 for discussion and a separate vote.

Regional Council Debbie Baker, La Palma, RC District 18, asked for a correction on the attendance report on page 23 as the totals were not displaying correctly. President Allen indicated they would look into it.

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief overview of item number 8, which was to approve SCAG participation in the 2026 Milano-Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Game Observation Program. He explained that SCAG had been very engaged in planning for the Games and was also members of the Games Mobility Executive Committee. He stated that as part of this they had been offered an opportunity to participate in the Observer Program for the Milan Games. He explained that this program was specifically designed to send people that were actively working on the future

Olympics to understand on-the-ground logistics and challenges and complexities of what it takes to deliver the games. He also noted that per the Regional Council Bylaws, any international travel needed approval by this body, so they were asking for approval at this meeting. He reminded the Board that they sent a similar group to Paris last summer and that as part of that, they knew that oftentimes, additional information-sharing opportunities arise very quickly. He indicated that their process to certainly approve international travel can take several months given the Regional Council schedule. He explained that should another opportunity arise, there was a provision to delegate approval to the Executive Director for international trips specifically around the Games and their preparation for that.

Regional Council Member Sanchez stated that he understood the intent behind this item and that preparing for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics was indeed a significant responsibility. He stated there was value in learning from cities that have previously hosted the Games and did not question the professionalism or dedication of staff or anyone involved in this effort. However, he stated that as a steward of public funds, he must evaluate every expenditure through the eyes of the taxpayers they represent. He stated that this item asked taxpayers to fund an all-expense-paid international trip estimated at approximately \$7,500, along with an unspecified additional amount for another staff member or potentially more. He indicated that he could not reasonably justify this expense to his constituents and if a resident were to ask him why their tax dollars were used to send someone to Italy, he would struggle to provide an answer that reflects fiscal discipline and a prioritization of local needs. He explained that to put this into perspective, \$7,500 or more could instead be allocated toward emergency preparedness, public safety training, traffic and pedestrian safety improvements, such as signage or crosswalk enhancements, and professional support programming, including expert consultants, data analysis, or remote briefings. He indicated that these were investments that directly benefit their community without the added cost of international travel. He stated that he firmly believed they could prepare responsibly for the 2028 Games while remaining mindful of taxpayers' expectations and pursuing more cost-effective alternatives. He indicated that every dollar they spend belongs to someone who worked for it.

Regional Council Member Jeff Wood, Lakewood, RC District 24, stated he shared many of the concerns that were raised. He explained that when their delegation traveled to Paris, they brought back a significant amount of valuable information. However, he noted that Paris was hosting Summer Games, and they would also be hosting the Summer Games on an even larger scale. He stated this alignment made sense. He expressed he was struggling to understand the benefit of sending a delegation to a Winter Olympics when their event was fundamentally different. He indicated that while there were certainly operational overlaps, they would be hosting nearly twice as many events, and their logistical challenges—particularly transportation, infrastructure improvements, street conditions, and public safety were substantial and very local in nature. He stated that they already discussed implementing fan zones and many other ideas that came directly from the Paris experience. He stated that from his perspective, they were actively incorporating those lessons. He asked what specific additional value attendance would provide at a Winter Games

that they did not already gain from Paris. He expressed concern about the structure of the travel authorization and stated that while the item specifies one attendee, it also allows the Executive Director to approve as many individuals as deemed necessary. He stated that without a clear cap or defined scope, that began to resemble a blank check and thought they needed clearer parameters. He explained that the item also mentioned that a SCAG delegation would join other Southern California leaders. He asked for clarification on who those leaders were and if they were elected officials. He stated that to date he had not seen broad representation from the 87 other cities in Los Angeles County or the surrounding jurisdictions that would also be directly impacted by the Games. He indicated that there were practical considerations and if these Games were imminent, asked if travel and lodging had already been secured as costs could rise significantly once events begin. He indicated that before moving forward, he believed they should have more concrete answers regarding timing, budget limits, delegation size, and measurable objectives. He indicated that he was not opposed to gathering best practices; he simply wanted to ensure that any travel was clearly justified, financially responsible, and directly tied to the challenges they were facing here at home.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, stated this was part of what they do in their role as the Games Mobility Executive — to look at the various logistics surrounding the Games. He stated that although this was a Winter Games, the logistical considerations were not significantly different. He clarified that the staff member attending would not be there to view events, and their role was to remain outside at event centers to observe operations, coordinate with the organizing committee on the ground, and to learn. He further noted that the individual attending was deeply involved in their Transportation Demand Management (TDM) work. He indicated that this provided a valuable opportunity to observe innovations in TDM and to gain insight into logistical strategies that will be relevant to the Summer Games preparations. He discussed that given the proximity of the Games; they could limit attendance to the one staff member already scheduled to go. He also noted that it was not typical for elected officials to attend these observer programs as these delegations generally consisted of operational staff from agencies directly involved in Games planning. He also shared that this opportunity was extended to them by LA28 to participate as part of the official observer team and that there would be observer teams from all future Olympic host cities, like what occurred in Paris, where representatives from future Winter Games host cities attended to observe operations. He indicated that the focus was on learning about the movement of people, travel timing, and transportation logistics associated with hosting the Olympic Games.

Regional Council Member Jan Harnik, RCTC, stated she appreciated the comments that had been made and thanked Executive Director Ajise for his input. She indicated that as someone who served on the Transportation Committee and recently received a comprehensive report on TDM, presented by Ms. Aguirre, it gave her valuable insight and a certain comfort level about moving forward. She explained that when they consider the cost of this effort compared to the cost of not having the necessary information, it became clear that these were relatively inexpensive lessons to learn. She stated that with approximately 15 million unique visitors coming to their region, traffic demand models were critical. She indicated that if someone told them that for \$10,000, they could

provide answers to how they move people more efficiently throughout this region, it would be worth every cent. She indicated that when the time was appropriate, she would absolutely move approval.

Regional Council Member Daniel Ramos seconded the motion.

President Allen stated for the record that she had a motion [Harnki] and second [Ramos].

Regional Council Member Wood asked if it was safe to say that they were only authorizing one person [for the trip].

Executive Director Ajise stated that if that was the will of the Board, they would authorize just one person.

Regional Council Member Andrew Lara, Pico Rivera, RC District 31, stated he would like the Executive Director to have the ability to send multiple people he seems fit. He indicated that it was his understanding that he and staff would have a better idea of who was qualified to attend, and he put his faith and trust in Mr. Ajise to make a wise and prudent decision.

Regional Council Member Sanchez expressed that his primary concern was issuing a blank check. He stated this was not against staff or the CEO. He stated they all had to report back to their constituents. He stated he wanted to be able to protect the integrity of SCAG with its constituents and its members and leaving a blank check was very vague and not fiscally responsible for this body who had oversight of how all the money is spent.

Regional Council Member Frank Yokoyama, Cerritos, RC District 23, stated he was in favor of giving the Executive Director authority as requested on this agenda item and looked forward to getting a transparent report back at a future Regional Council meeting as to what happened, the results, who went, and what the expense was.

Regional Council Member Wood asked if they knew how many went to Paris and what the total cost was.

Executive Director Ajise stated that they had two who went to Paris and thought it was for the same amount but would get back to them on that. He stated that the two were there as observers with the Olympic Observation Group. He indicated that they take the expenditure of public funds very seriously and do not make these decisions lightly. He explained that this group had already authorized approximately \$5 million under one program for TDM work in the region. He explained that the \$7,500 request was intended to augment that work, particularly by supporting the individual leading the effort. He indicated that while the \$7,500 was not an insignificant amount, it had been carefully considered. He stated that they believed this was an important way to maximize

the investment they had already approved for TDM efforts related to the Olympics. Mr. Ajise indicated that having staff participate as part of the international community observing a live event—one that they will eventually be responsible for was valuable.

Regional Council Member Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, RC District 63, stated that the optics on this item were terrible. He stated they were sending a staff member to Milan to check out how the system works, which was information they could probably get in a report. He stated they could probably have many meetings on the web, and this just didn't look good. He stated he would appreciate constraining it to a single person.

Regional Council Member Mark Henderson, Gardena, RC District 28, stated that he agreed with Regional Council Member Sanchez about giving a blank check to staff and noted they don't do this in their cities. He stated he was conflicted about the fact that they have invested so much in TDM and still need more data points to make sure they get accurate data for 2028. He also noted that he understood that they need to have some more data sets to make sure that they are doing this the right way. He indicated that he thought that the Winter Olympics were not synonymous with the Summer Olympics, because there were more people out, but understood the need for data points. He stated he did have a conflict with just saying we have to go do this and they don't know what it is. He stated that he did appreciate the comment of what they have already invested in TDM studies. He made a substitute motion to limit the amount of people going to no more than two with a budget of no more than \$16,000.

The substitute motion was seconded by Regional Council Member Manos.

Board Counsel Duran clarified that before them there was a motion by Regional Council Member Henderson to amend the original motion to limit to no more than two staff members for a total aggregate spend of no more than \$16,000, and he believed the second came from Regional Council Member Wood but might be mistaken.

It was clarified that the second came from Regional Council Member Manos.

Regional Council Member Lara asked staff to confirm what the appropriate limit would be regarding sending staff.

Executive Director Ajise stated that they proposed sending one person because they didn't know when the opportunity would come up regarding sending another person and they wanted to make sure that they had the capacity to do that, which is why they wrote the request the way they did.

Regional Council Member Lara asked if the amendment by Regional Council Member Henderson was to limit it to 2 people for \$16,000.

Executive Director Ajise stated yes and that this [the amendment] was fine.

Regional Council Member Larry McCallon, Air District Representative, asked if the motion could include the Consent Calendar rather than just Item 8.

Board Counsel Duran stated it was up to the motion maker and asked Regional Council Member Henderson if he would amend his motion to include the full Consent Calendar. Both Regional Council Members Henderson and Manos agreed to include the whole Consent Calendar with their amendment to Item 8.

While the clerk typed up the motion for a vote, Board Counsel Duran noted for the record that the motion on the floor was to approve the Consent Calendar with a change to Item 8 to be for no more than two staff members for a total spend of no more than \$16,000, and Mr. Ajise's discretion.

AN AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made (Henderson) to approve the Consent Calendar (Items 1 through 12) with a change to Item 8 to be for no more than two staff members for a total spend of no more than \$16,000, and Mr. Ajise's discretion; and Receive and File Items 13 through 15. Motion was SECONDED (Manos) and passed by the following roll call votes.

**AYES:** Allen, Baker, Balius, Bucknum, Clark, Crosswhite, Dutrey, Elias, Gardner, Gabbard, Goodsell, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kalmick, Kelley, Krupa, Lara, Patricia Lock Dawson, Lopez, Lorimore, Manos, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Navarro, Perez, Ramos, Rebollar, Rhodes, Saleh, Sanchez, Sandoval, Saro, Shapiro, Sharif, Simonoff, Tran, Tye, Warren, Wong, Wood, and Yokoyama (44)

**NOES:** Denison and Go (2)

**ABSTAIN:** McLean (1)

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### 16. Regional Leadership on Housing Production

Mr. Ajise reported that at the beginning of her term, President Allen highlighted three priorities for focused policy leadership, which were 1) Regional Planning in support of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games; 2) Clean Transportation Technology; and 3) Housing Production. He stated that when it came to housing, SCAG's role had shifted dramatically over the last few years, largely due to funding they received from the state through the REAP Program. He indicated that through this funding, SCAG had supported their jurisdictions and partners in taking steps to help tackle the housing crisis. He stated that as an organization, the success they had seen in this area had been facilitated by their leadership. He discussed that the Regional Council adopted Connect SoCal 2024,

which included a greater emphasis on housing policy, strategies, and production in the region. He also noted that the Regional Council also approved funding programs that allowed them to get this money out the door quickly to their partners. He emphasized that the Regional Council was also instrumental in helping them advocate to keep these critical dollars amid proposed state budget cuts to the program. He stated that as they look to the future, they would continue to rely on their leadership. He noted that the current housing crisis was decades in the making and addressing it would require long-term funding and commitment at all levels of government.

Mayon Johnson, Housing Department Manager, discussed the regional approach to housing production and SCAG's role in supporting local efforts. With respect to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), she emphasized that while Needs Assessment provides numbers, the focus should be on Regional Housing action-planning and producing housing to meet community needs. She noted that the housing crisis was long-standing, with production historically lagging population growth, despite periods of strong construction in the 1970's and 1980's. She noted key barriers identified in a regional survey included land availability, community opposition, and insufficient utilities/infrastructure. She indicated that local housing needs vary, spanning mixed-use, multifamily, rental, and homeownership models, with interest in partnerships and community engagement. She discussed that SCAG had evolved from a purely number-focused role to actively supporting housing production through regional programs, advocacy for state and federal funding, technical assistance, and integration with transportation and sustainability plans (Connect SoCal). She reported that recent funding initiatives like REAP 1 (\$47M) and REAP 2 (\$230M+) had helped move projects forward, resulting in roughly 450,000 units in the pipeline. She noted that SCAG's regional strategies targeted three main areas: 1) Zoning and land use – addressing surplus or infill-available lands through programs like HIP pilot and corridor-wide initiatives; 2) Funding and resources – \$65M allocated through NOFA programs for housing trusts and innovative financing; and 3) Infrastructure – programs like RUSH and CTC Partnership that ensure utilities and transportation can support new housing. Lastly, she shared that SCAG emphasizes long-term, collaborative, regional solutions rather than one-off or reactive measures to tackle the housing shortage.

Brielle Salazar, San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust, detailed their REAP 2 projects, including the Affordable Housing Incubator, Revolving Loan Fund, and various technical assistance efforts. She indicated that these initiatives aim to streamline housing development, provide financial support, and address infrastructure and land use challenges. Her presentation concluded with a call for continued regional support and leadership in advancing housing production.

David Pollock, Executive Director of the Ventura Council of Governments, presented an update on the implementation of a housing program, highlighting six ongoing projects funded by a \$411,000 grant. He noted these projects include pro-housing initiatives for Ventura, mixed-use concept studies for Simi Valley and Santa Paula, an inclusionary housing program for the county, ADU homeowner tools for the county, and a small lot assembly program for Fillmore. He emphasized

that all projects aim to provide actionable recommendations to their respective governing boards by June 30, with consultants being paid by VCOG and reimbursed by SCAG.

Doug Spondello, Community Development Director from the City of Moorpark, presented on their downtown-specific plan development, funded by a \$250,000 SCAG grant through REAP 2.0. He indicated that the plan aims to enhance housing while preserving the downtown's historical character, with a focus on High Street and the Metrolink station. He shared that Moorpark completed their first general plan update in 2022 and was now working on updating the downtown-specific plan, which would include form-based coding and community engagement. He noted that the draft plan was expected to be presented to the Community Planning Commission and City Council later in the summer.

Regional Council Member Manos expressed concerns about government-imposed housing quotas and the impact of changing regulations, including tribal consultations and sprinkler requirements, which he argued are driving up costs and deterring development.

Margaret Clark thanked Brielle from the San Gabriel Valley COG and Senator Susan Rubio for their efforts in securing funding, and inquired about Moorpark's ban on chain stores, which Mr. Spondello confirmed was implemented with a definition and conditional use permit exceptions.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Regional Council Member Lucy Dunn stated her report was on page 222 of the agenda packet. She noted that the Business and Industry Advisory Council to the Regional Council met on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and they hosted Luis Quinones of the California Chamber of Commerce and their consultant Vicar Castillo, to talk about the pending CEQA ballot measure receiving \$5-6 million in high-tech funding. She stated that most of the business members of their organization have long supported modernization of CEQA and were very intrigued and supportive of this ballot measure. She stated that she asked Kevin Gilhooley to share with the LCMC information to garner support or comments on this ballot measure. She shared that the next meeting of the GLUE Council was set for April 6 and welcomed Regional Council Members to participate and engage with the business community. She stated that in her report she also included an op-ed that the Orange County Register published on housing and homelessness, and the changes in the federal rules that are coming down that could impact them in a negative way regarding funding for supportive housing. She noted that the op-ed had been distributed to the congressional delegation and had been well received. She also acknowledged SCAG, Kevin Kane, and all the consultants on the monthly economic reports as she felt this was a great asset that SCAG provides to the region. She suggested having accessible links on the website to those reports. Lastly, she indicated her report included information on express lanes coming of age.

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Allen reported it was time for the 2026 Regional Conference and General Assembly, May 7-8 at the JW Marriott in Palm Desert. She discussed that the event hosted by SCAG was Southern California's largest annual gathering of elected officials, planners, and industry leaders. She informed the members that early bird registration would open on Monday, February 9. She noted that Regional Council and Policy Committee members would receive special registration instructions from the board clerk following the meeting. She encouraged members to register and reserve their room as soon as possible. She also reported that the annual 2026 SCAG Scholarship Program application period would also 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 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. She also noted that appointments to the Bylaws and Resolution Committee, Nominating Committee, and Scholarship Committee had been made. She briefly discussed the roles of the three committees. She thanked members in advance for their time and service on these endeavors. Lastly, she reminded the members that the next regular meeting of the Regional Council was scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 11:45 a.m.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Ajise congratulated Regional Councilmember Nikki Perez of Burbank, who was appointed by Governor Newsom to the California Film Commission. He also reported that on January 14, they were hosted by Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson in Riverside for an Inland Empire Housing Workshop. The event gathered city and county staff and housing professionals for conversations on real-world approaches to increasing housing supply, coordinating infrastructure, and reducing barriers to housing production. He also reported that SCAG recently published county-specific reports for a deeper look at economic conditions across all six counties in the SCAG region. He indicated that these county-level reports expand on findings included in the "2025 Southern California Economic Update" presented at the SCAG Joint Policy Committee Meeting last December. He stated the reports would be in SCAG's newsletter and could be found on the website. He reported that as part of Connect SoCal 2050, they were undertaking a new study to try to expand the footprint of their knowledge base in terms of dealing with the uncertainty in policy. He stated the project was called Connect SoCal Futures and would help support the plan development to evaluate policies and strategies across multiple plausible futures. He stated the intent was to bring together experts, a technical advisory group, to identify and help them understand the various

trends and uncertainties that may impact the future. He shared that this group would include individuals that know something about land use, transportation, water, and the economy. He indicated additional information would be presented at the policy committees. Lastly, he reported he was proud to launch their inaugural cohort of the Future Leaders Initiative. He stated they had about 244 applicants ranging from 18 to 24 years of age. He shared that the first cohort was 24 people, a very energized group who were interested in regional planning. He stated that he hoped they would have the opportunity to address these young individuals over the next six months. He noted that at the end of the six-month program, they would have something to report out.

There were no public comments on the Business, President's or Executive Director's reports.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting of the Regional Council. in memory of Carlene Adams at 1:05 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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