



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
September 3, 2020

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) 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 recent Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Chair)	District 46
Hon. Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard (Vice Chair)	District 45
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa	OCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Toni Momberger, Redlands	SBCTA
Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio	CVAG
Sup. Linda Parks	Ventura County
Hon. Jeannine Pearce, Long Beach	District 30
Sup. Luis Plancarte	Imperial County
Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto	District 8
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City	District 41
Hon. Rhonda Shader, Placentia	President’s Appointment
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG
Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino	SBCCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill	GCCOG

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

Southern California’s Catalyst for a Brighter Future

OUR CORE VALUES

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

Members Not Present

Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland	ICTC
Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate	GCCOG
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake	WRCOG
Hon. Greg Morena, Santa Monica	WSSCOG
Hon. James Osborne, Lawndale	SBCCOG
Hon. Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana	OCTA
Hon. Bonnie Wright, Hemet	WRCOG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair David Pollock called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and asked Supervisor Luis Plancarte, Imperial County, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair David Pollock opened the Public Comment Period.

Richard Lambros, Southern California Leadership Council, commented on the importance of the 120-day delay of Connect SoCal, as voted on by the Regional Council in May 2020, and he elaborated on continued efforts from the private sector to complement work of SCAG staff.

Seeing there were no further public commenters, Chair Pollock closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

CONSENT CALENDAR**Approval Items**

1. Minutes of the Meeting - May 7, 2020
2. Minutes of the Special Meeting - May 21, 2020

Receive and File

3. Highlights of the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop

A MOTION was made (Valdivia) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Sahli-Wells) and passed by the following votes:

AYE/S: Clark, Copeland, Davis, Genis, Horne, Litster, Mahmud, Momberger, Moran, Ortiz, Parks, Pearce, Pollock, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Rollins, Sahli-Wells, Shader, Sharif, Springer, Valdivia and Wilson (23)

NOE/S: None (0)

ABSTAIN/S: Brotman (1)

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM

4. Connect SoCal Update

Ms. Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning, provided an update on Connect SoCal, highlighting engagement with regional stakeholders to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 in communities and additional analysis at the direction of the Regional Council to work with local jurisdictions around entitlements and general plans. She shared background of Connect SoCal's process and goals, and she reviewed the directives of the Regional Council as approved at the May 7, 2020 meeting. She presented an overview of outreach conducted since the May 7, 2020 meeting and a summary of findings on COVID-19 impacts. Based on feedback, data resources have been developed, and next steps include Connect SoCal adoption, an implementation plan for Connect SoCal and additional white papers.

Ms. Jepson elaborated on Growth Forecast outreach and actions taken since May 7, 2020, including quality control analysis. Prior to this analysis, SCAG identified six jurisdictions where entitlements may not be fully captured in neighborhood-level Growth Forecast data. One jurisdiction, Los Angeles County, requested revisions. 95 percent of Transportation Analysis Zones, which account for 97 percent of the total households reflected in the plan, do not exceed general plan maximums. 12 jurisdictions submitted feedback for technical modification; six recommended revisions due to entitlements or general plan capacities and six recommended no revisions. Ms. Jepson explained planning policies for modeling purposes and displayed a chart comparing "Local Input" and Connect SoCal Growth Forecasts. In closing, Ms. Jepson summarized Connect SoCal and its benefits, including meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets and reducing vehicle miles traveled. Next steps for Connect SoCal are the presentation of a Final Connect SoCal with technical corrections at the following Regional Council meeting, allowing SCAG to submit Connect SoCal to the California Air Resources Board, and the preparation of an implementation plan.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez thanked staff for work on Connect SoCal and expressed the importance of educating the public about SCAG's work. Vice Chair Ramirez mentioned the Moving Forward Act, passed by the House, and its potential impact on Southern California.

Regional Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, asked for clarification on which jurisdictions submitted feedback and who was involved in working groups, especially pertaining to San Bernardino County. Ms. Jepson clarified discussion with SBCTA and stated that updates referred to previously are for unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. Regional Councilmember Robertson noted two specific transportation projects in development which may affect San Bernardino County.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, expressed concern about implications of delayed Connect SoCal adoption on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and the amplified housing crisis due to COVID-19. Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells asked if an accelerated schedule for Connect SoCal adoption is possible for the benefit of cities and residents. Ms. Jepson responded that a transportation model must be run prior to presentation of Final Connect SoCal, but she explained that there are ways to support cities and communities prior to adoption and subsequent deadlines. Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells asked if RHNA adoption could occur before February 2021. Ms. Jepson explained the RHNA Appeals process and SCAG staff's expected RHNA adoption timeline.

Councilmember Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa, OCCOG, asked how RHNA will be affected, particularly in coastal areas. Ms. Jepson clarified that RHNA Methodology had already been adopted, so the methodology itself would not change, but underlying data sets from Connect SoCal would be used when applying methodology, allowing the possibility of minor changes to allocations. Councilmember Genis commented on discrepancies between general plan capacities and RHNA. Ms. Jepson stated that RHNA incorporates projected and existing need, and final counts cannot yet be provided.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, expressed concern about conformity between Connect SoCal, RHNA and jurisdictions' general plans. She asked if Connect SoCal reflects existing Housing Elements, rather than Housing Elements due in 2021. Ms. Jepson confirmed her understanding. Councilmember Mahmud suggested that data from SCAG Vulnerability Indicators Dashboard be made available in PDF form. Her request was acknowledged.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, asked about the possibility of a delay on vehicle miles travel (VMT) methodology and if SCAG had further information. Ms. Jepson noted that VMT went into effect for local jurisdictions yesterday, July 1, and that Agenda Item No. 5 would provide more information.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, asked how considerations and work with people of color were included in Connect SoCal. Ms. Jepson stated that these matters were discussed during the latest round of outreach with community-based organizations, and moving forward, SCAG would incorporate feedback on how to prioritize funds in Sustainable Communities Program to better support needs that were raised, such as planning related to environmental justice and safe streets.

5. SCAG's SB 743 Local Implementation Support

Mike Gainor, SCAG staff, provided a presentation on local-level implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 743, which went into effect yesterday, July 1. Mr. Gainor began with an overview of SB 743's objectives of achieving statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, while facilitating infill development and improving active transportation infrastructure. SB 743 requires that the amount of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) generated by an applicable project, rather than vehicle delay, must be assessed as part of the CEQA process. He described VMT mitigation measures that are required to be implemented for significant transportation impacts according to CEQA.

Mr. Gainor reviewed SCAG's involvement in SB 743 since 2013, when it was first introduced in the California State Legislature. SCAG has maintained dialogue with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and SCAG is currently working with several local jurisdictions on SB 743 implementation planning. Collaboration with local jurisdictions encompass development of technical resources, baselines, forecasting tools and implementation templates. He elaborated on work with LADOT, in which SCAG is exploring regional VMT exchange or banking programs, to be followed by a pilot demonstration. He continued by expanding upon regionally-scaled VMT reduction strategies that may offer options where site-based interventions are less feasible. He closed by sharing a list of local implementation resources and case studies.

Councilmember Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa, OCCOG, commented that refining numbers pertaining to trip length in VMT is important, and level of service (LOS) should not be abandoned. She noted that SB 743 does not mandate the use of VMT but only requires new guidelines that promote the reduction of GHG.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, asked if staff was aware of the status of a pilot project by the state to measure VMT with tracking equipment, and if not, for a future presentation regarding the project. Chair Pollock acknowledged the request.

6. Public Safety Power Shutoff

Bob Stiens, Southern California Edison (SCE) Public Affairs Manager, presented on Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and SCE's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. As part of this plan, cameras, weather

stations and covered conductor have been installed throughout high fire risk areas. SCE has increased operational flexibility by installing additional switching equipment, allowing for sectionalized circuits to reduce the number of customers de-energized. Mr. Stiens explained enhancements to communications in the form of website improvements and notification reach. As part of SCE's Customer Care Programs, community crew vehicles and community resource centers have been developed, and rebates have been expanded. He touched on ongoing community meetings and outreach to vulnerable communities to communicate relevant initiatives, such as medical baselines and critical care programs. He closed with ways that cities can assist in promoting SCE's efforts.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, commented in concern of simultaneous wildfires and power shutoffs, which together pose additional public safety issues. She asked if SCE is working with cell phone providers and water utilities to prepare for shutoffs. Mr. Stiens elaborated on outreach conducted to these companies and entities. Supervisor Parks asked if SCE provided funding to directly to those providers; Mr. Stiens responded the SCE does not. Supervisor Parks asked how vulnerable populations were being accommodated with portable power supplies; Mr. Stiens stated that, for income-qualified customers, battery equipment to power medical equipment is provided by SCE in a new program.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez thanked Mr. Stiens for his presentation and expressed concern about income-qualifications for vulnerable customers. She also asked for a report from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on relevant efforts. Chair Pollock acknowledged the request.

Councilmember Elaine Litster, Simi Valley, VCOG, commented on how areas are selected for insulated wiring installation and how this work will limit future occurrences of PSPS. Mr. Stiens explained that the wind threshold increases with covered wire, but it does not eliminate the need for PSPS. This work is prioritized by analysis of highest fire risk areas.

7. Green Region Initiative - Sustainability Map Update

Civic Spark Fellows Natalie Arreaga, Amanda Caswell and Vannesa Reyes presented on the Green Region Initiative (GRI). The fellows began with a background on the CivicSpark program, which SCAG has partnered with since 2014. The fellows continued with an overview of GRI, which defines, measures and tracks sustainability progress within the SCAG region and serves as a resource to local governments. GRI topics and indicators were listed, including Active Transportation, Adaptation and Built Environment. An updated version of GRI, GRI Version 4.0, will launch in August 2020. The fellows reviewed recent updates implemented, such as climate action planning, electric vehicle permitting and urban greening. The fellows displayed examples of maps accessible through GRI and delineated future updates for GRI. In closing, the fellows announced a Toolbox Training on July 21, 2020.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, requested that materials and more information on the training be sent to committee members.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair David Pollock announced that August 2020 was a dark month for SCAG, and there would not be an EEC or Regional Council meeting.

STAFF REPORT

There was no staff report provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additional future agenda items requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Waggoner
Energy and Environment Committee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2020-21

MEMBERS	Date Appointed if after 6/4/20	Representing	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Beltran, Ana		Westmoreland, ICTC	0												0
Brotman, Daniel		Glendale, AVCIPA	1												1
Clark, Margaret		Rosemead, SGVCOG	1												1
Copeland, Robert		Signal Hill, GCCOG	1												1
Davila, Maria		South Gate, GCCOG	0												0
Davis, Ned		Westlake Village, LVMCOG	1												1
Ehrenkranz, Jordan		Canyon Lake, WRCOG	0												0
Genis, Sandra		Costa Mesa, OCCOG	1												1
Horne, Shari		Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1												1
Litster, Elaine		Simi Valley, VCOG	1												1
Mahmud, Diana		So. Pasadena, SGVCOG	1												1
Momberger, Toni		Redlands, SBCTA	1												1
Moran, Cynthia		Chino Hills, SBCTA	1												1
Morena, Greg		Santa Monica, WCCOG	0												0
Ortiz, Oscar		Indio, CVAG	1												1
Osborne, Jim		Lawndale, SBCCOG	0												0
Parks, Linda		Ventura County	1												1
Pearce, Jeannine		Long Beach, District 30	1												1
Plancarte, Luis		Imperial County	1												1
Pollock, David (CHAIR)		Moorpark, VCOG	1												1
Pulido, Miguel		Santa Ana, OCTA	0												0
Ramirez, Carmen (Vice Chair)		Oxnard, RC District 45	1												1
Raths, Greg		Mission Viejo, OCCOG	1												1
Robertson, Deborah		Rialto, RC District 8	1												1
Rollins, Richard		Port Hueneme, VCOG	1												1
Sahli-Wells, Meghan		Culver City, RC District 41	1												1
Shader, Rhonda		Placentia, President's Appointment	1												1
Springer, Sharon		Burbank, SFVCOG	1												1
Valdivia, John		San Bernardino, SBCCOG	1												1
Wilson, Edward H.J.		Signal Hill, GCCOG	1												1
Wright, Bonnie		Hemet, WRCOG	0												0