



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
**February 3, 2021**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). A VIDEO AND 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 meeting telephonically and electronically, given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Rex Richardson, President</b>	<i>Long Beach</i>	<b>District 29</b>
<b>Hon. Clint Lorimore, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<i>Eastvale</i>	<b>District 4</b>
<b>Hon. Jan Harnik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>		<b>RCTC</b>
<b>Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Imm. Past President</b>		<b>SBCTA</b>
Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair, CEHD	<i>Covina</i>	District 33
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, TC	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Chair, LCMC	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA
Hon. Margaret Finlay, President’s Appt.	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Kim Nguyen, President’s Appt.	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Deborah Robertson, President’s Appt.	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-officio	<i>Lewis Group of Companies</i>	Business Representative

**Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director  
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer  
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer  
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer  
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning  
Art Yoon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

**OUR MISSION**

*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

**OUR VISION**

*Southern California’s Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

**OUR CORE VALUES**

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*

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Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Peter Waggoner, Office of Regional Council Support  
Maggie Aguilar, Office of Regional Council Support

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

The Honorable Rex Richardson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked First Vice President Clint Lorimore, Eastvale, District 4, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Given the public health directives limiting gatherings due to COVID-19, President Richardson announced the meeting was being held telephonically and electronically in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Richardson opened the Public Comment Period.

He reminded the public to submit comments via email to [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov). Staff acknowledged there was one public comment received by email before the deadline and it was transmitted to the EAC members.

President Richardson recognized Holly Osborne as a member of the public and allowed her to verbally provide comments.

Holly Osborne, resident of Los Angeles County, commented that she recalled at the December meeting, President Richardson mentioned convening a closed session to discuss issues relating to an overall lower RHNA allocation for the SCAG region. She had observed the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) appeals earlier this day and indicated that many of the Committee members were sympathetic to the appeals but felt that their hands were tied. She expressed there would be fewer appeals if the allocation was more reasonable and asked that a closed session be convened as soon as possible.

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

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

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

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**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM****1. 2021 State & Federal Legislative Platform**

President Richardson called on staff to provide a report on Item 1.

Director of Policy and Public Affairs Art Yoon reported that this was a result of over six months of consultation and collaboration, both internally and externally with our partners, including all the transportation commissions, council of governments, community partners, and with members of the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC).

Legislation Manager Kevin Gilhooley provided a detailed report on the 2021 legislative platform and stated it was a values document that expressed positions on certain planning and policy matters that relate to SCAG's core function as a Metropolitan Planning Organization and as a Council of Governments. The legislative platform serves as an important tool for SCAG as it guides pending legislation that staff brings to the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC), provides direction for staff on official SCAG positions, and informs our legislative advocacy, letter writing campaigns, and our coalition building efforts with those external partners. He stated the legislative platform was adopted by the Regional Council in early 2020 but given the unprecedented times in which we found ourselves living, the platform was updated in July. He outlined the three new planks that were added: 1) racial justice, both in the state and the federal sections, 2) support for broadband expansion, and 3) support for increasing educational opportunities in the SCAG region. Staff used the amended platform as a baseline and attempted to make the platform more consistent with our recently adopted Connect SoCal plan. He indicated they relied upon the advice of members of the equity working group to ensure that justice and equity were interwoven throughout the document, and not confined to just one plank. Staff presented the draft platform to the LCMC at its November meeting and received positive feedback. He noted the final draft 2021 legislative platform was presented to the LCMC in December and the Committee unanimously voted to forward the document to the EAC and the Regional Council with a recommendation to support.

President Richardson applauded the work of the LCMC Committee, the thoughtful work of staff, and everyone who contributed to this. He expressed it was great to see the consideration of the factors from 2020 included in their legislative agenda as they knew this session was going to be laser focused on the recovery of Southern California and many of our cities.

LCMC Chair Jose Luis Solache, Lynwood, District 26, echoed President Richardson's sentiments with respect to the Committee's work. He indicated it was good dialogue and the unanimous vote was an example of how different discussions, point of views, and perspectives can be included to come up with a consensus that helps them not only acknowledge the many situations that we're living, but the different times that we're all experiencing. He acknowledged Second Vice President Jan Harnik's work as the Chair last year and the work that the committee did. He looked forward to

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working with Mr. Yoon and Mr. Gilhooley to implement the work that this Committee has put together. He expressed full support for the platform and indicated the work they were doing with the different electeds was critical and important to continue the dialogue.

Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, shared she had been on a Zoom call for almost six hours and expressed concern for the cities with respect to Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) appeals process. She stated their hands were tied and asked staff if there was anything, they could do legislatively with respect to RHNA.

Mr. Yoon indicated housing was absolutely a priority. He stated they had been discussing anything that was going to lead to more housing for more people and were focused on not just RHNA and the elements but making sure that all Californians have a place to live.

President Richardson commented that the legislative platform provides the flexibility and latitude to advocate for the revenue tools and incentives that they need to produce housing. He asked Executive Director Ajise if this was reflected within the document.

Executive Director Kome Ajise confirmed that the intent of the legislative platform was to provide staff enough latitude in the policy to make sure that the interest of the region is covered when it comes to affordable housing or housing production. He spoke about giving them the capacity to be able to carry a bill with an author that would fill the specific need that they are looking for. He indicated staff will be looking for opportunities to be able to address the issues that our regions are dealing with.

President Richardson acknowledged Councilmembers Solache to make the motion.

LCMC Chair Solache made the motion to approve the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform and was seconded by Mayor Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8.

LCMC Vice Chair Peggy Huang, TCA, thanked Chair Solache for leading them through the discussion. She asked if SCAG had ever authored a bill. She stated a lot of the legislation that they had been seeing over the years had been about housing production and expressed concern that it does nothing to help the cities meet their RHNA goal. She asked if they could look at the concerns that their jurisdictions were bringing to them. One of the things she never thought about until she read all the RHNA reports was sewage and water delivery and did not know how they could help the cities, especially when a lot of the RHNA appeals focused on these core services. She expressed concern over SB 35, which was brought up by one of the jurisdictions in their appeal. She asked if SCAG could carry a bill to better serve our members.

Executive Director Ajise commented they could draft something up, but the key was finding an author, and sometimes some of these bills were such that you can't find an author for them because they are too specific. He thought that the one issue she was raising had been on their docket for the last couple of cycles, which was being able to afford our cities that capacity to build infrastructure. He stated he saw an opportunity with Senator Limon being on the banking committee where they might actually be able to look to extend the tax credit aspects, not just the tax increment, to help the housing production process, such that on the municipal side we have more capacity to subsidize infrastructure that supports housing.

Mayor Robertson stated the only thing she wanted to add to the conversation, if they did author some legislation, was that she felt something was missing. She commented there were other elements, external elements that are essential to be able to deliver housing and provide the sustainability for housing. She suggested having a detailed discussion or commitment that not every local jurisdiction had control of its own water, sewage systems, and transit systems. She hoped that in our platform we can talk with someone and maybe our authoring of a bill would have support of the League, CALCOG, and others to carry the point that building homes without having the critical resources to sustain it, is not going to work.

President Richardson acknowledged this was reflected within this legislative platform but thought that it was important that the message reach our lobbyists and staff that we want to be proactive in this session and potentially sponsoring legislation and finding opportunities.

A MOTION was made (Solache) that the Regional Council approve the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform. Motion was SECONDED (Robertson). The motion passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Finlay, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Masiel, Nguyen, Pollock, Richardson, Robertson, Solache, Viegas-Walker, Wapner and Yokoyama (14)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Special Meeting – December 2, 2020
3. Resolution No. 21-628-2 Approving Amendment 3 to the FY 2020-21 Overall Work Program (OWP)



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4. Contract Amendment Increasing the Contract value over \$200,000: Contract No. 20-027-C01, Southern California Regional Housing Study, Amendment No. 2
  5. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 20-030-C01, Cloud Infrastructure
  6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 20-040-C01, Infrastructure Upgrade - Hardware and Software
  7. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-007-C01, East San Gabriel Valley Mobility Action Plan
  8. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-020-C01, SCAG Analytic Platform Development
  9. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contact No. 21-036-C01, Community Safety Ambassador Program
  10. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

11. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999
12. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Finlay) to approve Consent Calendar, Items 2 through 10; Receive and File Items 11 and 12. Motion was SECONDED (Marquez) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Finlay, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Masiel, Nguyen, Pollock, Richardson, Robertson, Solache, Viegas-Walker, Wapner and Yokoyama (14)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** Robertson abstained on the minutes.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

13. California Air Resources Board (CARB) Acceptance of Connect SoCal and Recommendations

President Richardson called on staff to provide a report on Item 13.

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Planning Director Sarah Jepson provided a presentation and announced that on October 30, 2020, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) accepted SCAG's determination that the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) met the applicable 2035 greenhouse gas emission reduction target. She reported CARB expressed concerns about SCAG's ability to implement the plan and issued several recommendations. She noted that staff will work to address the recommendations issued by CARB in the coming months through collaboration with local and state partners. Lastly, she indicated SCAG staff was currently working on a letter to CARB in response to some of their recommendations to clarify our role and authority as a planning agency and SCAG staff anticipates that further discussion with CARB will be necessary in order to ensure that SCAG continues to receive full credit for its strategies in the next 2024 plans.

Executive Director Kome Ajise expressed they wanted to make sure that SCAG's responsibilities as the MPO, under state law and SB 375, to produce the SCS are clearly defined. He thought that what they found in CARB's comments was the suggestion that because we met our target, may have meant that our target was not high enough, and that was a little bit of a concern. He commented there were several issues that they want to be able to respond to and wanted to bring that conversation back to the board so that they are informed. He noted they wanted to be able to work with CARB, to have them fully understand what our role is and what our constraints are. He stated they wanted to make sure that both the Policy Committees and the Regional Council have a role in framing our response back to CARB.

President Richardson thought it was great that staff was planning to engage CARB. There were two parts that he wanted to focus on 1) if there was a different understanding of what our responsibilities are within our plan, from a legal standpoint, that needed to be clarified and 2) if there were differences of opinion, that needed to be responded to publicly, otherwise these claims will be taken as fact, or taken as true that our Connect SoCal plan is somehow substandard as it relates to meeting air quality goals. For these reasons, it certainly made sense for us to take this seriously and engage. He further stated that there had been some changes at CARB with Leanne Randolph as the new Chair, and he was scheduling time to speak with Chair Randolph to personally meet her and to understand her point of view on this because there may be some different points of view now that some of the dynamics at CARB had changed.

Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, requested that the letter being prepared in response to CARB's recommendations be shared with all Committee members. Executive Director Ajise acknowledged the request.

Mayor Huang stated President Richardson was correct and thanked Executive Director Ajise for wanting to engage CARB. She stated that when she read CARB's response, it appeared they didn't seem to understand what SCAG is. She expressed concern that they did not understand that we

don't have any enforcement authority over our regional partners and their comment that we're not doing enough to press our partners. She thought that many of SCAG's key actions relied heavily on others to implement them and there were no existing commitments to do so. She hoped that in the letter SCAG clarified what an MPO means that we need our partners, and we don't have enforcement authority over them.

President Richardson appreciated Mayor Huang's comments. He stated not all MPO's were the same and obviously SANDAG has authority over transportation and we don't. He stated we represent multiple counties that have their own independent Transportation Authority and our role was more of a facilitator role - long range planning and facilitation.

### **CFO REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Cindy Giraldo reported that the Human Resources Division along with Finance worked on a joint project to transition SCAG's 457 plan administrator. She reported all employees were now able to access their new accounts on Empower. Along with that project, they had implemented some improved oversight and governance over the plan. She commented on the auditors completing our fiscal year financial audit and single audit, and the findings and reports would come to the audit committee in early February. She indicated there were no findings in either of the audits and was very happy with the results of both audits. Also, SCAG would be submitting the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for award from the Government Finance Officers Association. She reported membership dues were just under 72% and were right in line with where we have trended historically. She stated the Board approved Budget amendment three, which took a lot of work on staffs' part.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Richardson provided an update on his work plan themed "Recovering and Reimagining a Resilient Region." He outlined the three phases: listen, convene and catalyze. The convenings and collaborations resulted in the release of funding guidelines for 3 housing programs: 1) Sub-Regional Partnership Program; 2) Housing & Sustainable Development Call for Projects; and 3) Call for Collaboration. He expressed excitement over the call for collaboration, which will focus on creating new partnerships and establishing meaningful ways to engage with community-based organizations to advance equitable growth strategies.

He also noted the release of the Active Transportation and Safety Call for projects, partnering with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Committee to establish a new \$10 million matching-funding program for "last mile" transportation to help goods movement providers invest in clean truck and infrastructure technology. He also addressed the progress on broadband access conversations. He provided an update on the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice, the

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11<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern California Economic Summit, and the next steps for the final report on Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy.

President Richardson reported on the letters that were received related to calling a closed session. He commented that SCAG had received 31 letters to date which were posted on the website. He indicated this was enough to give him and staff direction to go ahead and begin the process for convening a closed session. He expressed concerns about securing a room for Zoom but indicated staff would work on the logistics.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Kome Ajise reviewed work in 2020 and expressed his thanks to members in the transition to work remote over the past year. He reviewed SCAG's legislative efforts and ongoing meetings with Congressional representatives from the SCAG region and new members of the State Legislature. He discussed RHNA Appeals Board hearings and provided details on public hearing notice, directing members to SCAG's website for more information. He elaborated on possible redistribution of RHNA allocations, based on the regional determination and depending on appeals granted. He provided next steps for final adoption of RHNA numbers to jurisdictions.

He reported there were several activities going on, including the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice led by President Richardson. He commented that in the call for projects there was specific focus on equity connection - on how we call projects to make sure that we address the low resource areas of our community, in terms of getting work done on behalf of the people of our region.

He highlighted the Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) Tool, which will help site opportunities and environmental constraints for aligning housing planning, and he shared information about a recent Toolbox Tuesday training session on the HELPR tool. He announced that SCAG is also offering complimentary ESRI software licenses to member agencies, with the intent of reducing the cost of planning work and advance implementation.

President Richardson wished Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker a Happy Birthday on behalf of all the EAC members.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S**

There were no future agenda items.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

There were no announcements.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the EAC at 4:10 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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**Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report**

2020-21																	
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	JUN (Sp. Mtg.)	JULY	AUG (Retreat)	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	Total Mtgs Attended To Date		
Hon. Rex Richardson, President	Long Beach	District 29	1	D A R K	D A R K	1	1	1	1	1					6		
Hon. Clint Lorimore, 1st Vice Chair	Eastvale	District 4	1			1	1	1	1								6
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, 2nd Vice Chair		RCTC	1			1	1	1	1								6
Hon. Alan Wapner, Imm. Past Chair		SBCTA									1						1
Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair, CEHD	Covina	District 33	1			1	0	1	1	1							5
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 23	1			1	1	1	1	1							6
Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	Moorpark	District 46	1			1	1	1	1	1							6
Hon. Deborah Roberston, Vice Chair, EEC	Rialto	District 8	1			0	1	0	0	1							3
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, TC	El Centro	District 1	1			1	1	1	1	1							6
Hon. José Luis Solache, Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26	1			1	1	1	1	1							6
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA	1			1	1	1	1	1							6
Hon. Margaret Finlay, President's Appt.	Duarte	District 35	1			1	1	1	1	1							6
Hon. Kim Nguyen, President's Appt.	Garden Grove	District 18	1			1	1	1	0	1							5
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	0			0	0	0	0	1							1
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-Officio Member	Lewis Group of Companies	Business Representative	1			1	1	1	1	1							6

Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2020-21 (Minutes of the Regular Meeting - January 6, 2021)