



Southern California Association of Governments
July 2, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) 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

Hon. Rick Denison (Chair)	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
Hon. Daniel Ramos (Vice Chair)	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Art Bishop	<i>Town of Apple Valley</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Daniel Brotman	<i>Glendale</i>	District 42
Hon. Robert Copeland	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Ned Davis	<i>Westlake Village</i>	LVMCOG
Hon. Carmen Hernandez	<i>Barstow</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Shari Horne	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Brian Johsz	<i>Chino Hills</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Elaine Litster	<i>Simi Valley</i>	VCOG
Hon. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Yasmine-Imani McMorrin	<i>Culver City</i>	WCCOG
Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios	<i>Ventura</i>	VCOG
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Patty Senecal	<i>Seal Beach</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Jennifer Stark	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Taj	<i>Artesia</i>	Pres. Appt
Hon. Dale Welty	<i>Canyon Lake</i>	WRCOG

Members Not Present

Hon. Ana Beltran	<i>Westmoreland</i>	ICTC
Hon. Martha Cardenas-Singh		Imperial County
Hon. Victoria Garcia	<i>San Fernando</i>	Pres. Appointment



Hon. Steven Leash	<i>Cahuilla Band of Indians</i>	
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Tamala Takahashi	<i>Burbank</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Connor Traut	<i>Buena Park</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Stephanie Virgen	<i>Coachella</i>	CVAG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Denison called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Second Vice President, Jenny Crosswhite, Santa Paula, RC District 47 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff confirmed a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Denison opened the public comment period and noted that this was the time for members of the public to offer comment on matters that are within SCAG’s jurisdiction but are not listed on the agenda.

Chair Denison asked if any comments were received after the deadline. SCAG staff acknowledged there were no public comments received after the 5:00 p.m. deadline on June 3, 2026.

Seeing no public comment, Chair Denison closed the public comment period for matters not listed on the agenda.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – March 5, 2026

Receive and File

2. EEC Outlook and Future Agenda Items

A MOTION was made (Ramos) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Crosswhite) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Bishop, Clark, Copeland, Crosswhite, Denison, Hernandez, Horne, Huff, Johz, Litster, Ramos, Sanchez-Palacios, Saro, Senecal, Stark, Taj, and Welty (17)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. Connect SoCal 2024: Implementation Strategies Update

There were no public comments on item 3.

Leslie A. Cayton, Associate Regional Planner, indicated that SCAG had made significant progress on the Connect SoCal 2024 implementation strategies, with 84 of 93 strategies advancing since adoption. She stated that Connect SoCal served as a long-range regional transportation and sustainability plan that must meet federal and state requirements and be updated every four years. She indicated that SCAG supported implementation through policy leadership, funding coordination, research, and technical assistance to local agencies. She stated that recent accomplishments included the release of the Regional Resilience Toolkit, the launch of a Smart Cities Strategic Plan effort, and the approval of projects under a clean freight rebate program. Lastly, she indicated that implementation depended heavily on coordination with local jurisdictions and partners and that SCAG was beginning to shift focus toward development of the next plan, Connect SoCal 2050.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

4. Overview of Transportation Conformity and Anticipated Regional Conformity Challenges in SCAG Region

There were no public comments on item 4.

Lijin Sun, Planning Supervisor, indicated that transportation conformity was a federal Clean Air Act requirement that ensured transportation activities aligned with air quality goals. She stated that conformity required passing five technical tests, and failure of any one test resulted in overall failure. She indicated that recent federal and state regulatory changes have eliminated emission reduction benefits previously relied upon. She stated that updated air quality plans included emissions budgets, particularly in the Coachella Valley, that were too low for the region to meet. She indicated that if those budgets were adopted and enforced, SCAG would fail conformity, which would halt transportation planning and delay federal funding for projects. She stated that although there is no immediate impact, the region was approaching a cliff within the next 18 months and must work with agencies to find solutions before the issue becomes critical.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

5. Innovative Clean Transit Regional Assessment Study Update

There were no public comments on item 5.

Priscilla Freduah-Agyemang, Senior Regional Planner, stated that the state required transit agencies to transition to 100 percent zero-emission vehicles by 2040. She stated that SCAG conducted a regional assessment to evaluate readiness and identify challenges related to this transition. She indicated that readiness varied widely, with larger agencies advancing strategically while smaller agencies struggled and focused mainly on compliance. She stated that key barriers included uncertainty about technology options, limited infrastructure, workforce training needs, and inconsistent funding. She indicated that some required vehicles and technologies were not yet widely available and that operational challenges, such as infrastructure failures, also existed. She stated that the implementation action plan aimed to improve coordination, expand funding support, strengthen workforce readiness, and encourage shared solutions across agencies.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

6. Data Center Energy and Water Use

There were no public comments on item 6.

Eric Masanet, Professor and Mellichamp Chair of Sustainability Science for Emerging Technologies, UC Santa Barbara, and Faculty Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, stated that data centers consumed energy for both IT equipment and supporting infrastructure such as cooling and power systems. He indicated that energy demand from data centers was rapidly increasing due to the growth of artificial intelligence and that new facilities were significantly larger than previous generations. He stated that data center electricity use could reach between 7 and 12 percent of national demand in the future. He indicated that estimating energy use was difficult due to limited data transparency and reliance on modeling. He stated that major challenges include uncertainty in projections, grid strain during peak demand, and the use of on-site fossil fuel generation in some cases. He indicated that despite these challenges, the industry was innovating and improving efficiency while investing in renewable energy solutions. Lastly, he stated that stronger transparency, efficiency standards, and better siting decisions are necessary to manage impacts.

Nell Green, Senior Research Fellow, Wheeler Water Institute at UC Berkeley's Center for Law stated that data centers use water primarily for cooling and also indirectly through electricity production and supply chains. She stated that water use can range from tens of thousands to over 500,000 gallons per day depending on facility size. She indicated that water impacts vary significantly by location and were particularly concerning in regions already experiencing water stress. She stated that data center growth was increasingly occurring in rural areas with limited water infrastructure. She stated that a major issue was the lack of reliable data, as most reporting was voluntary and not site-specific. She indicated that existing regulations form a fragmented patchwork and do not adequately address data

center water use. She stated that improving transparency through mandatory reporting, strengthening local decision-making capacity, and encouraging efficient water use practices were necessary steps. She indicated that better coordination between state, local governments, and industry was essential to reduce water impacts and support sustainable development.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Denison stated that on May 7, the SCAG Regional Council voted to establish a special Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee to provide overarching policy leadership for development of the Connect SoCal 2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. He stated the Subcommittee will include two members from each of the three policy committees and may include up to three ex-officio members to provide additional policy perspectives. He provided an update on SB 1087 and stated SCAG had worked with the other large California metropolitan planning organizations and Senator Cabaldon on the bill. Lastly, he acknowledged new and outgoing members of the committee.

STAFF REPORT

Ivette Macias, Senior Government Affairs Officer, stated that The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) would conduct the 2026 SCAG federal certification review to evaluate the regional transportation planning process carried out by SCAG and its partners and members of the public may provide the FHWA and the FTA with written comments by email or regular mail.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Denison adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:18 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2026-2027

MEMBERS	Representing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC	0												0
Bishop, Art	Apple Valley, SBCTA	1												1
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, RC District 42	1												1
Cardenas-Singh, Martha	Imperial County	0												0
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, RC District 32	1												1
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG	1		D										1
Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1												1
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG	1												1
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, RC District 11	1												1
Garcia, Victoria	San Fernando, Pres. Apt	0												0
Hernandez, Carmen	Barstow, SBCTA	1		A										1
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1												1
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG	1												1
Johsz, Brian	Chino Hills, SBCTA	1												1
Leash, Steven	Cahuilla Band of Indians	0												0
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG	1		R										1
Lock Dawson, Patricia	Riverside, District 68	0												0
Lopez, Vianey	Ventura County	1												1
McMorrin, Yasmine-Imani	Culver City, WCCOG	1												1
Ramos, Daniel	Adelanto, SBCTA	1												1
Sanchez-Palacios, Jeanette	Ventura, VCOG	1		K										1
Saro, Suely	Long Beach, RC District 29	1												1
Senecal, Patty	Seal Beach, OCCOG	1												1
Stark, Jennifer	Claremont, SGVCOG	1												1
Taj, Ali	Artesia, Pres. Apt	1												1
Takahashi, Tamala	Burbank, SFVCOG	0												0
Traut, Connor	Buena Park, OCCOG	0												0
Virgen, Stephanie	Coachella, CVAG	0												0
Welty, Dale	Canyon Lake, WRCOG	1												1