



Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
March 2, 2022

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

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 regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically), given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Clint Lorimore, President	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4
Hon. Jan Harnik, 1st Vice President		RCTC
Hon. Carmen Ramirez, 2nd Vice President		Ventura County
Hon. Rex Richardson, Imm. Past President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Sean Ashton, Chair, TC	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Art Brown, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Kathryn Barger, President’s Appt.		Los Angeles County
Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Chair, LCMC		SBCTA
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President’s Appt.	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Donald P. Wagner, President’s Appt.		Orange County
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair CEHD	<i>Covina</i>	District 33
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8

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
Carmen Fujimori, Human Resources Director
Javiera Cartagena, Director of Government and Public Affairs
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Michael Houston, Chief Counsel, Director of Legal Services
Jeffery Elder, Deputy Legal Counsel
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Clint Lorimore called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. President Lorimore asked Regional Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A), President Lorimore announced the meeting was being held both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda.

He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov. The Clerk acknowledged there no written public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Findings to Continue Holding Virtual Regional Council and Committee Meetings under AB 361

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

Board Counsel Ruben Duran reported that they were still in a declared state of emergency as ordered by the Governor and noted that AB 361 provides that every 30 days public agencies must make findings as set forth in the staff report in order to continue to be able to meet remotely.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet. A recording of the meeting, including the presentations, can be found on SCAG's website.

A MOTION was made (Ramirez) that the Executive Administration Committee (EAC): (1) make the following findings required by Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) on the basis of the staff report, which is incorporated by this reference, that (i) a proclaimed state of emergency remains active in connection with the COVID-19 public health crisis, (ii) the EAC has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and (iii) state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing in relation to the COVID-19 public health crisis and, further, (2) authorize all legislative bodies of the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG), including the EAC, RC and all committees and task forces established by the RC or SCAG's Bylaws, to utilize remote teleconference meetings pursuant to and in compliance with Brown Act provisions contained in Government Code Section 54953(e). Motion was SECONDED (Barger) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Richardson, Viegas-Walker, Wagner, and Yokoyama (13)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

2. REAP 2.0

The Clerk noted for the record that one public comment was received after the 5 p.m. deadline of Tuesday, February 1, from Heather Vaikona and Agustin Arreola Leon from Life to Rise regarding agenda Item Number 2.

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

Ian Gabriel from Life to Rise, stated that the roughly \$25 million REAP award that SCAG was requesting financing for would only be duplicative of efforts carried out by the region and instead urged SCAG to move towards implementation and simply use the \$25 million that was awarded under REAP 1.0 to move the projects and initiatives funded to implementation. He noted that many of the groups that were funded out of REAP were doing the community outreach and engagement already, with a clear plan on how to move forward. He stated that the eight staffers to be hired under this program takes needed funding away from jurisdictions and nonprofits that will carry the needed work of implementation. He indicated that jurisdictions across Southern California were struggling to fill existing staffing shortages, and this move would make it harder for these jurisdictions to fill these positions. He recommended that SCAG first look to the work that was already being done across jurisdictions and find ways to minimize the number of positions held at SCAG.

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

Sarah Jepson, Planning Director, provided an overview of the REAP 2.0 Application for advance funding process. She reported they were asking that the EAC recommend to the Regional Council authorization for SCAG to apply for advanced funding of up to 10% of the total funding to be allocated to SCAG under their REAP grant program for 2021 and to authorize the hiring of limited term staff to support program development activities, and early implementation activities, if they are allowed by HCD. She noted that they had anxiously been awaiting the release of the advanced application so that they can begin the work of developing a comprehensive funding program to support local plans and programs that will both accelerate housing production and provide transportation options that reduce vehicle miles traveled. She emphasized that these resources were intended for program development and the outreach work associated with that and noted they had an opportunity to apply for the full application. She provided a brief presentation on the background of this funding program, the draft program development framework that they had shared with the three policy committees back in October for feedback, and an overview of some of the activities that they would anticipate including in the early application to flesh out the fuller details of the draft program framework and support the development of the full application, which would be due by the end of the calendar year.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet. A recording of the meeting, including the presentations, can be found on SCAG's website.

Regional Councilmember Alan Wapner, SBCTA, stated he supported the application for the REAP funds but was having an extremely hard time supporting the staffing of 10 new staff positions before they know what the distribution formula is going to be to the Council of Governments (COG)

throughout the region. He expressed that he thought it was really important that they figure out what they were going to get at the local level before they start appropriating money, pretty much establishing a whole new department.

Darrin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officers, stated that the staffing they were requesting now was to develop the program and as they could see from the amount of the grant of almost \$215 million over several years, this early application of \$25 million was a whole new portion of work. He stated they still did not have the full guidelines from the state but the new individuals that they were looking to hire, just under \$2 million, would help them develop the program, to understand what the state requirements will be, and to better articulate the three different areas Ms. Jepson had described. He stated there was a desire, as they had done with REAP 1, to make sure that these resources got out to the member jurisdictions, County Transportation Commissions (CTC), and the COG's. He noted that without them taking the time and having the resources to fully develop the program to get a full application into the state, they wouldn't be able to do that. He stated the staffing was critical in order to expedite those resources out to the region as soon as possible.

Regional Councilmember Wapner stated that in reading the backup it said 10 positions initially, which meant they were planning on doing more with that. He indicated he was not sure what limited time meant and asked if it meant they hire them subject to the grant funds. He asked wouldn't they usually use consultants to do the application and do the initial work on it.

Mr. Chidsey acknowledged the questions and stated yes with respect to the staffing request. He noted that as they developed the program, they might come back with more requests, but they did not know this right now and could not answer that yet. He noted that with the previous REAP program, which was a much smaller dollar amount, they were able to manage that program with about the same number of individuals but noted this was four times as many. He clarified these were all direct positions for program development activities that will happen. In terms of hiring consultants, he stated they saw this as integrated to the work that they were doing now in building on that, including the regional partnership portion of it. He stated that they thought it was best suited as staff. He indicated that if they hired consultants, they still needed staff to manage those consultants to oversee those projects. He explained that without having those internal resources available, they just did not see how they could deliver this program under the timelines that are currently given under state law.

Regional Councilmember Wapner stated that they were proposing 10 positions initially, which meant they were planning on adding more and asked if they were planning on adding more after the grant was awarded or prior to the award being granted.

Mr. Chidsey stated that at this point they were not planning on adding more, but wanted to be transparent, that as they developed the full application, that certainly was a possibility that they

would need additional staff. Again, he noted this was early development that covers about \$2 million for staffing, the vast majority of which would be going to other places besides staffing. He noted that the total grant award was nearly \$250 million, and the goal was to get that out to the region. He stated they could not answer whether there would be a need for other staffing until they got the full program development guidelines.

Regional Councilmember Wapner asked if they had even started discussions and given thought to if they get the initial grant or the full grant can it be distributed to the subregions.

Executive Director Kome Ajise reemphasized that they were still waiting for the actual guidelines. He stated they were also having conversations at the state level, to make sure that they influence how those guidelines are shaped so that it serves the needs that they want to further on the ground here. He indicated that once they see program guidelines, they will develop the right programs and anticipate that the resources that they pass through to sub regions, cities, and CTC's will then be shaped by what those program guidelines say. He stated they could not be in a position to apply for a full grant if they did not have the capacity yet. He explained that SCAG was fully funded to do transportation planning and so all staff they have on board were here to do that work. He indicated this was a lot of money that was being put into the region and SCAG did not have the capacity to just shift staff. He stated that a lot of this money would also go to consultants because there were just not enough people to spend \$250 million in three years. He informed the EAC that they also had to obligate all the funds, which meant they had to attach projects and intended charges to the funds by 2024 and had to expend the funds by 2026. He stated that temporary staffing was really intended for this.

Second Vice President Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, stated that she was sensing that the concern that Regional Councilmember Wapner was raising was that perhaps there might be an inequitable distribution of resources, and if this was accurate, asked what they could include in this resolution or what assurances could be put in.

Ms. Jepson pointed out that the state requires, in developing this program, that they do significant outreach across the region as they are developing the program. She stated they were really not in a place to be able to say exactly how the funds will be allocated until they do that outreach and engagement. She explained that this was the reason why they set up this program where the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) can apply for an initial 10% before they develop the full allocation of how the resources are going to be distributed. She stated they anticipated engaging further both with the board and stakeholders to figure out exactly how these resources should be allocated throughout the region. She clarified that the three main program areas they were looking were:

1. the expansion of existing programs, which were things like the Sustainable Communities Program, where there was an opportunity for all the 191 cities and six counties to partner

- with SCAG on those resources. She stated that they usually put a consultant in place that supports that work, and SCAG awards the resources to the cities based on the kind of the needs and the goals of the program area;
2. CTC partnership program, where they would be working with the CTC's to sub allocate resources directly to the counties because counties are the main implementers of our SCS. She stated they would work through a guideline development process with the board to determine how those resources should be allocated within each of the counties and the set of projects that really would qualify in order to be best aligned with the goals of our plan and with the guidelines; and
 3. to develop a set of funding guidelines for the housing supportive infrastructure program. She stated they would be looking at how to get those resources to the areas where there is the highest need and where it complements existing activities that are already ongoing. She noted that the board would be involved with them in engaging in those guidelines for the housing supportive infrastructure program.

Ms. Jepson further stated there could be more conversations to make sure that the resources are directed appropriately. She indicated that this was the initial stage of them figuring out and giving them the resources so they can start the outreach with the communities, with the board, with other stakeholders, and to figure out how to design the programs that best meet the outcomes that they are expected to achieve. She stated that this provided a little bit more clarity in terms of what they were thinking for how the resources might be allocated.

Second Vice President Ramirez stated in her experience there could be a grant available and the response from a city or county was that they did not have the capacity to apply for the grant and implement it. She asked Ms. Jepson if she had ever heard this. She stated they did not want to leave anybody out because they had staffing or capacity issues. She noted this would be a concern and asked if SCAG could handle this.

Ms. Jepson stated that they had heard this concern and had talked a lot with the sub regional COG's and the roles that they might be able to play in helping make sure that the resources can get to the cities where there was not as much capacity. She indicated that they were trying to figure out how to design the program in a way that will provide that capacity building so that those with the highest needs are able to fully participate in the program.

Regional Councilmember Wapner made the motion to support the first item on the resolution to authorize the application for advanced funding and on the second portion dealing with staffing come back to them after they start looking at some type of distribution for the subregions. The motion was seconded by First Vice President Jan Harnik, RCTC.

Second Vice President Ramirez asked staff if what Regional Councilmember Wapner was suggesting would cause a complication. She also asked what the timing would be to come back.

Executive Director Ajise stated that the reason they were bringing this to them was because of lessons learned from REAP, where there was a delay in getting things going. He indicated that they were hoping to be ahead of that curve. He clarified that what they were asking for was authorization to hire but would not be hiring until they knew they had the grant. He stated this was so that they could do all the prep work to get to that point. He noted that this would delay it and how they distribute the funds will still not happen until they have staffing in place to do the work that they are supposed to do ahead of time, like the outreach. He emphasized they were looking for staffing to help them develop the program because they did not have the capacity on staff to do that right now. He stated that if they delay the time they bring the staff on, that's how much more they were going to delay implementation. He expressed concern about the short fees they had on the entire state program.

Immediate Past President Rex Richardson, Long Beach, District 29, stated he would have loved to see more money go out to the community or go out to programs, but these were the requirements that had been placed on them. He stated he understood the concerns about completely not knowing what they were going to be spending the money on. He noted these were fair questions but stated he would have concerns about not putting their own apparatus in place to be able to have clear eyes and work through some of this. He stated he would be hesitant to move forward with a program of this magnitude, without doing what staff suggests in terms of putting people in place to be able to manage the program. He asked Regional Councilmember Wapner is there was some way of letting staff move forward to lay the groundwork for what they need to do with staff but require them to come back at some periodic time and update the EAC on the issues related to the disbursement and the plan. He asked if this would help satisfy some of the concerns he had as he wanted to fully acknowledge and respect the concerns he had raised. He wondered if there was a way to just require some additional eyes on the EAC with the spending plan without delaying their ability to set up this temporary staff that is needed to really run a thorough program. He stated there was a lot of discussion about these funds and thought it was fair to say move forward with the staff but as you get the staff you want some elevated level of transparency and want to be able to look at the plan on a periodic level at the EAC level. He asked Regional Councilmember Wapner if they did this if it would satisfy some of the concerns he had.

Regional Councilmember Wapner expressed appreciation for what Immediate Past President Richardson stated. He asked staff what other options they could make available to the EAC other than hiring 10 new people. He asked if there were any other options available, whether it's hiring a consultant or maybe using some of the sub region staff, something else instead of committing funding to staff (the recording as not clear).

Immediate Past President Rex Richardson asked Executive Director Ajise if there was a way that they can come back on a periodic basis and provide the level of clarity that folks want while still moving forward with the staff and what additional measures could they put in place.

Mr. Ajise indicated they tried to ensure some transparency. He stated that what they were asking for was about 1% of the program annually, to stand up the program itself that will then yield the resources going to other jurisdictions under the programs that they hope will be adopted by the state. He noted the intent of this 10% that the state had given them was to give them advance funding to stand up a program. He stated that if there was an alternative they would taken it, but frankly, this was not the first option, for them to bring staff on and then have to let them go at the end because this was temporary staffing. He noted they really couldn't bring in consultants without additional capacity to manage the consultants and that's part of what the staffing is on. He further noted that they were going to have resources going out to the jurisdictions, because that's where the work is going to get done for the most part. He indicated SCAG had to be responsible as the entity that was collecting the funds on behalf of the state and had to have a structure in place that was going to be audit proof, because they knew there would be an audit at the end and wanted to make sure they were standing up the program right.

Regional Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, stated she had four points to make: 1) that this was very time sensitive, and they had a very short window of opportunity to get these funds expended wisely, and they needed to get a team assembled; 2) that staff does not have the capacity; 3) that the proof was in their CFO report which was telling them that they currently had 14 vacant positions in their planning and program staffing needs; and 4) that they needed to get moving on this staffing as soon as possible because they knew it was difficult to find qualified, competent staff to hire. She expressed that they really needed to move forward with staff's recommendation, with the additional information to be made available as they are moving this forward.

Regional Councilmember Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County, stated she was leaning toward what Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker was saying. She expressed concern for the timeframe and the turnaround being tight. She stated that as compliment if they could have report back in terms of where it stands, and not just get blanket approval, but have more dialogue in terms of where they are because she thought that they did not have a lot of time to lose. She indicated she wanted to better understand the term limited term staffing. She reiterated that she agreed with Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker on moving forward with the staff recommendation with the understanding that staff come back and give them [the EAC] full reports.

Mr. Chidsey clarified that limited term staffing was regular staff, however they were under a contract period that is tied directly to the grant funds and so there's no long-term relationship that is established with the organization. He further clarified it was tied to the funding so they got the

full benefits as staff, but they were on a contract that was tied to their grant period which they would be working on.

Regional Councilmember Barger asked why this was better than going with a consulting firm where you get a consultant that has all the infrastructure built around them.

Mr. Chidsey noted that this program, given the size of it, was going to need a lot of consulting help but they needed staffing to help manage the consultants to ensure their tasks are in order, to develop scopes, and working with our sub regional partners, will be part of those responsibilities. He stated it was not an either or, it was an everything approach in order to get these resources out into the region as fast as possible under the timelines.

Regional Councilmember Wapner stated that as far as managing consultants, they didn't need 10 people to manage a consultant team and if they did have 14 open positions, wasn't it better to fill those position first before they start authorizing more positions. He stated he would much rather improve the actual infrastructure of the organization than create a new department.

Executive Director Ajise stated that the 14 positions were already assigned roles and those resources could not be used for this program because they came from a different funding source and a different program. He indicated that these were their main line positions that they already had in place and were permanent and so they couldn't really use these to stand up another program. He noted this was a whole new program and thought they would be having to come back for a budget amendment on the resources. He stated that they felt that they needed to be able to do this ahead of time otherwise they would be behind. He noted that this was really the point of the ask.

Ms. Jepson noted that they had some real lessons learned from their REAP 1 program which was \$15 million that they received from HCD and similarly, were required to allocate and expend those resources in a very short period of time. She stated that at that point they tried to manage this with their existing staff, and they quickly found that this was a whole new body of work with an expertise that they didn't necessarily have within the agency. She indicated that they did long range transportation planning, and now they were being asked to support direct implementation, a lot of which were housing resources, and that certainly was not an area where they had a lot of capacity in the past. She stated that they really felt like they got behind in the delivery of the REAP 1 program, which was \$50 million, and this new program was \$250 million, so they were really trying to be more proactive this time. She noted that another thing that they had been thinking about was that this was the kickoff of their Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy update, and so they were being asked to update their plan during a very challenging time with a lot of new issues at the same time as they were trying to roll out this new \$250 million grant program, which was far and beyond the size of any program that they had ever delivered. She expressed that

they were really just trying to get a little bit ahead and be prepared, because they knew that the existing staff can't do the work that they need to do on their core work, while also managing \$250 million, either pass through dollars or grants to local jurisdictions. She stated it was just far too much to handle and just wanted to make sure they were developing the program based off their REAP 1 experience.

First Vice President Harnik stated that after listening to all this she was withdrawing her second and offered a substitute motion that supports the recommendation as presented but adds the language they heard from both Immediate Past President Richardson and Regional Councilmember Barger, that they [the EAC] be kept fully informed and apprised along the way so that they have the comfort level that they all need and for very good reasons. Second Vice President Ramirez seconded the substitute motion.

Regional Councilmember Huang, TCA, stated that what Ms. Jepson had stated was her feeling about the structure of the agency, which was that they were very transportation heavy, but they had always been tasked with dealing with housing. She indicated that the housing side of their structure had never been fully looked at and thought this was a great opportunity for them to really look at, their personnel and agency as a whole. She noted that they were being asked to do a lot to the region and if they were having to be the ones handling these programs at the massive scales, she thought they really need to look wholesale as to where they were heavier and where they were shorthanded. She stated that she fully supported the substitute motion. She suggested a check in session at the next EAC meeting.

Regional Councilmember Wapner called for a point of order. He stated that he heard the second to his motion had been removed and asked if there was a second second or if his motion was dead.

Mr. Michael Houston, Director of Legal Services/Chief Counsel, stated that he believed that by withdrawing the second of First Vice President Harnik there was no main motion on the floor. He noted that First Vice President Harnik had made a motion that had been seconded by Second Vice President Ramirez which would now be the only motion on the floor without a second on Regional Councilmember Wapner's previous motion.

Board Counsel Duran clarified that the motion on the floor was to approve the staff's recommendation with the additional requirements that staff report back to the EAC periodically as the funds are expended and the program stood up.

A MOTION was made (Harnik) that the Regional Council approve: 1) Resolution No. 22-640-1 and authorize SCAG to apply for advance funding of 10%, or up to \$24,602,408, the maximum eligible early funding allowed under the REAP 2021 Program; 2) Authorize SCAG to use available fund balances to commence the REAP 2021 allowable pre-award activities, including hiring required

program limited-term staff, in advance of formal budget amendment; and 3) direct staff to periodically apprise the EAC of the REAP 2 program progress, including how funds are to be allocated across the region. Motion was SECONDED (Ramirez) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Richardson, Viegas-Walker, Wagner, and Wapner, Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting – January 5, 2022
4. Proposed Amendments to Regional Council Policy Manual Relating to Lodging Reimbursements
5. Resolution No. 22-640-2 Authorizing Acceptance of One-Time Funds from the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Vehicle Technologies Office to Support Testing and Evaluation of Curb Management and Integrated Strategies to Catalyze Market Adoption of Electric Vehicles
6. Resolution No. 22-640-3 Authorizing Acceptance of One-Time Funds from University of California, Irvine (UCI) on Behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE) in the Amount of \$30,000 to provide outreach support on the AI-Based Mobility Monitoring System and Analytics Demonstration Pilot
7. Contract Amendment Greater Than 30% of the Contract’s Original Value: Contract No. 22-018-C01, Legal Services
8. Legislative Platform Mid-Cycle Update
9. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

10. Connect SoCal 2024 Preliminary Regional and County Growth Projections

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 (Brown) to approve Consent Calendar, Items 3 through 9; Receive and File Item 10 through 12. Motion was SECONDED (Pollock) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Richardson, Viegas-Walker, Wagner and Yokoyama (13)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEM

13. Update on 2022 RC/EAC/Committee Meeting Options

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

Mr. Houston provided an update on staffs intended plan to implement a hybrid format, meaning remote and in person participation options, for the Regional Council, the EAC and Policy Committee meetings in March. He noted that staff had been reviewing both the timing of implementing in person meeting opportunities for those desiring to do so in a safe manner, as well as looking for more significant meetings structural options, such as, for example, combining meetings into one day, or separating policy committee meetings from the Regional Council day to enhance member involvement and experience as well for the public. He reported that staff felt a two-phase approach made sense. He explained Phase 1 would start in March and provide for in person meeting options for the Regional Council, the EAC and the Policy Committee meetings, with EAC meeting the day before the Regional Council and Policy Committee meetings through July. He noted that during this time, staff would also continue to analyze other structural possibilities, such as having policy committee meetings being held on a different day and conducting member outreach on this and other issues. He further reported that staff would return to the EAC with recommendations on

these additional structural changes as well as do a review of how the hybrid meeting structure has worked for the Policy Committees and the Regional Council meetings. He stated that Phase 2 would follow in July, essentially August and beyond to implement these further structural considerations, with a reevaluation of the hybrid structure. He emphasized it was critical to get input from those who plan to attend these meetings in person and reported that the clerk would be soliciting attendance in the near future. He reported that public participation during this time would continue to be made only remotely as is permitted by the Brown Act and the findings being made on a monthly basis. He also clarified that other bodies of SCAG such as LCMC and the Audit Committee would continue to meet remotely during this Phase 1 process. He noted that the President and staff would retain some authority to be flexible in responding to public health and safety considerations as they evolve should facts or circumstances warrant a modification and change of course, or consideration of how to implement health and safety measures to adequately ensure both the health and safety of the membership as well as the employees who are present.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet. A recording of the meeting, including the presentations, can be found on SCAG's website.

Regional Councilmember Wapner asked if they were still going to have AB 361 findings to offer the opportunity for members to come in person rather than posting their locations.

Mr. Houston stated they would continue with the findings as they had been doing for hybrid meetings.

Second Vice President Ramirez asked about capacity and what the limit would be for people to come in, in terms of numbers.

Mr. Houston stated they were continuing to assess this issue to some degree with six-foot distancing and noted that the attachment in the staff report provided some information. He emphasized it was important for members who were interested to be in person to respond with their interest so staff can try to accommodate with distancing guidelines in place.

Mr. Chidsey reported that staff planned to do some surveying starting next week and would be better equipped to answer that as it's moving forward. He stated that staff did not anticipate being in a position where they would be at a capacity level just given the interest from members over the last several months when they were asked, but this was something that would be monitored moving forward.

Mr. Houston stated that if part of the interest was knowing how many folks were going to be showing up, then staff could periodically provide an update.

President Lorimore expressed that it was important that they get together to meet in person to be able to see reactions as it was helpful when making decisions. He stated he was excited about March coming up and the opportunity to meet in person.

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer reported significant work continued toward the preparation of the fiscal year 2023 budget and overall work program. She noted SCAG met with Caltrans for the annual overall work program development and coordination meeting. She noted that Ms. Jepson did an outstanding job presenting the proposed work program, the accomplishments, and the progress that SCAG made on some of the major projects. She indicated that Caltrans was supportive of the work presented and that staff was on schedule to bring the proposed budget and overall work program for approval next month. She also reported that the financial charts in the monthly CFO report would be brought quarterly instead of monthly, but there would still be a monthly report. Lastly, she reported SCAG membership was now 100% collected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lorimore reported that the next EAC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Ajise thanked the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction (MSRC) Review Committee and members Larry McCallon, Jed Leano, Mark Henderson, Ben Benoit, and Ray Marquez for their leadership on the Last Mile Freight Program. He also reported on the housing element compliance situation in the SCAG region and noted that of the 197 jurisdictions in the SCAG region, only two had adopted a compliant housing element. He indicated there was concern about new legislation, AB 1398, that requires cities to have an adopted compliant housing element by February 11, 2022, and if they don't have it, then they are forced to rezone by October 15, 2022. He stated that this law basically accelerated the rezoning requirement. He indicated that if they were not complying with this, then it puts a city in a cycle where they are shut out of some very lucrative grant opportunities at the state level. He stated that SCAG continues to push in Sacramento for a hearing on this.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Lorimore adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 4:17 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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