



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN 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). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Sup. Curt Hagman, President

Hon. Cindy Allen, 1st Vice President

Hon. Ray Marquez, 2nd Vice President

Hon. Art Brown, Imm. Past President

Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair, CEHD

Hon Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair CEHD

Hon. Luis Plancarte, Chair, EEC

Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, Vice Chair EEC

Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC

Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC

Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC

Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC

Hon. Karen Bass, President’s Appt.

Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President’s Appt.

Hon. Jan Harnik, President’s Appt.

Hon. Alan Wapner, President’s Appt.

Hon. Lucy Dunn

Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.

Long Beach

Chino Hills

Buena Park

Calabasas

Simi Valley

Santa Paula

Pomona

VCTC

Riverside

Lynwood

Los Angeles

Mission Viejo

RCTC

Pechanga Dev. Corp.

San Bernardino County

District 30

District 10

District 21

District 44

District 46

Imperial County

District 47

District 38

Ventura County

District 68

District 26

Member-At-Large

District 13

Riverside

SBCTA Representative

Business Representative

TGRP Representative

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer

Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer



Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Richard Lam, Deputy Legal Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Curt Hagman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. President Hagman asked Larry McCallon, Air District Representative, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Hagman 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.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there were no written public comments received before or after the deadline.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

INFORMATION ITEM

1. Regional Early Action Planning Grant 2021 (REAP 2.0): Program Budget Update

There were no public comments for Item 1.

Executive Director, Kome Ajise provided members a brief report and shared with members SCAG's plans for restarting work on the REAP program, now that most of the funding had been restored. He took the opportunity to thank grantees, partners and members who joined SCAG's collective advocacy efforts to convey the value of REAP. He also expressed his gratitude to the state legislature for seeing the importance of regional efforts in addressing the housing crisis.

Furthermore, he explained that the approved state budget included a reduction of approximately \$14.5 million to SCAG's REAP budget; however, they would still be able to fully fund all their suballocation programs – both competitive and formula-based. He reported that since the formal approval of the state budget, they had reached out to all grantees and were moving forward on activities to restart the work. He also reported they were currently focused on finalizing scopes of work, executing MOUs, and initiating project work.

ACTION ITEM

2. 2024 Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) Retreat Update

There were no public comments for Item 2.

Executive Director Ajise reported that on June 27 and 28, President Hagman convened the EAC retreat in Ontario. He explained that at the retreat the President had the opportunity to discuss strategic priorities for the year ahead. He stated there had been five areas of conversation that they had during this meeting that he wanted to report on. He explained the first was the Board employment classification. He stated they were faced with the issue of having to reclassify board members as W-2 employees of SCAG as opposed to the contract position where they had a 1099 designation to the board. He stated they were able to pull together several legal opinions and new counsel presented this [opinion]. He stated their recommendation back to the board was that they continue to treat SCAG Board members as independent contractors, which the EAC agreed with. The second item he reported on was on the 3 key emergent issues discussed at the retreat. He stated SCAG staff had discussed transportation finance, housing, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). He elaborated on the transportation finance issue stating there was a 10-year assessment being done at the state level that anticipated about a \$200 to \$300 billion deficit in funding for transportation. He stated that in their work at SCAG, in Connect SoCal, they estimated that in the planned period they were looking at a \$93 billion loss of revenue over the life of Connect SoCal 2024. He stated the conversation was intended to focus on what they need to do in terms of new strategies, as they looked out into the future. He stated they would call for new strategies in Connect SoCal on how they could fill that gap to fund their \$752 billion program. He explained the point of that discussion was focused on the next steps, understanding that these things were not going to happen immediately, and that their focus in the near future would be to work with stakeholders, the State, and the Federal Government on how they brought this conversation to the floor understanding the loss of revenue was imminent over time. He also touched on the discussion around housing. He shared they discussed the housing crisis in the region, as well as understanding that their role was to support their member agencies and all local agencies that were involved in and enabling housing to happen. Executive Director Ajise indicated that they also discussed the SCS. He shared they had presented the committee with the aging of SB 375 which established the SCS process and the need to revisit the process as the State began to have a conversation about updating GHG emission targets. He stated they wanted to inform the board of those items so they

understood they would become major activities for SCAG, as they worked with their colleagues in the Metropolitan Planning Organization sector, on working with the State to address those targets. Additionally, he went on to discuss the third area of conversation at the retreat, which had been an evaluation of the 2024 Regional Conference and General Assembly (GA). He stated they had received feedback and that most of the attendees found that [the GA] met or exceeded their expectations and were very appreciative of the content of the event, as well as the opportunities for networking. He shared the EAC had discussed this further and shared thoughts around ways to expand opportunities for networking. Furthermore, he shared the fourth item of discussion at the EAC retreat was the Presidential priorities for the 2024-2025 year. He shared President Hagman wanted to emphasize the need for SCAG to play a leadership role on emerging technologies across all policy areas. He stated that while they might be extending and continuing the priorities from previous years there would be a highlight of the role of technology and innovations in those priority areas. Lastly, he reported on the fifth item discussed at the EAC retreat which had been a revision to the meeting schedule and resumption of in-person meetings. The last item that was brought up for discussion at the EAC retreat, was the revision to Regional Council meeting schedule, and the resumption of in person meetings. He detailed the change in days and times of the meetings and finalized his report with that item.

President Hagman thanked members for participating in the retreat and providing input. He explained he wanted members to have thorough discussions at the committee level and have the chair for each committee briefly summarize the items discussed at their respective meetings. He also stated he thought the most controversial [item] was the one about going back to in-person meetings. He shared he believed they would have more participation and robust discussions when they were all together. He stated he understood it would perhaps be something people would not like; however, he thought it was important for the organization to hear all the views from all the regions of SCAG when talking about policy issues.

President Hagman acknowledged Mayor Karen Bass who was on the call and thanked her for joining them for the EAC meeting.

Immediate Past President Art Brown provided a comment regarding the change in meeting times. He shared he had talked to a number of [Regional Council members] in the Orange County region, who had expressed they were not happy with the way the change happened overnight, and wished they could have discussed it at a Regional Council meeting.

President Hagman thanked Immediate Past President Brown for his comments. He then stated they had Items 3 through 7, and he wanted the [COO] to speak on two of the items, because he never liked to look at travel being like buried in the Consent Calendar. He stated they had two travel items for budget (5 and 6) and asked if they could then take one vote for Items 2 through 7. He also stated they would take public comments on all those items all at once.

Chief Operating Officer, Darin Chidsey provided a brief report on Items 5 and 6 on the agenda. He reported there were two authorizations for international travel, per SCAGs', policies. He stated any international travel involving the board or staff needed to go to the Regional Council for approval, and in this case, the EAC, would be considering that approval on behalf of the Regional Council. COO Chidsey stated that as was referenced earlier, for the past several years there had been an emphasis at the President's level, to focus on transportation technology and clean transportation technology initiatives. He shared this had been showcased in the recent adoption of SCAG's Connect SoCal Long Range Regional Transportation Plan. He stated the first trip, Item 5 on the agenda, was particularly focused on looking at transportation electrifications in a number of European cities, particularly in London, Oslo and Munich. He reported it was being hosted by L.A. Clean Tech Incubator (LACI). He shared they were bringing leaders together from throughout the State to explore and look at different EV technology strategies that have been successful as well as other ways to improve air quality in urban centers. He reported the trip was going to be 10 days long, and they were proposing one Regional Council member to be accompanied by up to 2 staff members on that trip with the goal to help bring knowledge to what is going on in Southern California. Furthermore, he reported the second trip (Item 6 on the agenda) was for participation at the 30th ITS World Congress in Dubai. He stated ITS was an organization that was also focused on transportation and technology. Furthermore, he stated they were members of ITS as Executive Director Ajise recently joined the Board of ITS America. He reported their conferences were well known and very well attended for the breadth of knowledge that they brought together on global issues, around transportation and technology. He stated both President Hagman and Executive Director Ajise had been invited to share their expertise as speakers at the conference so they were asking for their approval for travel so they could participate in those speaking roles.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran clarified receive and file items would require a presentation by CFO Cindy Giraldo.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meeting – June 5, 2024
4. Minutes of the Meeting – June 27, 2024 through June 28, 2024
5. Approve SCAG Participation at the LACI Transportation Electrification Partnership (TEP) International Study Trip, September 1-10, 2024

6. Approve SCAG Participation in an International Forum at the 30th ITS World Congress in Dubai, September 16-20, 2024
7. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

8. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council's Approval Threshold
9. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Solache) to approve Action Item 2, and Consent Items 3-7. Motion was SECONDED (Brown) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Brown, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Lock Dawson, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Rhodes, Sandoval, Shapiro and Solache (15)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

There were no public comments for Item the CFO report, President's report or the Executive Director's report.

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that over the next few months they were looking forward to executing about 70 MOUs funding over 100 projects throughout the region. Furthermore, she reported they would be moving into the execution of SCAG's 2024 SCP call for active and transportation safety projects. She stated the applications were due Friday, September 27. She also reported that in addition to the work on SCAG's local resources programs, they were continuing their work on SCAG's year end audit for fiscal year 2024. She also reported the Caltrans audit was ongoing, and believed they were near the end of the field work and were hoping to receive a final report soon. She stated they would share the report with the Audit Committee once they received it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hagman provided an update on SCAG's Demographic Workshop. He shared registration was now open. Additionally, he stated this year's event would take place on September 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at SCAG's main office in Downtown Los Angeles and would also be available to attend online. He shared this year's event was called "Navigating the New Growth Reality" and would look at how changing population growth rates affect regional planning. He informed members they could register on SCAG's website. Lastly, he reported the next regular meeting of the EAC was scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, provided an update on the SCP – Active Transportation and Safety Call for Applications. He shared the call for applications opened on July 8 and would be open through September 27. He reported they had an estimated \$10.4 million available to be awarded. He explained that this call would fund community plans, area plans, and quick-build projects that implement Connect SoCal 2024's mobility goal to build and maintain an integrated multimodal transportation network. He stated SCAG would hold office hours on Monday's and Thursday's to provide support during the application period, as well as a final application workshop on August 7. He reported they anticipated announcing awards in December 2024. Furthermore, he provided an update on AQMD avoiding highway sanctions. He stated the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the California Air Resources Board, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) reached an agreement that avoided a highway sanction block for the South Coast Air Basin. He stated the agreement created a sustained collaboration across local, state, and federal levels to reduce emissions from all sources. He also shared this avoided a potential impact to tens of billions of dollars of transportation investments in Southern California that support Connect SoCal 2024 implementation. He reported SCAG had been engaging with the U.S. EPA and the AQMD for much of the year toward a solution to improve air quality and avoid highway sanctions – and commended these agencies for their hard work and leadership in reaching this resolution. He also provided an update related to EPA and Caltrans Grants. He shared their Last Mile Freight program would receive \$50 million from the U.S. EPA under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, as part of a larger successful application by AQMD that will bring \$500 million to the region. He stated AQMD's application included many partners, including the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino. He also shared they would be receiving \$1 million from Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grants program for an airport passenger study as well as the Main Streets Project, which will plan for improvements on several state highways in the SCAG region that double as community main streets. He shared they were proud to be part of several press events that highlighted federal funding coming into the region, where they heard from U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg about how these projects would improve air quality, relieve congestion at the ports, and prepare the region for the 2028 Olympic games. Executive Director Ajise also provided an update on the 2025 Draft FTIP and Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment No. 1 comment period. He reported that a major component of Connect SoCal 2024 was a project list that contained thousands of individual



transportation projects throughout the SCAG region. He stated this project list was known as the Federal Transportation Improvement Program – and while this may not get that much spotlight, it was one of SCAG’s most important duties. He explained that since Connect SoCal 2024’s adoption, some of the transportation projects had experienced time-sensitive technical changes. In addition, SCAG’s county transportation commissions had re-evaluated priority transportation projects. The 2025 FTIP and Amendment 1 to Connect SoCal 2024 were needed to allow these projects to proceed quickly. He reported that the draft 2025 FTIP and draft Amendment 1 to the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy were circulating for public review and comment through August 12. He reported they had conducted two public hearings in July to gather input on the draft documents, which will inform final revisions. He stated they anticipated bringing the final FTIP to the Regional Council for action in September, before submitting it to Caltrans by its September 30 deadline.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Hagman adjourned the Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 3:45 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report

2024-25																	
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	6-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Hon. Curt Hagman, President, Chair		San Bernardino County	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Cindy Allen, 1st Vice Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Ray Marquez, 2nd Vice Chair	Chino Hills	District 10	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Art Brown, Imm. Past President	Buena Park	District 21	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair, CEHD	Calabasas	District 44	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair, CEHD	Simi Valley	District 46	1	1	1	1											4
Sup. Luis Plancarte, Chair, EEC		Imperial County	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, Vice Chair, EEC	Santa Paula	District 47	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	Pomona	District 38	0	0	1	1											2
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC		VCTC	1	0	0	1											2
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	0	1	1	1											3
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large		0	0	1											0
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.	Mission Viejo	District 13	1	0	1	1											3
Hon. Jan Harnik, President's Appt.		RCTC	1	1	1	1											4
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.		Air District Representative		1	1	1											3
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	0	1	1	1											3
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Mar	Business Representative	0	1	1	1											3

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Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2024-25 (Minutes of the Meeting - July 31, 2024)