



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 – FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 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 annual retreat meeting at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa, Lakeview Terrace Room, 27984 Highway 189, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92382. A quorum was present.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026**

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Ray Marquez, President</b>	<i>Chino Hills</i>	<b>District 10</b>
<b>Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<i>Santa Paula</i>	<b>District 47</b>
<b>Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<i>Riverside</i>	<b>District 68</b>
<b>Hon. Cindy Allen, Imm. Past President</b>	<i>Long Beach</i>	<b>District 30</b>
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Chair CEHD	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Jeff Wood, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Mike Judge, Chair, TC		VCTC
Hon. Steven Ly, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Chair, LCMC	Duarte	District 35
Hon. Jan Harnik, Vice Chair, LCMC		RCTC
Hon. John Gabbard, President Appt.	Dana Point	District 12
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President Appt.		ICTC
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Hon. Paul Granillo		Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Rick Denison, Chair, EEC	Yucca Valley	District 11
Hon. Karen Bass, President Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President Appt.	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13

**Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director  
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer



Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer  
Erika Bustamante, Deputy Director Finance  
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer  
Elizabeth Carvajal, Deputy Director Land Use  
Annie Nam, Deputy Director Transportation  
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer  
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services  
Richard Lam, Senior Legal Counsel  
David James, Internal Auditor  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Perla Lopez, Special Events Producer  
David Milner, AV Supervisor  
Jean Ansolabehere, Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy, Office of Mayor Karen Bass

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable Ray Marquez called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and Immediate Past President Cindy Allen, Long Beach, District 30, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Marquez opened the Public Comment Period.

The Clerk acknowledged there were no written public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

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

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions, Agenda Review and Expectations

President Marquez opened with a welcome and overview of the two-day retreat, highlighting its purpose to align on priorities, strengthen relationships, and enhance understanding of key policy issues and advocacy efforts. He encouraged members to engage collaboratively, recognizing the region's diversity and shared responsibility to serve the collective interests of all communities. He asked members of the EAC and staff to introduce themselves.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 1.

## 2. SCAG 101: Overview of Organization

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer provided an overview of the organization which included review of the SCAG region, vision, mission, core values, strategic plan priorities and accomplishments for each of the five priorities, the Executive Team Organizational Chart, the agency five-year budget and Overall Work Program, and information on the progress and next steps of the Enterprise Resources Planning System.

The EAC members and staff briefly engaged in discussions about staffing levels, transit programs affected by CARB's cap and investments, the different types of funding sources, and the need to focus on SCAG's mission and priorities in the coming years.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 2.

## 3. Regional Planning and Policy Development Outlook

Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer, provided an overview of the Connect SoCal 2024 vision and goals, the development of the 2024 plan which consisted of input from three special subcommittees to address key planning issues, public outreach and engagement, and stakeholder engagement. She also outlined the regional challenges they faced and highlighted the policy priority categories in Connect SoCal 2024 that guided their work. The categories were related to mobility, communities, the environment, and economy. She also provided information on the plan implementation, collaboration and policy leadership, federal and state funding administration, and local technical assistance resources.

The EAC members and staff briefly engaged in discussions about what worked well in the development of Connect SoCal 2024 and the implementation and how members can showcase the work SCAG is doing at the cities they represent.

Ms. Jepson also discussed the development of Connect SoCal 2050 and the regulatory uncertainties around SB 375, SB 1087, and transportation conformity. She provided a brief overview of the connection between RHNA and Connect SoCal, preliminary schedule for the next RTP/SCS cycle, with Plan adoption anticipated in Spring 2028, the regional issues going forward, the creation of the Connect SoCal Subcommittee and member appointments.

The EAC members and staff briefly engaged in discussions about climate change and resilience.

Elizabeth Carvajal, Deputy Director – Land Use, provided a brief overview of the RHNA process and allocation which consisted of information on the RHNA objectives, responsibilities, regional determination, the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA methodology primary factors and objectives, the 7<sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA

timeline, and the purpose of the RHNA Subcommittee and member appointments.

The EAC members and staff briefly engaged in discussions about the proposed subcommittee composition, the need to explain the differences in cycles and what changed due to legislation, the need for more updates during the process, and for the subcommittee members to advocate for how they got to the methodology.

Annie Nam, Deputy Director – Transportation, provided a brief overview of the draft FY27 agenda outlook for the Transportation Committee. She highlighted information on the major regional plans and studies and funding and local assistance presentations that would be discussed over the fiscal year at the Transportation Committee.

Ms. Carvajal provided a brief overview of the draft FY27 agenda outlooks for the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee. Her overview included information on the major regional plans and studies, funding and local assistance, and other programs that would be discussed at the committees over the fiscal year.

Ms. Jepson informed the EAC that they were planning to have two meetings of the Joint Policy Committees, with the December 2026 meeting being an economic update on the regional impacts/benefits of FIFA Los Angeles to prepare for the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic games, and the March 2027 on the Connect SoCal 2050 progress updates and discussion of emerging issues.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 3.

#### 4. Legislative Update

Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officers, highlighted the contributions of the legislative team and noted the strategic merger of government and legislative affairs two years ago to enhance coordination, cross-training, and capacity. She acknowledged the leadership of Honorable Patricia Lock Dawson and reflected on ongoing efforts to improve regional planning processes under SB 375, including addressing funding misalignment and resource challenges. She noted that over the past year, significant collaborative work among major MPOs led to a proposal to modernize SB 375, guided by transparency, alignment of state policies and funding, and prioritization of implementation. She noted that with support from former Senator Steinberg and Senator Cabaldon, the initiative had advanced, including strong bipartisan approval in the Senate. She also recognized partners, consultants, and staff for their extensive efforts, noting that SB 1087 was progressing through the Assembly with continued stakeholder engagement and anticipated next steps.

Mr. Chidsey commended Ms. Cartagena and the legislative team for achieving significant progress, including advancing two bills within a single year. He noted ongoing engagement with the Southern California business community, which has raised concerns about technical provisions, including funding alignment requirements and the proposed CEQA exemption for regional plans. He



explained that while some items, such as shifting certain responsibilities to the California Transportation Commission, had lost momentum, efforts continued to establish clearer timelines, transparency, and accountability within CARB processes. He expressed confidence in addressing remaining issues as the bill proceeds through upcoming Assembly committees and encouraged continued member participation in advocacy efforts, including potential future legislative visits.

Ms. Cartagena emphasized the importance of leadership development through SCAG committees and highlighted Assembly Member Jose Luis Solache as an example of this impact, noting his strong support and collaboration in advancing AB 2002. She explained the bill seeks to codify the REAP 1.0 program into permanent state law, building on its success in streamlining housing planning and permitting processes and generating significant housing production outcomes. She also discussed a proposed \$125 million budget request to support a new funding cycle, while acknowledging fiscal constraints in the state budget and reduced allocations for housing programs. She noted ongoing coordination with legislative leaders and budget committees, with the potential to align the bill with the budget process through trailer bill language.

Mr. Chidsey connected earlier discussions on the state budget and RHNA to AB 2002, noting that historically SCAG had not received state funding for RHNA responsibilities until the one-time REAP 1.0 program. He explained that prior efforts to classify RHNA as an unfunded mandate were unsuccessful, and while cost-recovery through member fees was considered, it was not implemented. He also emphasized that most traditional funding sources were not eligible for RHNA work, leaving limited resources to support these mandates. He indicated that this legislation, represents an important step in aligning state requirements with dedicated funding, supporting both SCAG and local jurisdictions in fulfilling housing planning obligations.

Ms. Cartagena highlighted strong relationships with key legislators, including Chair Quirk-Silva, which have supported the successful advancement of AB 2002 through both the budget and committee processes. She noted that the bill achieved a significant milestone with overwhelming Assembly approval (68–1), reflecting broad support for SCAG’s work and the demonstrated success of the REAP program. She indicated that continued stakeholder engagement was underway now that the bill was advancing to the Senate, with an anticipated hearing in the Housing Committee. She encouraged submission of letters of support and noted that additional advocacy, including outreach to the Governor, would be requested as the bill progresses toward final approval.

President Marquez thanked the EAC members for their commitment and engagement.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 4.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Marquez adjourned EAC Retreat of the Executive Administration Committee at 3:26 p.m. to Friday, June 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.



**FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026**

**Members Present**

Hon. Ray Marquez, President	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Cindy Allen, Imm. Past President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Chair CEHD	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Jeff Wood, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Mike Judge, Chair, TC		VCTC
Hon. Steven Ly, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Chair, LCMC	Duarte	District 35
Hon. Jan Harnik, Vice Chair, LCMC		RCTC
Hon. John Gabbard, President Appt.	Dana Point	District 12
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President Appt.		ICTC
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Rick Denison, Chair, EEC	Yucca Valley	District 11
Hon. Karen Bass, President Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President Appt.	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Paul Granillo		Business Representative

**Staff Present**

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Elizabeth Carvajal, Deputy Director Land Use  
Annie Nam, Deputy Director Transportation  
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer  
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services  
Richard Lam, Senior Legal Counsel  
David James, Internal Auditor  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Perla Lopez, Special Events Producer  
David Milner, AV Supervisor  
Jean Ansolabehere, Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy, Office of Mayor Karen Bass

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

President Marquez called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and asked Second Vice President Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, District 68, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 1. Recap on Day 1

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, provided a brief recap of discussions had the prior day related to the budget and ERP project, Regional Planning for Connect SoCal 2050, RHNA, appointments for the Connect SoCal and RHNA Subcommittees, the Policy Development Outlooks, and the advocacy efforts on SB 375 and AB 2002.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 1.

### 2. Signature Events Evaluation and Government and Public Affairs Division Update

Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer, highlighted SCAG's signature events and communications performance. She explained that over the past two years, SCAG had transitioned the Demographic Workshop and Economic Update to more targeted formats, resulting in continued strong attendee satisfaction, increased resource engagement, and broader reach. She also provided an update on the General Assembly and noted that based on prior feedback, it included increased networking opportunities, fewer videos, and a revised Student Showcase format. She highlighted that preliminary results indicated continued success, with higher attendance rates, increased survey participation, and strong satisfaction. She emphasized that these efforts support SCAG's goal of connecting stakeholders to resources and advancing regional planning. She noted that expanded use of key performance indicators across communications—tracking website, email, social media, and event participation—had created a feedback loop to refine outreach and improve access to SCAG tools and resources. She also noted continued engagement through community events, mobile workshops, and monthly Toolbox Tuesday webinars, which provide training and support to local agencies.

The EAC committee members and staff engaged in discussions on how the General Assembly could improve. Members provided feedback on the success of the General Assembly event and highlighted the quality of speakers, content, and the effectiveness of fundraising efforts. The need for better engagement with city managers and department heads was noted.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 2.

### 3. Presidential Priorities

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, introduced President Marquez’s four presidential priorities, noting the importance of continuity across presidential terms and the emergence of “legacy” priorities carried forward from prior leadership. The first three legacy priorities include advancing clean transportation technology through regional collaboration and funding efforts; preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games with a focus on sustainable, reliable mobility and long-term benefits; and addressing the regional housing crisis by expanding SCAG’s role as a resource to support housing production. He noted the fourth priority focused on exploring post-REAP strategies, including new approaches to municipal finance and positioning housing as an economic development tool. He explained that the following presentations would be centered on these issues, with facilitated discussion aimed at generating actionable strategies to support cities and counties.

Michael Flad, Assistant City Manager, Jurupa Valley, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present and emphasized the goal of providing concise information, case studies, and facilitating an interactive discussion. He highlighted the value of including city administrators, noting their expertise as a key resource for regional collaboration. Drawing on 37 years in public administration across diverse cities, he underscored the importance of economic development as a critical pillar of municipal financial stability, alongside alignment between local, regional, and state efforts. He reviewed practical financing tools—such as community facilities districts, development agreements, grants, and inclusionary housing—and shared case studies from Jurupa Valley and South Gate illustrating innovative approaches to revenue generation, infrastructure investment, and community transformation. He concluded by encouraging collaborative learning and knowledge-sharing to advance sustainable development strategies.

Larry Kosmont, Chairman and CEO, Kosmont Companies, provided an overview of the fiscal and regulatory challenges facing housing development, emphasizing that current economic conditions, extensive state legislation, and complex financing constraints that make housing delivery difficult and inconsistent. He argued that housing should no longer be viewed as a fiscal burden but rather as a central economic development strategy, given its strong potential to generate property value and attract private investment. He highlighted the need for cities to adopt a more strategic approach by leveraging zoning as a key asset, utilizing value capture mechanisms such as tax increment financing (TIF) districts, forming partnerships with counties, and aggressively pursuing grant funding. He stressed that aligning housing policy with economic development goals, while improving education and coordination among local agencies, was critical to meeting RHNA requirements and achieving sustainable growth in a challenging development environment.

The EAC committee members, staff, and presenters engaged in discussions and frustration was expressed with state-imposed housing requirements; however, there was acknowledgement about the need to work within current constraints while continuing to advocate for legislative change. They also discussed strategies such as TIF districts, value capture, and leveraging public and private investment to advance housing and economic development, emphasizing the importance of local



vision, partnerships, and aligning infrastructure investments with broader community goals. SCAG leadership highlighted the need to shift from resistance to implementation by using available tools creatively, amplifying successful programs like REAP, and engaging city managers and stakeholders. Members also raised considerations about community engagement, smaller-city applicability, and the importance of promoting homeownership opportunities, while agreeing that education, collaboration, and strategic use of resources were key to improving housing outcomes and local economic development.

There were no public comment speakers for Item No. 3.

#### 4. Wrap up

Mr. Ajise provided closing remarks, noting the session built on a prior wrap-up and featured a valuable discussion led by Ms. Cartagena on SCAG’s signature events, with appreciation for participant feedback and encouragement to continue sharing ideas for improvement. He thanked Mr. Kosmont and Mr. Flad for their contributions and emphasized that the discussion aligned with President Marquez’s priority to integrate economic development into SCAG’s work. He underscored the importance of evaluating infrastructure investments—particularly the recent \$1.2 billion in federally funded transportation projects—through a broader lens to better leverage opportunities for housing production and community economic growth. He highlighted the potential of the regionally controlled 2.5% funding reserve to support innovative, cross-county investments and encouraged applying insights from the session to future funding decisions. He concluded by thanking President Marquez, attendees, staff, and organizers for their time, contributions, and support in making the session productive.

President Marquez delivered closing remarks, expressing appreciation to all participants for their time, contributions, and the successful coordination of the event. He commended the presentations and collaborative effort, conveyed his enthusiasm for working together in the coming year, and encouraged continued progress.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Marquez adjourned the EAC Retreat of the Executive Administration Committee at 11:01 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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**Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report**

2026-27																	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	3-Jun	11-Jun	12-Jun	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	
Hon. Ray Marquez, President	Chino Hills	District 10	1	1	1												3
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 1st Vice Chair	Santa Paula	District 47	1	1	1												3
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, 2nd Vice Chair	Riverside	District 68	1	1	1												3
Hon. Cindy Allen, Imm. Past President	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1												3
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Chair, CEHD	Simi Valley	District 46	1	1	1												3
Hon. Jeff Wood, Vice Chair, CEHD	Lakewood	District 24	1	1	1												3
Hon. Rick Denison, Chair, EEC	Yucca Valley	District 11	1	0	0												1
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair, EEC	Adelanto	District 65	1	1	1												3
Hon. Mike T. Judge, Chair, TC		VCTC	1	1	1												3
Hon. Steven Ly, Vice Chair TC	Rosemead	District 32		1	1												2
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Chair, LCMC	Duarte	District 35	1	1	1												3
Hon. Jan C. Harnik, Vice Chair, LCMC		RCTC	0	1	1												2
Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large	0	0	0												0
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.	Mission Viejo	District 13	0	0	0												0
Hon. John Gabbard, President's Appt.	Dana Point	District 12	1	1	1												3
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President's Appt.		ICTC	1	1	1												3
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	1	1	1												3
Mr. Paul Garnillo, Ex-Officio Member	President & CEO Inland Empire Economic Partnership	Business Representative	1	1	0												2
			14	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43