



AGENDA ITEM 1

MINUTES

Southern California Association of Governments
September 3, 2026

NO. 683
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 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 its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Ray Marquez, President

Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 1st Vice President

Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, 2nd Vice President

Sup. Martha Cardenas-Singh

Sup. Don Wagner

Sup. Karen Spiegel

Sup. Curt Hagman

Hon. Michael Goodsell

Hon. Jan Harnik

Hon. Trish Kelley

Hon. Mike T. Judge

Hon. Gil Rebollar

Hon. Gary Gardner

Hon. Linda Krupa

Hon. Clint Lorimore

Hon. Frank Navarro

Hon. Helen Tran

Hon. Acquanetta Warren

Hon. John Dutrey

Hon. Rick Denison

Hon. John Gabbard

Hon. Wendy Bucknum

Hon. William Go

Chino Hills

Santa Paula

Riverside

Brawley

Desert Hot Springs

Hemet

Eastvale

Colton

San Bernardino

Fontana

Montclair

Yucca Valley

Dana Point

Mission Viejo

Irvine

District 10

District 47

District 68

Imperial County

Orange County

Riverside County

San Bernardino County

ICTC

RCTC

TCA

VCTC

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 6

District 7

District 8

District 9

District 11

District 12

District 13

District 14



Hon. Debbie Baker
Hon. Ryan Balius
Hon. Tanya Doby
Hon. Marty Simonoff
Hon. Frank Yokoyama
Hon. Jeff Wood
Hon. Mark E. Henderson
Hon. Suely Saro
Hon. Steven Ly
Hon. Shaunna Elias
Hon. Thomas Wong
Hon. Steve Tye
Hon. Jim Light
Hon. Chelsea Byers
Hon. Ardy Kassakhian
Hon. David J. Shapiro
Hon. Laura Hernandez
Hon. Rocky Rhodes
Hon. Steve Manos
Hon. Daniel Ramos
Hon. Steve Sanchez
Hon. Marsha McLean
Hon. Ulises Cabrera
Hon. Larry McCallon
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.
Mr. Paul Granillo

Members Not Present

Hon. Cindy Allen, Imm. Past President

Sup. Kathryn Barger
Sup. Hilda Solis
Sup. Vianey Lopez
Hon. Carlos Leon
Hon. Alan Wapner
Hon. Zak Schwank
Hon. Lauren Kleiman
Hon. Valerie Amezcua
Hon. Jon Dumitru
Hon. Fred Jung
Hon. Claudia Frometa

La Palma
Anaheim
Seal Beach
Brea
Cerritos
Lakewood
Gardena
Long Beach
Rosemead
Glendora
Monterey Park
Diamond Bar
Redondo Beach
West Hollywood
Glendale
Calabasas
Port Hueneme
Simi Valley
Lake Elsinore
Adelanto
La Quinta
Santa Clarita
Moreno Valley

Pechanga Dev. Corp.

Members Not Present

Long Beach

Temecula
Newport Beach
Santa Ana
Orange
Fullerton
Downey

District 18
District 19
District 20
District 22
District 23
District 24
District 28
District 29
District 32
District 33
District 34
District 37
District 40
District 41
District 42
District 44
District 45
District 46
District 63
District 65
District 66
District 67
District 69
Air District Representative
Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Business Representative

Members Not Present

District 30

Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County
Ventura County
OCTA
SBCTA
District 5
District 15
District 16
District 17
District 21
District 25



Hon. Emma Sharif	<i>Compton</i>	District 26
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Andrew Lara	<i>Pico Rivera</i>	District 31
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Mark Waronek	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
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. 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
Jonathan Holt, Interim Chief Information Officer
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Jonna Hart, Senior Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ray Marquez called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. and asked Regional Council Member Ryan Balius, Anaheim, District 19, 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. He also announced the following member would be participating under the Just Cause provisions under the Brown Act:

Remote Participation

Donald Wagner: A physical or family medical emergency

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged that 153 comments were received via email for Item No. 1 before the 5 p.m. deadline and had been posted to the website and transmitted to members. He also noted that three comments were received for the same item after the 5:00 p.m. deadline. He reported that there were no public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Rocky Rhodes, Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee (CEHD) Chair, reported that the CEHD Committee reviewed two informational items. The first was a presentation outlining the committee's outlook and upcoming agenda items. The committee then received presentations on two projects funded through the REAP 2.0 Housing Infill on Private Lands (HIPP) Program, which provided \$8 million to support infill development projects. He noted that Sergio Heredia-Melchor presented on the City of Culver City's Fox Hills Specific Plan, followed by Michael Dietz, SCAG Housing Planning Supervisor, who provided an overview of the City of San Fernando's Comprehensive Housing Element Implementation Program.

There were no comments on the CEHD Chair report.

Rick Denison, Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) Chair, reported the EEC considered one action item and three informational items. He noted that the committee approved the release of the Draft Transportation Conformity Analyses as part of the Draft Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment 2 for public review and comment. He also shared that the committee then received a presentation on its outlook and future agenda items for the upcoming fiscal year, followed by an introductory presentation on the current state and future potential of vehicle-to-grid technologies and their role in advancing energy grid resilience. He reported that the final presentation provided an overview of the SoCal Greenprint tool, which launched in early June. He stated members were informed that a Toolbox Tuesday session would be held on September 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to provide a more detailed demonstration of the tool, and that the session would be recorded for those unable to attend. He also welcomed new members Ed Chin of Temple City and Victoria Garcia of San Fernando, both of whom actively participated in the meeting. In addition, he noted that student interns introduced themselves and shared their objectives for attending, highlighting the committee's ongoing efforts to engage and support emerging professionals.

There were no comments on the EEC Chair report.

Mike T. Judge, Transportation Committee (TC) Chair, reported that the Transportation Committee took action to forward three items to the Regional Council for approval. The committee approved the release of the 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment No. 2 for public review and comment, supporting continued implementation of the region's Connect SoCal plan in collaboration with member agencies. He noted the committee also forwarded the SCAG Toll Credit and Transportation Development Credit (TDC) Policy for Regional Council approval and recommended approval and release of the Last Mile Freight Program Measure 2.2 Invest Clean Rebate Program announcement. In addition, he reported the committee received two informational presentations: an overview of the Transportation Committee's outlook and future agenda items, presented by Annie Nam and as previously discussed during SCAG's annual EAC retreat, and a presentation on the Road to LA28 Transportation Demand Management Strategy. He shared that the committee expressed its commitment to continuing efforts that support regional mobility goals and preparations for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There were no comments on the TC Chair report.

ACTION ITEM

1. SB 79 Approach and Methodology

Board Counsel Duran stated that as reported earlier SCAG had received multiple written public comments as well as requests for public testimony from individuals attending both in person and

virtually. He noted that to facilitate an orderly public comment process, staff would present, followed by public comment in person and then online. He also asked the online participants who wished to speak to raise their hands so they could be placed in the queue. Mr. Duran also stated that given the significant number of anticipated speakers that the President consider limiting public comments to one minute per speaker to ensure all interested parties had an opportunity to address the Regional Council.

President Marquez approved the request to limit public comment speakers to one minute.

Elizabeth Carvajal, Deputy Director of Land Use, presented the proposed Senate Bill 79 (SB 79) Approach and Methodology and recommended Regional Council approval of the approach and methodology that will guide development of the SCAG regional map of eligible transit-oriented development (TOD) stops and zones required under the statute. The presentation provided an overview of SB 79, enacted in October 2025 to streamline and increase housing development near eligible transit facilities, and outlined the respective roles of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), SCAG, and local jurisdictions. Staff described the legally constrained methodology used to identify eligible TOD stops, tiers, transit services, commuter rail frequencies, pedestrian access points, and associated buffer areas, including updates based on HCD guidance and clarifications received through June 2026. Staff also summarized stakeholder feedback and map corrections, including revisions to transit stop eligibility, pedestrian access point mapping, disclaimer language, update procedures, incorporation of projects with a locally preferred alternative, commuter rail station adjustments, and revisions affecting smaller cities. The presentation highlighted ongoing coordination with transit operators and local jurisdictions, the publication of the draft map and correction process, and plans for future map updates and stakeholder engagement.

Kathy Fee supports the subway project and hopes to benefit from the future Santa Monica/Fairfax station. However, she is concerned that West Hollywood's zoning decisions are moving too quickly and believes the city should be allowed time to complete its planning efforts before being included on the SB 79 map.

Thomas Alvarez, a UC Davis student and an intern with Abundant Housing LA, supported the staff recommendation with amendments made to the SB 79 methodology. He emphasized the connection between housing and transit access and urged SCAG to include all eligible transit stops, particularly Metrolink stations, to improve implementation and avoid potential lawsuits.

Jacob Pierce of Abundant Housing LA thanked SCAG staff for addressing concerns raised by housing advocates and HCD. He urged approval of the staff recommendation while clarifying that Metrolink station areas should qualify under SB 79 and ensuring missing transit lines and stations are added to the map.

Emsee Gary, a Hermosa Beach resident and environmentalist, expressed strong support for SB 79 and the creation of more housing near transit. She encouraged SCAG to adopt the recommendations and fully align the methodology with HCD guidance to avoid legal challenges.

Lorita Mendez, West Hollywood resident, argued that someone building a seven-story apartment development on her street would harm her home's value and negatively impact the neighborhood. She urged the board not to justify increased development based on a speculative future subway stop that may not be built for decades, asking them to protect existing homes.

Cathy Blavis of the City of West Hollywood criticized the methodology for not adequately considering community support and local planning efforts. She asked SCAG to delay including proposed K-Line Northern Extension stations until the city completes its Transit-Oriented Development Area Plan (TODAP) and project funding is secured.

Kyle Brazeal, a West Hollywood resident, argued that the K-Line Northern Extension does not yet meet SB 79 eligibility requirements because Metro's approval remains conditional. He urged SCAG to apply its methodology consistently and exclude the stations until key funding and approval requirements are fully satisfied.

Mike Holtzman, a resident of West Hollywood, stated that the K-Line Northern Extension should not qualify for SB 79 because the project depends on securing approximately \$2.25 billion in local funding. He argued that the project's future remains uncertain and that alternative alignments could ultimately be chosen if funding is not obtained.

Anita Goswami, resident of West Hollywood, questioned the recent methodology changes following HCD input and expressed skepticism about West Hollywood's ability to fund the required infrastructure financing district. She argued that it is premature to allow SB 79 development based on transit stations with uncertain funding and construction prospects and said the public has not been adequately informed about the impacts.

Sheila Rossi, South Pasadena Mayor, praised SCAG staff for their work under challenging circumstances but raised concerns about the process and shifting methodology. She recommended that SCAG seek formal written guidance from HCD early in future planning cycles to reduce confusion, inconsistency, and legal risk.

Philip Matthys, resident of West Hollywood, argued that the K-Line extension should not be considered a valid locally preferred alternative because its approval is contingent on financing that has not been secured. He also maintained that prematurely including the stations undermines local planning opportunities and imposes major zoning consequences before the project is certain.

Lauren Meister, West Hollywood Councilmember, praised SCAG as a data-driven planning agency but expressed concern about last-minute methodology changes prompted by HCD. She argued that the K-Line stations should not be mapped until the project becomes more certain, noting that the required financing district has not been established and the extension remains conditional.

Ali Shahidi, a West Hollywood resident, urged SCAG to remove the proposed K-Line Northern Extension stations from the transit stop map. He argued the stations do not meet HCD requirements because Metro's approval remains contingent on West Hollywood securing over \$2 billion in funding, and he also raised concerns about an alleged conflict-of-interest investigation involving Council Member Chelsea Byers.

Jacob Wasserman, a Santa Monica Planning Commissioner speaking for himself, supported strengthening the proposed corrections to the SB79 methodology. He argued SCAG should fully comply with HCD guidance, properly account for commuter rail and J Line stations, and avoid repeating methodology errors that had previously been flagged by housing advocates and HCD.

Jay Jacobson, a longtime West Hollywood resident, asked SCAG to remove the four proposed West Hollywood K-Line stations from the map. He said the stations remain legally ineligible because required local funding has not been secured and also called for Council Member Chelsea Byers to recuse herself until conflict-of-interest concerns are resolved.

A West Hollywood resident argued that including the proposed K-Line Northern Extension stations would be premature and inconsistent with HCD requirements because the locally preferred alternative has not been fully adopted. The speaker warned that inclusion could trigger SB 79 development before the city can complete a Transit-Oriented Development Area Plan (TODAP) and could lead to litigation.

Janet Hill criticized SB 79 as a poorly drafted bill that she believes benefits large developers at the expense of local control. She opposed mapping speculative, unfunded transit stations and urged SCAG to reject the new interpretation of the law and leave zoning authority with local jurisdictions.

Henry Fung argued that SCAG should follow state law and HCD guidance because state officials were democratically elected and enacted SB 79. He supported the staff recommendation, noting that the proposed maps are consistent with those used in other regions and emphasizing the importance of complying with state directives.

Carolyn Campbell, a West Hollywood resident, opposed including the proposed K-Line Northern Extension stations on the SB 79 map. She argued the project lacks committed funding and has not completed environmental review, and she urged SCAG to maintain its earlier position and keep West Hollywood off the map until outstanding concerns are resolved.

Mahdi Menji, from Inner City Law Center, thanked SCAG staff for their efforts to ensure compliance with SB 79 and supported adding the K-Line Northern Extension and other eligible transit projects to the map. He recommended removing the map disclaimer because of potential legal concerns and urged SCAG to add additional qualifying Metrolink stations, including those in Baldwin Park and El Monte.

Regional Council Member Marcia McLean, Santa Clarita, District 67, questioned whether including planned transit stops, such as the K-Line Extension, on the map could allow development to proceed even if the project is not yet built or ultimately never constructed. She expressed concern about the potential implications of mapping future stations on local development.

Ms. Carvajal explained that SCAG's role was limited to developing the map based on statutory requirements and HCD guidance. She stated that both operational and qualifying planned transit projects must be mapped and that implementation of SB 79, including development standards, alternative plans, and deferral options, was overseen by HCD and local jurisdictions.

Regional Council Member Gary Gardner, Desert Hot Springs, District 2, sought clarification regarding whether mapping a future station would automatically permit higher-density development.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, emphasized that SCAG's responsibility was to prepare the map as required by law. He noted that any resulting land-use decisions would still require local jurisdictional approvals and land-use processes.

Ms. Carvajal clarified that SB 79 establishes development standards that became effective July 1 and that jurisdictions may pursue alternative plans or defer implementation. She noted that HCD was responsible for implementation guidance.

Regional Council Member Thomas Wong, Monterey Park, District 34, thanked staff for their work on a complex and evolving process. He sought clarification that the action before the Council was approval of the methodology rather than the map itself and acknowledged that future map updates would reflect additional data rather than changes to the methodology. He also affirmed that SCAG was implementing state requirements and did not have discretion to set policy.

Ms. Carvajal confirmed that the methodology before the Council incorporates all corrections staff believes were warranted and serves as the technical basis for future map updates. She reiterated that SCAG's role was to create the map consistent with statute and HCD guidance, while land-use decisions remained local.

Regional Council Member Chelsea Byers, West Hollywood, District 41, expressed strong support for the K-Line Northern Extension and SB 79. She addressed public criticism regarding her participation

in the item, stating that neither she nor her employer had a financial interest in the matter and affirming her right and responsibility to vote on behalf of her region.

Regional Council Member Shaunna Elias, Glendora, District 33, thanked staff for their work and stated her support for approving the methodology. While noting her opposition to SB 79 as policy, she acknowledged it was state law and stated that the Council's role was to consider the methodology which she supported.

Regional Council Member Ardy Kassakhian, Glendale, District 42, raised concerns about SB 79 and the proposed methodology, arguing that recent HCD guidance expanded the scope of affected stations and that changes occurred after the public review period. He questioned the balance between responsibility and accountability, expressed concerns about impacts on local planning authority and affordability, and urged the Council to delay action until HCD guidance had been fully incorporated and jurisdictions could review revised maps.

Regional Council Member Jan Harnik, RCTC, stated that many residents appeared concerned about losing local control over development decisions. She sought clarification regarding whether cities would retain the ability to shape zoning and address community concerns under the SB 79 framework.

Ms. Carvajal reiterated that SCAG's responsibility was to identify eligible transit stops for mapping purposes and that questions regarding implementation, zoning, and local authority were best addressed by HCD.

Regional Council Member Tanya Doby, Los Alamitos, District 20, thanked staff and emphasized that SCAG was carrying out a state mandate. She noted that planners did not directly build projects but were responsible for planning based on requirements established by state law, encouraging clear communication with residents about the distinction between planning responsibilities and project implementation.

Regional Council Member John Dutrey, Montclair, District 9, made a motion to approve staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Regional Council Member Daniel Ramos, Adelanto, District 65.

Regional Council Member John Gabbard, Dana Point, District 12, asked what would occur if the Regional Council did not approve the methodology. He expressed concern that local jurisdictions face significant pressure from state housing requirements and noted concerns that loss of local control could lead to higher-density development in neighborhoods.

Executive Director Ajise replied indicating that they would not be following the law if they failed to approve the methodology.

Regional Council Member Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, District 63, argued that the Council had limited discretion because state law required adoption of the map and allowed the state to intervene if SCAG did not act. He expressed frustration with the process, characterizing it as largely procedural, and voiced opposition to planning higher-density development around future, unbuilt transit projects. He also noted concerns about potential state penalties and increased housing allocations if SCAG resists state directives.

Regional Council Member Jeff Wood, Lakewood, District 24, stated that previous comments had adequately expressed his concerns and did not offer additional remarks.

Regional Council Member Steve Tye, Diamond Bar, District, 37, echoed concerns about state mandates and characterized the process as driven by decisions made in Sacramento rather than local communities. He argued that local governments should push back against laws such as SB 79, citing concerns about loss of local control, infrastructure capacity, and housing mandates. He referenced previous debates over RHNA allocations and urged stronger opposition to state policies that affect local land-use decisions.

A MOTION was made (Dutrey) that the Regional Council approves the Senate Bill 79 Approach and Methodology. Motion was SECONDED (Ramos) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Baker, Balias, Bucknum, Byers, Cabrera, Crosswhite, Denison, Doby, Dutrey, Elias, Gardner, Gabbard, Go, Goodsell, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kelley, Krupa, Light, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, Manos, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Ramos, Rebollar, Rhodes, Saro, Shapiro, Spiegel, Tran, Wagner, Warren, Wong, Wood, and Yokoyama (39)

NOES: Kassakhian, Navarro, Simonoff, and Tye (4)

ABSTAIN: McLean (1)

2. FY26 FTA Olympic & Paralympic Formula Funding

Executive Director Ajise reported that staff was recommending the submittal of a split letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocating the full \$89.47 million federal apportionment for the Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim Urbanized Area to LA Metro in support of mobility, safety, accessibility, operations, and capital improvements related to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He noted that these funds represent the first round of funding of approximately \$2 billion in anticipated federal funding for the Games. He explained that as the designated recipient for the urbanized area, SCAG was required to submit the split letter identifying the use of the funds. He further clarified that this action does not include the separate 2026 apportionment of \$1.26 million

for the Mission Viejo–Lake Forest–Laguna Niguel Urbanized Area, which will be administered through OCTA. He reiterated that staff recommended allocating the funds to LA Metro for eligible projects and ensuring their timely and compliant use in accordance with FTA requirements.

There were no public comments on Item No. 2.

A MOTION was made (Lock Dawson) to approve staff's recommendation to submit a split letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocating the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim Urbanized Area FY 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Formula Funding Apportionment of \$89,466,188 to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Motion was SECONDED (McCallon) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Baker, Balias, Bucknum, Byers, Cabrera, Crosswhite, Denison, Doby, Dutrey, Elias, Gardner, Gabbard, Go, Goodsell, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kassakhian, Kelley, Krupa, Light, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, Manos, Masiel, McCallon, McLean, Navarro, Ramos, Rhodes, Sanchez, Saro, Shapiro, Simonoff, Spiegel, Tran, Tye, Warren, Wong, Wood, and Yokoyama (42)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Marquez noted that they would be pulling Item No. 6 (*Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-062-C01, SCAG Regional Safety Action Plan*) from the agenda and that staff would be bringing this item back in September for approval.

Regional Council Member Mike Goodsell, ICTC, stated that he had recommended opposition to SB 675 during a meeting of the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) and wanted the Regional Council to understand the basis for his position before taking action on the bill. Speaking on behalf of Imperial County, he argued that the measure would undermine directly elected local governance by expanding the governing board of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District to include appointed, unelected members. He asserted that the current board of elected officials provides accountability to county residents and has maintained compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act while advancing regional greenhouse gas reduction goals. Regional Council Member Goodsell contended that the region's air quality challenges were primarily attributable to cross-border emissions rather than regulatory shortcomings. He further stated that SB 675 was intended to address a local dispute involving the City of Imperial and a proposed data center project on county property and argued that the legislation would create additional administrative requirements and increased operational costs that could ultimately be borne by local taxpayers and businesses. While

acknowledging environmental concerns raised by City of Imperial residents, he maintained that statewide legislation was not an appropriate solution to a localized land-use issue and affirmed Imperial County's support for maintaining local oversight through a fully elected and accountable governing board.

Ruben Duran clarified that Member Goodsell's comments pertained to Item No. 12 on the Consent Calendar and wanted to ensure that the Regional Council was aware of the specific item under discussion. He also noted that a representative from Senator Padilla's office had requested to provide a public comment on the matter. At Mr. Duran's request, the President reopened the public comment period to allow the representative to address the Council regarding Item No. 12.

Guillermo Hernandez, District Representative for Senator Steve Padilla's Office, addressed the Council regarding SB 675 and thanked the members for the opportunity to provide the author's perspective for the official record before consideration of the recommended opposition position. He stated that Imperial County faces some of the most significant air quality challenges in Southern California, citing issues related to the Salton Sea, the New River, and cross-border pollution. Mr. Hernandez asserted that, despite ongoing efforts by local, regional, state, and federal partners, existing approaches have not produced the desired outcomes for affected communities. He emphasized that planning involves reassessing and improving governance structures when current approaches are no longer meeting present-day challenges and argued that maintaining the status quo is itself a policy choice. He explained that SB 675 seeks to evaluate whether air quality governance should evolve in response to these challenges and respectfully requested that the Council refrain from adopting the recommended opposition position on the bill.

Regional Council Member Jan Harnik, Vice Chair of the LCMC, noted that the committee had engaged in a robust discussion regarding SB 675 and that compelling points had been presented on both sides of the issue. Given the differing positions expressed, she recommended that the matter be referred back to the LCMC for a more comprehensive and in-depth review. Ms. Harnik stated that the committee had only briefly considered the issue previously and requested that a full discussion be scheduled for the next LCMC meeting before further action is taken.

President Marquez stated that Item No. 12 would be pulled and they would take two votes.

Regional Council Member Frank Navarro, Colton, District 6, made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. It was not clear if someone seconded the motion.

Board Counsel Duran asked Regional Council Member Navarro if that was except for Item No. 12, which had been pulled.

Regional Council Member Navarro stated that was correct.

Suely Saro stated that she agreed with LCMC Vice Chair Harnik on pulling agenda Item No. 12.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran clarified that the President had pulled Item No. 12 from consideration, leaving the remainder of the Consent Calendar before the Regional Council. With the President's permission, he requested the opportunity to make an announcement regarding Item No. 4 on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Duran also reminded members that this was their opportunity to ask staff questions about Consent Calendar items and determine whether any item should be pulled for further discussion.

Regional Council Member Larry McCallon, Air District Representative, asked why Senate Bill 675 was not simply removed from Item No. 12 so that the remaining legislative positions included in the item could be approved.

President Marquez stated that the Regional Council would proceed by approving the Consent Calendar with Item No. 12 removed and considered separately under a different vote. He apologized for any inconvenience. President Marquez then requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

Regional Council Member Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with the exception of Item No. 12. The motion was seconded by Regional Council Member Helen Tran, San Bernardino, District 7.

Board Counsel Duran reported that Item No. 4 on the Consent Calendar involved an update to SCAG's salary schedule and noted that, in accordance with the Brown Act, a summary of recommendations regarding salaries, salary schedules, or fringe benefits for agency executives were required to be reported prior to Board action. He explained that the update included the reclassification of the Chief Information Officer position from an L5 to an L4 position, resulting in a reduction to the salary range for that position. Mr. Duran further clarified that the action did not include any other changes to executive compensation or benefits and noted that the applicable salary range was detailed in the staff report.

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meeting – June 4, 2026
4. Adoption of FY 2026-27 Salary Schedule and Performance Criteria Scale
5. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-052-C01, SCAG Tax Increment Finance Program
6. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-062-C01, SCAG Regional Safety Action Plan (*this item was pulled and will come back in September for consideration*)

7. Release of Draft Transportation Conformity Analyses of Draft 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment 2
8. Draft 2027 FTIP and Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment 2 - Release for Public Review and Comment
9. SCAG Toll Credit/Transportation Development Credit (TC/TDC) Policy
10. Last Mile Freight Program (LMFP) Rebate Program Reopening and Application Selection Process
11. AB 2296 (Papan) – Support if Amended
12. Mid-Cycle Legislative Update Bills – Oppose (*this item was pulled for a separate vote, see below*)
13. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

14. July 2026 State and Federal Legislative Update
15. 2026-2027 Presidential Priorities
16. Purchase Orders, Contracts and Contract Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
17. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Bucknum) to approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 5, 7 through 11, and 13; and Receive and File Items 14 through 17. Motion was SECONDED (Tran) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Baker, Balias, Bucknum, Cabrera, Crosswhite, Denison, Doby, Dutrey, Elias, Gardner, Gabbard, Go, Goodsell, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kassakhian, Krupa, Light, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, Manos, Masiel, McCallon, McLean, Navarro, Ramos, Rhodes, Sanchez, Saro, Shapiro, Simonoff, Spiegel, Tran, Tye, Warren, Wong, Wood, and Yokoyama (40)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

Vote for Item No. 12 - Mid-Cycle Legislative Update Bills – Oppose

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, explained that Item No. 12 included several legislative bills and noted that the bill being pulled for discussion was SB 675, as referenced by Member McCallon. He recommended that the Board proceed with the staff recommendation for the remaining bills included in Item No. 12. Mr. Chidsey further indicated that there had been a recommendation to take SB 675 back for further consideration.

A MOTION was made (McCallon) to approve the other bills listed in the staff report for Item No. 12 and send SB 675 back to the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee for consideration. Motion was SECONDED (Gabbard) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Baker, Balias, Bucknum, Byers, Cabrera, Crosswhite, Denison, Doby, Dutrey, Elias, Gardner, Gabbard, Go, Goodsell, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kassakhian, Krupa, Light, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, Ly, Masiel, McCallon, McLean, Navarro, Ramos, Rhodes, Sanchez, Shapiro, Simonoff, Spiegel, Tran, Tye, Warren, Wong, and Wood (39)

NOES: Manos, Saro, and Yokoyama (3)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

BUSINESS REPORT

President Marquez was please to introduce their new Business Representative, Paul Granillo, for his first Regional Council meeting. He shared that Mr. Granillo was the Executive Director of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, a non-profit organization advocating for business and quality of life in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. He also noted that Mr. Granillo was a graduate of Cal State San Bernardino and has a Master of Divinity degree from St. John's Seminary and a degree in Canon Law from Catholic University of America.

Mr. Paul Granillo thanked the President for his appointment and expressed appreciation to staff for their assistance with his onboarding. He also acknowledged and thanked his predecessors, Randall Lewis and Lucy Dunn, for their service. Mr. Granillo stated his intention to continue presenting the business report previously led by Ms. Dunn beginning in September. Additionally, he noted that he serves as Chair of SCAG's Global Land Use and Economics Committee and invited Board members to share any topics or areas of focus they would like addressed in future reports. He expressed a commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of the committee's work and conveyed his pleasure in joining and working with the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Marquez provided a recap of the Executive/Administrative Committee's (EAC) annual retreat held in Lake Arrowhead, where members participated in productive discussions on key policy issues and priorities for the coming year. He stated that his Presidential priorities included advancing clean transportation technologies, preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, increasing housing production, and supporting infrastructure investments that drive housing and economic development. He also discussed the upcoming development cycle for the next Connect SoCal plan and the next Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation process, noting that subcommittees would be established to support both efforts. He noted that membership appointments to the Connect SoCal and RHNA subcommittees were announced and appreciation was expressed to participating members for their service and commitment to the region. He also reported that there would be no EAC, Policy Committees or Regional Council meetings in August, consistent with the annual summer recess, and that the next Regional Council meeting was scheduled for September 3, at 11:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, thanked the Regional Council for releasing the FTIP and Connect SoCal Amendment 2 for public review and noted that the public comment period was open from July 6 through August 4, encouraging members to help promote the review process and solicit public feedback. He also highlighted the successful completion of the inaugural Future Leaders Initiative, a six-month program designed to engage young adults ages 18 to 24 in the agency's work and long-range planning efforts. He noted that approximately 200 individuals applied, and 24 participants were selected for the first cohort and that the program provided an opportunity to involve young people in shaping the vision for the future they will inherit, and it received highly positive feedback. He expressed appreciation to those who helped promote the initiative and recruit participants, and indicated they intended to continue the program in the future.

Regional Council Member Daniel Ramos, Adelanto, District 65, expressed appreciation for SCAG's commitment to investing in future generations through initiatives such as the Future Leaders Initiative. He noted that while the planning process may begin with SCAG, its outcomes ultimately shape the region's future, and commended the agency for dedicating the time and resources necessary to engage and develop future leaders.

President Marquez asked if there would be future involvement of participants from the Future Leaders Initiative.

Executive Director Ajise stated that one member of the inaugural cohort would serve on the Connect SoCal Subcommittee. He indicated that this appointment reflects the agency's commitment to

continuing engagement with program participants and providing opportunities for young leaders to actively contribute to the regional planning process.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Regional Council Member Steve Sanchez, La Quinta, District 66, suggested exploring the possibility of holding traveling meetings throughout the SCAG region to increase member understanding of local issues and strengthen regional engagement. He noted that, while meetings are typically held in Los Angeles, SCAG represents six counties with diverse communities and needs that may be difficult to fully appreciate without direct exposure to those areas. He stated that rotating meetings among different counties could help foster shared ownership of regional policy making, improve local participation, and provide Council members with a greater understanding of the communities they represent. He requested that the concept be brought forward for future discussion by the Regional Council.

President Marquez reported that they did mobile workshops and that they have been talking about going to Needles within the next couple month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Council Rhodes encouraged members to prepare to celebrate the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary and announced that the Steel Across America from the Tunnel to Towers Foundation exhibit had recently opened at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. He noted that the exhibit would be available to the public through July 8 and described it as a moving tribute commemorating the events of September 11. He invited council members and the public to visit the exhibit and extended best wishes for a happy Fourth of July holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Marquez adjourned the meeting of the Regional Council at 1:31 p.m. and wished everyone a safe fourth of July.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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Regional Council Attendance Report																	
2026-2027																	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
MEMBERS	Representing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May				
Allen, Cindy	Long Beach, RC District 30	1	0														1
Amezcuca, Valerie	Santa Ana, RC District 16	0	0														0
Baker, Debbie	La Palma, RC District 18	1	1														2
Balius, Ryan	Anaheim, RC District 19	1	1														2
Barger, Kathryn	Los Angeles County	0	0														0
Bass, Karen	Los Angeles, (Member at Large)	0	0														0
Bishop, Austin	Palmdale, RC District 43	0	0														0
Blumenfield, Bob	Los Angeles, RC District 50	0	0														0
Bucknum, Wendy	Mission Viejo, RC District 13	0	1														1
Byers, Chelsea	West Hollywood, RC District 41	1	1														2
Cabrera, Ulises	Moreno Valley, RC District 69	0	1														1
Cardenas-Singh, Martha	Imperial County	0	1														1
Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1	1														2
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, RC District 11	1	1														2
Doby, Tanya	Los Alamitos, RC District 20	1	1														2
Dumitru, Jon	Orange, RC District 17	0	0														0
Dutrey, John	Montclair, RC District 9	0	1														1
Eich, Keith	La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36	0	0														0
Elias, Shaunna	Glendora, RC District 33	1	1														2
Finlay, Margaret E.	Duarte, RC District 35	1	0														1
Frometa, Claudia M.	Downey, RC District 25	0	0														0
Gardner, Gary	Desert Hot Springs, RC District 2	1	1														2
Gabbard, John	Dana Point, RC District 12	1	1														2
Go, William	Irvine, RC District 14	1	1														2
Goodsell, Mike	ICTC Representative	1	1														2
Granillo, Paul	Business Representative	0	1														1
Hagman, Curt	San Bernardino County	0	1														1
Harnik, Jan C.	RCTC Representative	1	1														2
Harris-Dawson, Marqueece	Los Angeles, RC District 55	0	0														0
Henderson, Mark E.	Gardena, RC District 28	1	1														2
Hernandez, Eunisses	Los Angeles, RC District 48	0	0														0
Hernandez, Laura	Port Hueneme, RC District 45	0	1														1
Hutt, Heather	Los Angeles, RC District 57	0	0														0
Judge, Mike T.	VCTC Representative	1	1														2
Jung, Fred	Fullerton, RC District 21	0	0														0
Jurado, Ysabel	Los Angeles, RC District 61	0	0														0
Kassakhian, Ardy	Glendale, RC District 42	1	1														2
Kelley, Trish	TCA Representative	1	1														2
Kleiman, Lauren	Newport Beach, RC District 15	0	0														0
Krupa, Linda	Hemet, RC District 3	1	1														2
Lara, Andrew	Pico Rivera, RC District 31	0	0														0
Lee, John	Los Angeles, RC District 59	0	0														0
Leon, Carlos A.	OCTA Representative	0	0														0
Light, Jim	Redondo Beach, RC District 40	1	1														2
Lock Dawson, Patricia	Riverside, RC District 68	0	1														1
Lopez, Vianey	Ventura County	1	0														1
Lorimore, Clint	Eastvale, RC District 4	1	1														2
Ly, Steven	Rosemead, RC District 32	1	1														2
Manos, Steve	Lake Elsinore, RC District 63	1	1														2
Marquez, Ray	Chino Hills, RC District 10	1	1														2
Masiel, Andrew	Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians Tribal Gov. Reg. Plng. Brd.	0	1														1
McCallon, Larry	Air District Representative	1	1														2
McLean, Marsha	Santa Clarita, RC District 67	1	1														2
McOsler, Tim	Los Angeles, RC District 62	0	0														0
Navarro, Frank J.	Colton, RC District 6	1	1														2
Nazarian, Adrin	Los Angeles, RC District 49	0	0														0
Padilla, Imelda	Los Angeles, RC District 53	0	0														0
Park, Traci	Los Angeles, RC District 58	0	0														0
Price, Curren D.	Los Angeles, RCDistrict 56	0	0														0
Raman, Nithya	Los Angeles, RC District 51	0	0														0
Ramos, Daniel	Adelanto, RC District 65	1	1														2
Rebollar, Gil	Brawley, RC District 1	0	1														1
Rhodes, Rocky	Simi Valley, RC District 46	1	1														2
Rodriguez, Monica	Los Angeles, RC District 54	0	0														0
Saleh, Ali	Bell, RC District 27	0	0														0
Sanchez, Steve	La Quinta, RC District 66	0	1														1
Sandoval, Tim	Pomona, RC District 38	1	0														1
Saro, Suely	Long Beach, RC District 29	0	1														1

Schwank, Zak	Temecula, RC District 5	0	0															0
Shapiro, David J.	Calabasas, RC District 44	1	1															2
Sharif, Emma	Compton, RC District 26	1	0															1
Simonoff, Marty	Brea, RC District 22	1	1															2
Solis, Hilda	Los Angeles County	0	0															0
Soto-Martinez, Hugo	Los Angeles, RC District 60	0	0															0
Spiegel, Karen	Riverside County	1	1															2
Tran, Helen	San Bernardino, RC District 7	0	1															1
Twining, Butch	Huntington Beach, RC District 64	0	0															0
Tye, Steve	Diamond Bar, RC District 37	1	1															2
Wagner, Donald P.	Orange County	1	1															2
Wapner, Alan	SBCTA/SBCOG	0	0															0
Waronek, Mark	Lomita, RC District 39	0	0															0
Warren, Acquanetta	Fontana, RC District 8	1	1															2
Wong, Thomas	Monterey Park, RC District 34	1	1															2
Wood, Jeff	Lakewood, RC District 24	1	1															2
Yaroslavsky, Katy	Los Angeles, RC District 52	0	0															0
Yokoyama, Frank A.	Cerritos, RC District 23	1	1															2
		41	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	