



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
October 7, 2021

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

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.igm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) held its 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. Deborah Robertson, Rialto (Vice Chair)	District 8
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Julian Gold, Beverly Hills	WSCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Dan Kalmick, Huntington Beach	OCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio	CVAG
Sup. Luis Plancarte	Imperial County
Hon. Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake	District 11
Sup. Carmen Ramirez	Ventura County
Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	President’s Appointment
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG

Safety and Approval to Accept the Active Transportation Program funds for the Project

A MOTION was made (Ingram) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Ortiz) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Gold, Horne, Huff, Ingram, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Mahmud, Moran, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Rollins, Springer and Traut (22)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

*Sharon Springer noted she Abstained on Item No. 1 and voted yes on Item No. 2 on the Consent Calendar.

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation Extreme Heat Project Series

Lolly Lim, Researcher and Project Manager, at the University of California Los Angeles Luskin Center for Innovation, provided an overview of the project series known as Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on Vulnerable Communities to Design Target Protective Policies. She reported that this research initiative was funded by the Strategic Growth Council Climate Change Research Program and focuses on measuring the potential impacts of the treatment of vulnerable populations and communities and identifying policy depth. Ms. Lim shared that one of the studies focused on the impact of heat on workers and discussed the release of a paper that showed how hotter weather typically increases the risk of accidents and injuries on “on-the-job” sites in both outdoor and indoor settings. She shared this study had been getting some media attention over the summer and they were hoping that could advance advocacy efforts for improved and continued protective measures. Ms. Lim’s presentation also focused on the impacts/effects of heat exposure on pregnant women and infants, as well as the effects on subsidized housing. She summarized their efforts and stated their goal was to ensure that the outcomes of these research outputs could be made as actionable as possible to garner more attention and resources to address the issue of heat and to help form health policy development to address the issue of heat.

Policy Committee Member Jonathan Ingram, Murrieta, WRCOG, shared that as a developer, he always sets up areas with air conditioning and water, having adequate power to protect the environment of his employees so they could eat and cool down. He asked if there was a funding mechanism in place or a way to do so [for situations like those]. He also asked if Ms. Lim knew the

geographic area of the region where the study was done. Ms. Lim stated that there was currently a state level requirement for outdoor workers to ensure they had access to shade and water when temperatures rose above a certain threshold, but no such requirement existed for indoor workers.

Policy Committee Member Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, asked if the study made a distinction between women in the workplace as opposed to women at home. Ms. Lim stated that the data they had access to was just medical on preterm birth.

Policy Committee Member Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, stated the Committee had received a presentation in 2017 regarding climate change and asked if anyone would be available to provide them with an update specifically discussing the implications of accelerating climate change on Southern California. Ms. Lim stated she would be happy to see if anyone was available to give an update. Policy Committee Member Mahmud asked the Chair if she could request that someone reach out to see if they could receive an updated presentation.

Policy Committee Member Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, commented on the generators people buy to keep their power going or keep their air conditioning going. She stated a lot of these generators were diesel fueled and create a worst situation for greenhouse gas (GHG), which increases global warming and expressed they had to do better.

Policy Committee Member Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, sought clarification as to whether or not the results of the study Ms. Lim discussed were available to them. Ms. Lim confirmed that some of the reports were available, and others were forthcoming in terms of final publication. Policy Committee Member Brotman asked Ms. Lim to provide a link so they could access the information.

Policy Committee Member Oscar Ortiz, Indio, CVAG, raised a local issue affecting his area and stated that they had 33 powerline poles that had gone down due to a storm. He indicated they had outdated infrastructure in an area where they had a lot of farm workers and mobile homes and therefore, there were a lot of people without power and were expecting high temperatures in the coming days. He thanked staff for these kinds of studies and pushing this information forward to help them bring light to such issues and help them address them as well.

4. Initial Findings for Connect SoCal CEQA Addendum No. 2 to Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #2019011061)

Karen Calderon, Associate Regional Planner, provided an update on the steps SCAG is taking to ensure that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements are being met for planning documents and about initial findings for addendum number two to the Connect SoCal Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). She reported that CEQA required that if the Connect SoCal Plan was modified after the certification of its PEIR, additional evaluation should be

conducted to ensure the changes did not result in new impacts or substantial increases to existing impacts. She stated that pursuant to those requirements, staff had conducted a preliminary environmental assessment of the proposed changes to the transportation projects and reported that the modeling phase they have suggests that the proposed changes make very minor difference in the environmental outcomes that they have studied. She stated that the project list changes resulted in a less than 1% overall impact to resource areas including air quality, GHG emissions, transportation and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). She reported that the overall plan would still continue to demonstrate federal transportation conformity and meet the state's GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2035. She further noted that the changes are consistent with the scope, goals and policies contained in Connect SoCal and no substantial physical impacts to the environment would occur, beyond what was already documented in the previously certified PEIR. Lastly, she stated that it was determined that a subsequent or supplemental PEIR was not required, and that addendum number two to the PEIR fulfilled CEQA requirements for Connect SoCal amendment number one.

5. California Climate Investments (CCI) 2021 Update

Alex Stockton, Air Pollution Specialist, from the California Air Resources Board provided an update on how California Climate Investments are benefiting the SCAG region. He explained that California Climate Investments is a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work, reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged low-income communities. He shared that as of May 2021, California Climate Investments reports implementation of \$9 billion in projects to reduce GHG. Furthermore, he reported that as of November 2020, they had seen over \$2.3 billion implemented projects in the SCAG region, counting for 26% of the total implemented funding to date. He highlighted the Santa Ana Arts Collective as being part of the Strategic Growth Councils Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. He stated this project was a great example of California Climate Investments bringing a variety of benefits that respond to community needs. Lastly, Mr. Stockton highlighted a few key resources on the California Climate Investments website such as their annual report, the latest semi-annual reporting data, and additional information on projects, including the full project list, Project Map, and data dashboard.

6. Health Equity Through Climate Action

Daniel Woo, Team Lead, and Meredith Milet, Epidemiologist, from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Climate Change and Health Equity Section provided an overview of the health equity framework guiding climate change efforts and described how CDPH is embedding public health and health equity considerations in statewide climate change policy and planning. As part of their presentation, they provided a high-level overview of their approach and activities, along with some of their resources and tools. Mr. Woo shared that one of the key strategies that

they utilize at CDPH is to work to embed health and equity into climate change programs and policy so that implementation improve living conditions for communities facing inequities. One of the key activities Mr. Woo described was their engagement in working to guide state investments and resource distribution to prioritize health equity. He shared his team also facilitates the Public Health Workgroup of the California Climate Action Team holding periodic meetings open to the public, where they bring in diverse speakers to discuss various timely issues related to climate change and health equity.

Additionally, Ms. Milet provided an overview of three tools they hoped could be useful in climate change planning activities. She shared that the first one was called the Healthy Mobility options tool. She explained this was a website that runs a model to quantify the health benefits from increasing levels of walking and cycling compared to the 2010 baseline. The second tool she discussed was the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators for California. She stated that they were developed and maintained by their team, and they are indicators that can help define the scope of global climate impacts, identify populations and locations that are most vulnerable to those impacts. She explained they were grouped into three sections: 1) the climate environmental exposures; 2) adaptive capacity indicators; and 3) population sensitivity indicators. Lastly, Ms. Milet discussed the third tool which is called the California Heat Assessment tool or CHAT and shared it had been used by SCAG to help prioritize locations for shade treatment at transit stops. She explained that it mapped local heat vulnerability in various ways, and it helped planners know where action can be taken to mitigate extreme heat. Lastly, she stated that all these tools could be used as additional resources for identifying communities facing greater health inequities and climate vulnerabilities and for making informed allocation decisions.

Policy Committee Member Jesus Silva, Fullerton, President Appointment (Member at Large), asked if there were examples as to how they reduced those projected fatalities by doing more walking. He asked if they could provide examples of what other cities had done. Mr. Woo stated CDPH had an active transportation resource center with some of their staff from the Injury and Violence Prevention branch that have worked with Caltrans to run the active transportation resource center and had a lot of resources and case studies. He stated some examples were making streets designed for complete street facilitation for walking, biking, and all modes of transportation.

Vice Chair Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, thanked them for their presentation. She stated that her city had partnered with the school district through a grant with the California Climate Action, and they were able to pay some fellows to work on some climate action heat reduction and found that getting the youth involved and letting them become knowledgeable of this had been tremendously helpful.

Policy Committee Member Mahmud asked if they would be able to provide more granular information that was location specific for Los Angeles County. She stated that if the information was

available on a regional basis for Los Angeles County it would be far more useful for the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. Ms. Milet stated they always had the issue of how granular they could get the data. She stated they did try and some of the information they had went down to the census tract level. She stated she thought Los Angeles County was fortunate to have a Plan and Health Program and would be curious to see if they had specific resources for regions and cities that are important to the county. She recommended they talk to the county.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pollock welcomed Policy Committee Member Jonathan Ingram from the City of Murrieta, representing WRCOG. He also stated they had unexpectedly lost Ping Chang, and that they would be adjourning their Regional Council meeting in his memory. He stated their thoughts and sympathies were with his family.

STAFF REPORT

Rachel Wagner reported she had no further comments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Policy Committee Member Silva requested a future agenda item addressing the impacts of an illegal cannabis farm on their environment and water system. He expressed concerns on what this was doing to the environment and their water sustainability.

Vice Chair Robertson suggested that under a future agenda item they cover the status of Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS). She stated there was a lot of discussion on the regulation of PFOS during their Mayors conference, in addition to a lot of regulation at the national and state level that she thought they needed to be aware of. Additionally, she requested they investigate the real estate availability within their superfund sites to help the disadvantaged communities.

Policy Committee Member Ramirez requested a presentation from Metropolitan Water District regarding storage. She stated the Governor had issued a drought declaration and it did not include Los Angeles or Ventura County, which perhaps made them ineligible for some funding. She stated they knew the Colorado River which many depended on, was losing capacity and wanted to see if they could present on that.

Policy Committee Member Mahmud requested an update on Greenprint.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Pollock announced that the next EEC meeting was scheduled for October 7, 2021.

Policy Committee Member Mahmud stated that Policy Committee Member Ingram had expressed concern over maintaining newly planted trees and offered a suggestion of what they did in her city to increase the longevity of their newly planted trees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:15 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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