



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
October 6, 2021

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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-08-21. 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. 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. Deborah Robertson, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Sean Ashton, Chair, TC	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Art Brown, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Chair, LCMC		SBCTA
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA
Hon. Kathryn Barger, President’s Appt.		Los Angeles County
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President’s Appt.	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Donald P. Wagner, President’s Appt.		Orange County
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-officio	<i>Lewis Group of Companies</i>	Business Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Rex Richardson, Imm. Past President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP 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
Carmen Fujimori, Human Resources Director
Javiera Cartagena, Acting Director of Policy 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
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Clint Lorimore called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

President Lorimore asked Larry McCallon, Highland, -District 7, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments.

He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov. Legal Counsel Duran acknowledged there were no written public comments received by email before or after the deadline.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

INFORMATION ITEM**1. June 24 Special EAC Strategic Work Plan Discussion**

President Lorimore called on Executive Director Kome Ajise to introduce the item.

Executive Director Ajise reported on the June 24, Special EAC Strategic Work Plan. He stated they were seeking input from the EAC to finalize the work plan they [the members] had all worked on at the Mission Inn [in the City of Riverside] on June 24. He explained the report showed they had put together a work plan based on the outcome of the discussions [the members] had. He shared there were interviews that were done pre-workshop which resulted in eight themes that were identified and became the subject or the basis for the conversation they had with [the members] at the retreat. He stated the discussion that ensued and the breakout group that followed on the 24th resulted in 10 priority or goal areas that they took out of the consultant's report to try and fashion a work plan out of it. He explained that once they received the consultant's report, staff then reviewed that report, and further synthesized the information into four categories. The Executive Director explained they identified some goals, action and milestones they wanted to pursue for each of those categories and briefly talked about them. He shared the first priority area was regional policy development. He explained they took the 10 goal areas they felt were consistent or aligned together and tried to group them, so the work was not redundant trying to get through each one of those goals. He stated they also fashioned that into an original policy development which tied directly to their main work of the original plan update. The second priority area identified five goals that came out of the discussion they had. The goals were number two, four, five, seven and eight which were those they thought were in alignment to fit into this priority area. He explained the second priority area was leadership and resource deployment and basically implementation of Connect SoCal. He explained this was taking work as a planning agency and deploying those resources through action items that would implement the work and the policies that were already adopted by the Regional Council. The third area was a standalone area and was just one goal that was identified as an important objective to focus on legislative advocacy, and that was goal number three. Executive Director Ajise discussed the fourth and final priority area as technology and innovation leadership. He explained they grouped two goals which were also reflected in another priority area because they sort of met both of those needs. He shared one was to be leaders in the rollout of technology to communities, which is one of the things that came out of the discussion, and also to be good innovators in the region which was goal 10. He explained those two made up the technology and innovation leadership. Lastly, he reiterated they were seeking member input on the four priority areas and corresponding goals and actions that were outlined to go forward and refine the work plan. This was also so they could present it at the October RC meeting with quarterly progress reporting to the EAC and RC shortly thereafter.

Regional Councilmember Wapner, SBCTA Representative, addressed the Executive Director and stated he understood there were a lot of goals but wanted to make sure that the individual

importance of each of [the goals] was not underplayed. He specifically was referring to the cultivation of the relationship. He stated it was included under one which was regional policy development. He stated he wanted to make sure that he and his staff understood how important that was as far as bringing the private sector in and making sure they were at the table moving forward.

Executive Director Ajise stated he appreciated Regional Councilmember Wapner reiterating that and stated they understood the importance of it. He stated he thought it was the essence of making sure they got their work done to keep those stakeholders and partnerships in place and working together with them to get things done.

Second Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, expressed concern about having the right amount of staff, because she saw some comments that maybe there was too much work for staff. She asked the Executive Director if they had the right staffing in place to accomplish these very worthy but pretty heavy-duty goals. She stated there was no need to answer that, but it was always a concern she had that they were not over stretching their great staff to thin.

Executive Director Ajise stated he appreciate the question because he thought it was a very important one. He stated they had a lot of work to do but that they had to prioritize it which was why they had to keep coming back to the EAC and to the Regional Council, to get a sense of priority on what they do. He stated their assignment was to manage the resources they had and get the most out of what they had without understanding that they also had a responsibility to be sure that staff was taken care of and not overburdened.

President Lorimore stated the intent of the workshop was prioritization. He stated that having a report like this with these priorities in place as set by the EAC, would help serve as a tool to narrow, as opposed to broaden the direction that SCAG staff is going in. He stated this had done wonders when they did a similar process in the City of Eastvale and as a result it allowed people to run in the same direction.

Regional Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, made reference to priority area number two stating she was a bit uncomfortable or maybe just unclear, with the second goal which was goal number six and how they had phrased it. She asked if there may be a better way to articulate SCAGs role in encouraging housing production, reaching housing targets, Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) goals regarding affordability than to define it as SCAG leading and accelerating housing production across Southern California. She stated it did not sound like the lane they should be in and asked if there was a better way to phrase that.

Executive Director Ajise stated they would look to [the members] to rephrase it as this was how it came out of the conversation they had on June 24, 2021, and they had not edited those goals. He

stated housing was still going to be led by cities and counties working with developers to get that done but that there would be places and opportunities for SCAG to help in the process with the resources they had.

Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker asked if they could have something [stating] “to support efforts to accelerate housing production across Southern California”, as opposed to lead and accelerate.

President Lorimore asked the rest of the EAC members if they had any thoughts on that.

Regional Councilmember David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46, stated he was fine with that wording.

Regional Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7, stated he agreed with Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker, and thought the wording she proposed was good and agreed that the wording they currently had was not appropriate. He stated he thought the issue that they support accelerating housing production was the right word.

President Lorimore stated this could have been lost in translation. He stated he was fine with the language that was presented because at the end of the day they wanted policies that were supportive of housing. He stated they were in the business of planning and providing an environment that helps facilitate.

Regional Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, stated she concurred and that they had to be mindful of exactly what Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker was suggesting because they wanted to be leaders and be supportive and do what they could to accelerate. She stated they did not want to lose sight of their stakeholders and having a relationship with them, but also needed to have a clear understanding that they were more capable of helping to deliver on some of the objectives they have.

First Vice President Jan Harnik, RCTC, suggested adding language to say, “though policy support and legislative influence, we will lead and accelerate housing production.” She stated this was just saying what they wanted to do not how they were doing it She indicated they want to lead and accelerate housing production across Southern California. She stated that if they wanted to add a sub-bullet to that goal to explain how they were going to do it, then they needed to do it on all their goals.

Regional Councilmember Art Brown, Buena Park, District 2, expressed his thought that the “Lead and Accelerate in housing” was going to raise a lot of hackles throughout the region and thought Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker’s wording would defuse the situation and they should accept it.

President Lorimore stated they were asking to vote on this item with Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker's suggestion. He stated that if they had no further comments, they would be asking for a motion to recommend to the Regional Council to adopt the final report and recommendations.

Regional Councilmember Brown moved the item and Regional Councilmember Ashton seconded the motion.

Board Counsel Duran clarified for the EACs edification, that the item was listed as an information item. He stated [Executive Director] Ajise had presented the information, the body had noted a piece of information that should be clarified and thought the Board could either agendaize the item to change an information item or staff could take the direction in which there appeared to be a consensus from the EAC, and when it got presented to the Regional Council that change would be made, essentially by affirmation of the committee. He explained there was no agenda item for action on this, but staff could see the direction that the EAC wanted to go in lifting it up to the RC.

President Lorimore confirmed there was consensus from the rest of the EAC.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting – June 30, 2021
 3. Resolution No. 21-635-1 Approving Amendment 1 to the FY 2021-22 Overall Work Program (OWP)
 4. Contract Amendment Greater Than 30% of the Contract's Original Value: 20-035-C01, IT Managed Services
 5. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 20-012-C01, Infrastructure Upgrade – Data Center Equipment
 6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-058-C01, Heavy Duty Truck Model Improvement
 7. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-064-C01, Southern California Goods Movement Communities Freight Impact Assessment
 8. AB 215 (Chiu) - Housing Element Relative Progress Determination
 9. SB 9 (Atkins) - Duplex Approvals
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10. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

11. Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) 2021 Update

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

13. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Barger) to approve Consent Calendar, Items 2 through 10; Receive and File Item 11 and 13. Motion was SECONDED (Marquez) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Robertson, Viegas-Walker, Wagner, Wapner and Yokoyama (15)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that a lot of work was focused on closing out the prior fiscal year 2021. She noted they met their obligation to Caltrans by transmitting their overall work plan year end package. She provided some highlights from the report which detailed their completed work in furtherance of the council approved overall work program. She reported the past fiscal year SCAG delivered just over \$57 million of regional planning and stated that when you are grant funded this equates to revenue for the region. For perspective, she noted their total in fiscal year 2020 was \$47.6 million and \$36.2 million the year before that. She stated this was an average year over year growth of about 26% in delivered grant funded work product that benefits Southern California. She stated that SCAG under their policy guidance had been able to deliver more value than ever before. She also reported they were on their year-end independent audit which was being performed by Eide Bailly and looked forward to bringing those results in the coming months. She reported they continued to invest in improving their operating practices through thoughtful written policies and procedures and staff training. In August, she noted training was provided to SCAG staff on ways they could successfully partner with nonprofit agencies. Furthermore, she reported staff would receive training on labor and budget charging practices. In conclusion, she reported membership invoices had been sent to their agencies and had thus far collected about 80% of the dues and follow up on outstanding invoices would be commencing soon.

President Lorimore asked what was involved as far as follow up.

CFO Giraldo explained they reach out to their contacts at those agencies to make sure they received the invoice, to see if it was in queue with the pay and it typically involved a phone call or an email to their identified contact.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lorimore Okay reported the next meeting of the EAC was scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Ajise reported the Regional Council would receive a presentation by Jack Dangermond, the founder and CEO of ESRI, to discuss their partnership with ESRI in the development the Regional Data Platform and provide insights on the power of GIS. He also discussed REAP 2021. He explained this was the Regional Early Action Planning Grant program 2021 which was a new funding program in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Budget. He stated it would provide significant resources to SCAG as they were expecting to have about \$246 million from the state. He stated he was hopeful the program would allow them to have access to 10% of those funds in January 2022. He indicated the group working on this out of the executive branch, was the Strategic Growth Council, the Housing and Community Development Department as well as the Office of Planning and Research in the Governor's office. Furthermore, he explained they expected most of the work to be in three main program areas, because the law was written in a way that the focus was on some very specific things. He stated they had some early action initiatives that would be part of the January 2022 requests where they expand some programs that support their cities in implementing Connect SoCal and Sustainable Communities Program Call for projects. He explained the intent of the law that funded the program was to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) which would be heavily seen in the program. The second main program item was the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program, which was aimed at building more capacity, behind the refunds that they pushed out the year before and during the current year to help cities with investments and financing tools that support infrastructure and allows them to meet their region's RHNA goals for housing. He explained the third area, which was relatively new, was a partnership they were hoping to build with their County Transportation Commission's to create and fund programs that would help reduce VMT. He reported they would be returning [to EAC] in November or December once they see the rules written by the state. Executive Director Ajise provided an update on the Greenprint and explained it was a web-based tool that would compile more than 100 existing databases to data sources into a mapping tool so that stakeholders could easily visualize how to better integrate nature with future growth and development. He elaborated

that in July, the Regional Council directed them to pause the implementation of Connect SoCal Greenprint for at least 30 days and hold a public hearing. He stated they were currently on that pause and that since the July meeting, SCAG staff had facilitated meetings with the building industry, as well as a coalition of environmental groups, and these meetings were with their Executive Officers to share perspectives regarding the tool. He reported that on August 24, 2021, they hosted a public hearing on the development of Greenprint. He stated the public hearing included the President leading the discussion, and there were about over 75 stakeholders that participated in the public hearing. He noted there were 33 stakeholders that provided verbal comments, and they had received 36 written comments before the 6:00 p.m. deadline for the public hearing. Lastly, he stated they expected to have additional public input at the October 7, 2021, Regional Council meeting in which a public hearing was scheduled to be conducted.

President Lorimore stated they had the public hearing and wanted to make sure that everybody had the opportunity to listen to the recording as there had been a lot of great feedback that was received. He stated his understanding was that this was how SCAG generally did public hearings. He stated that as it had been articulated by [the Executive Director], in October, the information that was received was being compiled and in October, they would be having that meeting for the Regional Council to discuss the consolidation of that information and any additional comments that the public wished to provide. He also referred to the issue about the data points and stated that some of the data points were mentioned from different people, from the different feedback they had been receiving as possibly being of concern, and hoped that before the October meeting, they could come to a place where they will have examined those concerns. He stated they were in ongoing discussions on that front and were working towards a place where it was amenable to everybody as best as they could.

Regional Councilmember Viegas-Walker stated she wanted to publicly thank [the Executive Director] and some amazing staff members who helped her get ready for a briefing. She stated she participated in a panel discussion at a conference sponsored by the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, and the entire conference was focused on the transition to electric vehicles. She stated she reached out to [the Executive Director] and he provided access to Marco Anderson, Allison Linder, David Salgado, Ryan Laws and Emily Rodman. She stated she wanted to share they were amazing in their support, with their ability to provide information to her. She shared the topic had been very well received, and they had a follow up meeting with Tesla scheduled the following week to talk about how local governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations could get on board with making this monumental change from gas powered vehicles to electric vehicle fleets. She stated she was very excited and looked to SCAG to continue being at the forefront of those discussions and once again expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Executive Director for his amazing team that was provided to support her.

Regional Councilmember Ramirez stated she was hoping they could hear about the opportunities of solvency for lithium for such vehicles.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Orange County Council of Governments v. Gustavo Velasquez, Interim Director of Dept. of Housing and Community Development; California Dept. of Housing and Community Development; Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCP01970 [Note: Southern California Association of Governments is named as a “real party in interest”]

President Lorimore asked if there were any public comments on the closed session. Seeing none, he closed the public comment period.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, announced Closed Session discussion on Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), *Orange County Council of Governments v. Gustavo Velasquez, Interim Director of Dept. of Housing and Community Development; California Dept. of Housing and Community Development; Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCP01970* [Note: Southern California Association of Governments is named as a “real party in interest”]

Regional Councilmember Sean Ashton, Downey, District 25, informed the Board President he needed to abstain from the item. He asked if he should announce it then or when they went into closed session.

Board Counsel Duran stated they could announce his recusal when they came back [out from closed session] to report. He then asked if there were any other members of the EAC who wished to recuse themselves from the closed session.

President Lorimore recessed the EAC into Closed Session.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

President Lorimore reconvened the meeting of the EAC.

Board Counsel Duran reported that by a vote of six to five, the Executive Administrative Committee voted to pursue option number four and asked Chief Counsel Michael Houston if he could prevail upon him to describe it for the members of the public. Prior to Chief Counsel reporting, Board Counsel Duran reported for the record that two of the members of the EAC, although not legally required to do so, opted to recuse themselves from the closed session. He stated that had been Regional Councilmember Ashton from the City of Downey and Regional Councilmember Yokoyama from the City of Cerritos. He stated both members recused themselves and did not participate in the closed session which meant that there were 11 voting members of the EAC, who participated in the closed session on the subject litigation.

Chief Counsel Michael Houston reported that by a vote of six to five the EAC voted to file a demurrer in the case that was the subject matter of that closed session for the purpose of seeking dismissal of the action.

Board Counsel Duran stated he was required by the Brown to report the following votes in favor. He stated EAC members Marquez, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Viegas-Walker and Wapner, were the six in favor. The five opposed were Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore and Wagner. He stated that was all they had and there was nothing further to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Lorimore adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 5:21 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report

2021-22															Total Mtgs Attended To Date	
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President	Eastvale	District 4	1	1	D	1									3	
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, 1st Vice Chair		RCTC	1	1		1										3
Sup. Carmen Ramirez, 2nd Vice Chair		Ventura County	1	1		1										3
Hon. Rex Richardson, Imm. Past President	Long Beach	District 29	1	0		0										1
Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair, CEHD	Covina	District 33	1	0		1										2
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 23	1	1		1										3
Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	Moorpark	District 46	1	1		1										3
Hon. Deborah Roberston, Vice Chair, EEC	Rialto	District 8	1	1		A	1									3
Hon. Sean Ashton, Chair, TC	Downey	District 25	1	0		1										2
Hon. Art Brown, Vice Chair, TC	Buena Park	District 21	1	1		1										3
Hon. Alan Wapner, Chair, LCMC		SBCTA	1	1		R	1									3
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA	1	1		1										3
Sup. Kathryn Barger, President's Appt.		Los Angeles County	1	1		1										3
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.	Highland	District 7	1	1		K	1									3
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President's Appt.	El Centro	District 1	1	1		1										3
Sup. Donald P. Wagner, President's Appt.		Orange County	1	1		1										3
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	1	0			0									1
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-Officio Member	Lewis Group of Companies	Business Representative	1	1		1										3
			18	14	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	

Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2021-22 (Minutes of the Meeting - September 1, 2021)