



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
May 5, 2021

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 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 special 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>
Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair, CEHD		
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, TC	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Art Brown, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
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. Carmen Ramirez, President’s Appt.		Ventura County
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-officio	<i>Lewis Group of Companies</i>	Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Kim Nguyen, President’s Appt.	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
<b>Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Imm. Past President</b>		<b>SBCTA</b>

**Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director



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Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer  
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer  
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning  
Art Yoon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs  
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Michael Houston, Chief Counsel, Director of Legal Services  
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 3:02 p.m. and asked Randall Lewis, Lewis Group of Companies, Business Representative, 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 and outlined instructions for public comments.

SCAG staff reported there were four public comments received by email before the deadline of 5pm on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, which had been posted to SCAG’s website and transmitted to the members. Additionally, staff stated there was one public comment received by email after the deadline of 5pm on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, which would be posted to SCAG’s website and transmitted to members after the meeting.

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

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Proposed Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Apportionments

Executive Director Kome Ajise indicated he met with the Chief Executive Officers of each of the County Transportation Commissions and was pleased to report that they were able to reach a consensus to move forward with the staff recommendation. He stated that as the designated recipient for these stimulus funds, SCAG's primary role was to ensure consistency with the statute, as well as fair and equitable sub-allocation of these funds to each of the eligible counties in the multi-county urbanized areas (UZA) such as the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim UZA. He expressed that for the purposes of sub-allocating to each of the eligible counties within a given UZA, staff recommendation for both CRRSAA and ARPA allocations was to use the statutorily established caps of 75% and 132%, respectively, of the transit operator's costs reported in the National Transit Database (NTD) for each of the counties in the multi-county UZAs. He continued by saying that staff's recommendation will result in each of the counties in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim UZA to receive exactly 132% of their reported transit operator's costs when all three rounds of stimulus funds are added.

President Richardson expressed he was glad they took action last month administratively and for allowing people to get back to the table and talk. He thanked staff for the good work at the meeting.

Regional Councilmember Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, expressed support for staff's recommendation and asked staff to clarify for the record why Imperial and Ventura counties were not included.

Executive Director Ajise stated that for the purpose of these federal transit funds there were organized zones that were grouped together, and by this organized zone it was just the four counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles. He continued by stating there were other UZA's within the SCAG region and Ventura that had its own UZA solely within the county. He stated those funds also amounted to 132% but did not come through SCAG for sub allocation because it was not a multi-county UZA. He indicated this was the same for several other UZA's in the other counties as well.

A MOTION was made (Viegas-Walker) that the Regional Council approve staff's recommendation to follow the FTA approach that uses 75% and 132% of the 2018 Operating Costs as reported for the urbanized area (UZA) in the 2018 national transit database (NTD) to allocate CRRSAA and ARPA funds, respectively, when combined with the preceding rounds of stimulus funds to each of the UZAs to further suballocate to the eligible counties within each of the multi-county UZAs. Motion was SECONDED (Marquez) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Brown, Finlay, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Ramirez, Richardson, Robertson, Solache, Viegas-Walker, and Yokoyama (12)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

## 2. Contracting to Implement the Regional Early Action Plan Program

Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Director for Planning, Special Initiatives, reported that the REAP work program was approved by the Regional Council on December 3, 2020 and funding must be spent and the program closed out by December 2023. She conveyed that to deliver the magnitude of programs and technical support within the grant time horizon, SCAG staff was requesting approval of a program to accelerate contracting for procurements that are consistent with SCAG's procurement policies. She indicated several activities needed to be completed quickly to support local agencies in updating their housing elements by the October 2021 deadline. She emphasized that the recommendations were structured to allow them to efficiently deliver the REAP program in a compressed timeline, and to better serve our sub regional partners across the region by making consultant teams available to them. She continued by stating that they were not recommending any changes to how we do procurements and will follow all of SCAG and the state's competitive procurement requirements, nonetheless, they were asking for authority from this body and the Regional Council to enter into contracts by following all procedures and just skipping the additional step of coming back to the Regional Council. She stated most importantly they would be providing monthly updates on all activities under this program to the Regional Council. She further highlighted the four main points as outlined in the staff recommendation.

Regional Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, stated Jenna presented at the California Association of Councils of Governments Regional Leadership Forum and did an outstanding job. She voiced that Jenna represented SCAG well and was amazing.

President Richardson indicated he had heard good feedback about Jenna's presentations and welcomed her to SCAG.

A MOTION was made (Brown) that the Regional Council Approve a procurement program to accelerate project delivery for the Regional Early Action Plan Program (REAP) and a new model for timely implementation of SCAG's local assistance programs as follows: (1) authorization to enter into up to a total of \$10,000,000 in On Call Services contracts to implement the Regional Council's approved REAP work program, upon completion of competitive procurement and selection of consultants for the On Call Services; (2) waiver of SCAG's procurement requirement to first obtain the Executive/Administration Committee's and Regional Council's approval for contracts at or above \$200,000 prior to execution, for any individual contract up to \$500,000 awarded to complete work that is part of the Regional Council's approved REAP grant funded program and authorization for the Executive Director or his/her designee to execute such contracts upon consultation with legal counsel; (3) waiver of SCAG's procurement requirement necessitating Executive/Administration Committee's and Regional Council approval prior to entering any contract

amendment exceeding \$75,000 or 30% (whichever is less) and, instead, requiring amendments of 30% or more to be first approved by the Executive/Administration Committee and Regional Council, and authorizing the Executive Director or his/her designed to execute such amendments upon consultation with legal counsel; and (4) directing staff to make monthly informational reports to the Regional Council of procurement activities, contracts and amendments related to REAP made pursuant to this action. Motion was SECONDED (Viegas-Walker) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Brown, Finlay, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Ramirez, Richardson, Robertson, Solache, Viegas-Walker, and Yokoyama (12)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meeting - March 3, 2021
4. Sustainable Communities Program - Housing & Sustainable Development Applications
5. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 19-066-C06, Aerial Imagery and Related Products - County of Imperial
6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-043-C01, I-710 North Mobility Hubs Plan
7. AB 687 (Seyarto) - Riverside County Housing Finance Trust
8. SB 15 (Portantino) - Incentives for Rezoning Idle Retail Sites
9. SB 623 (Newman) – Electronic Toll and Transit Fare Collection Systems
10. SB 261 (Allen) - Sustainable Communities Strategies Reform
11. SB 266 (Newman) - Chino Hills State Park Expansion
12. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

#### Receive and File

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13. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999

14. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Marquez) to approve Consent Calendar, Items 3 through 12; Receive and File Items 13 and 14. Motion was SECONDED (Solache) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Brown, Finlay, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Ramirez, Richardson, Robertson, Solache, Viegas-Walker, and Yokoyama (12)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

#### **CFO REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Cindy Giraldo reported that with approval of the proposed budget and overall work program they had posted the work program online for public review and comment. She indicated the 30-day public comment period would officially end April 5<sup>th</sup> and the final budget would be brought back for final approval in May. Lastly, she stated they had made great progress on the collection of membership dues, with 97% of the dues collected, leaving only nine cities with outstanding balances.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Richardson provided an update on the Call for Collaboration program and reported that after releasing a Request for Proposals, SCAG had an overwhelming response of 45 applications from across SCAG's six-county region, with a total of \$4.1 million of funding requested. He further elaborated that with the support of seasoned housing professionals and funders, the applications were reviewed, and 15 applicants were selected, totaling close to \$1.3M. He indicated that in July 2020, the Regional Council approved \$1 million of the early application REAP grant funding to establish the Call for Collaboration program with the intent to fund community-based organizations and non-profit led activities that demonstrate a nexus to accelerating housing production. He explained that this program was unique in that it allowed for a metropolitan planning agency such as SCAG to partner with the California Community Foundation, Irvine Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Foundation to seed and uplift diverse community-driven approaches and strategic coalitions that address the tremendous challenge in meeting housing needs while addressing historic racial inequities. He stated applications were received from all counties in the SCAG region, except for Imperial County, and for that reason, grantees were selected in the other five counties. Additionally, SCAG will be working closely with community organizations and other stakeholders in the Imperial County region to provide support in Imperial County taking advantage of other

upcoming funding opportunities. He indicated these projects will cover a range of activities related to housing policy and land use, including deeper community engagement with low income and communities of color. He stated some of the themes included housing element development and implementation; increasing housing capacity near future Metro lines; addressing barriers to housing development on church-owned land; building support for development of community land trusts; and identifying new finance sources for affordable housing development. He reported projects would begin in April and continue through December 2022.

President Richardson also reported that the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice held its final meeting to review and discuss the Draft Racial Equity Early Action Plan (EAP). He indicated the EAP will serve as the Special Committee's recommendation to the Regional Council, and it will further SCAG's overarching goals to advance equity through policies, practices, and activities. He stated the EAP will be presented to the Regional Council at their May meeting. He reminded the EAC members that the May 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Council meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and that SCAG would be hosting its annual General Assembly meeting by remote participation only on the same day, which would begin at 10:15 a.m. In closing, he stated the next meeting of the EAC was scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Executive Director Ajise reported that on March 22, 2021, SCAG received a letter from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) approving SCAG's adopted 6th Cycle final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation Plan, which was adopted by the Regional Council on March 5, 2021. He noted that after the April Regional Council meeting, SCAG would update the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant funding available to subregional partners for their respective housing projects based on the adopted Final RHNA Allocation. He added that he had a meeting with the Director of HCD Mr. Gustavo Velasquez to discuss local challenges in preparing housing element updates and to talk through next steps as outlined in the resolution adopted by Regional Council on March 5.

He announced that on March 10, the California State Transportation Agency (CALSTA) released the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and stated this was a multi-agency effort from the state, reflecting coordination between CalSTA, California Transportation Commission (CTC), California Air Resources Control Board, HCD, Strategic Growth Council and the Office of Planners. He described CAPTI as a holistic framework for aligning state transportation investments with the state's climate, health, and social equity goals. He reported that the CTC requested more workshops so they can have a better understanding of what is going on and staff would report back to the Regional Council in June.

Additionally, he reported staff would begin discussions at the Policy Committees regarding the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) framework. He stated

the framework outlines the main requirements in producing the plan as well as the major milestones to expect over the next three years. He indicated that staff had begun initial work towards preparing the next 2024 RTP/SCS and intend to carry forth much of the Core Vision and Key Connections presented in the 2020.

Lastly, he reported SCAG would be hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Demographic Workshop alongside with USC's Price School of Public Policy. Like last year, he stated the workshop would be held virtually over two Tuesday afternoons - June 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. He highlighted this year's theme will be planning the post-pandemic city and panelists would provide a demographic check-up covering trends like fertility and migration, a discussion on vaccine equity, and a look at future housing and transportation patterns they may expect to emerge in the years to come. He further elaborated that each day of the workshop would feature a choice of three roundtable discussions led by state and regional experts, and the event was free.

Regional Councilmember Ramirez reminded staff that during the RHNA appeals process they had made a commitment to work with our legislators to find some sort of relief for their cities and counties.

Executive Director Ajise acknowledge Supervisor Ramirez and stated they would probably be having a discussion on a package of housing bills that they were looking at and might be able to affect those policy directions on housing through the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee.

Regional Councilmember Peggy Huang, TCA, thanked President Richardson for his leadership during this challenging year and appreciated him taking the lead on the Social Justice and Equity Committee. She echoed Supervisor Ramirez's comments and wanted to make sure they kept their promise to the cities that they will be advocating on their behalf. She stated she looked forward to more reports about future discussions with HCD.

President Richardson acknowledge Councilmember Huang's comments and stated staff needed to make sure we have a game plan.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.



**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the EAC at 3:33 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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