

Regional Housing

From: Henry Fung <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 11:05 PM
To: Regional Housing
Subject: RHNA comments

Hi Ma'Ayn,

My comment is primarily about public participation and outreach. It is commendable SCAG is posting all the information online; however the videos for the RHNA subcommittee should be posted as soon as possible after the event. I therefore reserve my comments regarding the discussion in the June 2019 RHNA subcommittee until it is posted.

SCAG has provided a lot of information in an easily accessible format for Connect SoCal (the RTP update process) for ordinary residents to understand, which I applaud. They should do the same about RHNA, with a "RHNA 101" presentation to provide information, explain subregional delegation, provide a process flowchart, and dispel common myths about the topic. Staff could do a webinar or workshop to help elected officials, community groups, planners, and the general public understand this process. It should be available on demand during the housing element preparation cycle.

One area where SCAG has failed with respect to Connect SoCal is scheduling of meetings. Connect SoCal meetings are geographically diverse but fail to take into account that Los Angeles County is 50% of the SCAG area population, and the City of Los Angeles 20% of the SCAG region population. Nor are they diverse in time, with all Los Angeles County meetings ending before 6 pm. For the RHNA process, SCAG should maximize its remote location availability, but at least one in person meeting should be held in Los Angeles on a Monday to Thursday evening after 6 pm. Information about subregional delegation should be clearly published by SCAG and public participation for those processes available in a central location, as individuals may wish to comment about multiple subregions where they work or their families may be in. SCAG should ensure that all subregions which take on delegation have a clearly delineated public comment process, with information tailored to the general public and elected officials, meetings schedule at times accessible to people not being paid to attend, and clear timeframes for input and responses.

With respect to the content of the May 2019 SCAG RHNA Subcommittee meeting, I object to the phasing of the existing housing unit demand as proposed by staff. Cities need to plan to reduce the cost burden now on households and allow for new household formation, not have this amount roll over for up to 25 years. Not all units will be built but the capacity must be zoned for this growth. If that means upzoning to R-2 densities from R-1, or streamlining construction to allow second and third units similar to the recently proposed SB 4, so be it.

I do share the City of Riverside's concern regarding student housing and student housing, as well as group homes, skilled living facilities, and similar environments for non-incarcerated individuals, should be considered in RHNA as ways to have populations closer to education and health care providers.

Sincerely,
Henry Fung