



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
**November 5, 2020**

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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.ig2.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**

<b>Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Chair)</b>	<b>District 46</b>
<b>Hon. Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>District 45</b>
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Toni Momberger, Redlands	SBCTA
Hon. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa	OCCOG
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. Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City	District 41
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon. Rhonda Shader, Placentia	President’s Appointment
Hon. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	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. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
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 10:00 a.m. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Chair Pollock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chair David Pollock provided instructions for public comment and opened the Public Comment Period.

SCAG staff announced that no public comments were received.

Seeing there were no 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 - September 3, 2020

**Receive and File**

2. Updates on Regional Data Platform (RDP)

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

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<b>AYE/S:</b>	Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Davis, Genis, Horne, Mahmud, Momberger, Ortiz*, Plancarte, Pollock, Ramirez, Rath, Rollins, Sahli-Wells and Springer (16)
<b>NOE/S:</b>	None (0)
<b>ABSTAIN/S:</b>	Silva (1)

While the voting results were being reviewed, Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Indio, CVAG, informed SCAG staff that he was experiencing technical difficulties and intended to vote “Aye” for the motion for the Consent Calendar. The vote for Councilmember Ortiz\* is annotated above.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### 3. CalSTA Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force Findings and Recommendations

Ms. Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager, introduced Ms. Rachel Carpenter, Chief Safety Officer, Caltrans, to share an update on the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force and its evolving approach to safety and speed management strategies. SCAG was represented on the task force by Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41.

Ms. Carpenter began her presentation with a recap on the CalSTA Report of Findings. Assembly Bill 2363 in 2019 directed CalSTA to convene a task force and deliver a Report of Findings. The report was published in January 2020 after a nine-month research and discussion period. The 16 findings and 26 recommendations included span four categories: 1) establishing speed limits; 2) engineering; 3) enforcement; and 4) education.

Ms. Carpenter stated that a key initiative included is a new approach for speed-limit-setting methodology, based on safe system principles. The current methodology is based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. A research project to develop a safe system approach to setting speed limits in California is expected to begin this fall. Key takeaways from the report include the need to provide agencies greater flexibility in setting appropriate speed limits by adjusting current speed-limit-setting procedures and the need to provide technical resources to guide agencies in the existing process of speed limit setting methodologies. The report also covers roadway engineering and design, including an initiative to formalize existing traffic control devices used in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTC). Additionally, the report recommends making the pilot State-led traffic safety monitoring program that identifies and addresses locations with pedestrian- and bicyclist-related crashes permanent. Since the report has been released, this program has been made permanent. In closing, Ms. Carpenter shared contact information for suggestions and ideas for improvement and shared specific needs for suggestions.

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Councilmember Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa, OCCOG, asked Ms. Carpenter about Shared Lane Markings (“sharrows”) safety data. Ms. Carpenter noted that this could be looked into and asked that members submit further feedback for MUTC updates.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, commented on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile methodology and the need for more tools for cities to implement better practices resulting in slower speeds and fewer fatal crashes. She also addressed expenses and costs of engineering studies and the progress made by the task force.

Councilmember Shari Horne, Laguna Woods, OCCOG, commented on golf cart usage on multi-modal trails in Laguna Woods and the independence that golf carts offer seniors. She asked if relevant recommendations were being considered by the task force. Ms. Carpenter responded that no specific considerations for golf carts were ongoing at this time, but all road users are considered in safety work.

Councilmember Jesus Silva, Fullerton, President’s Appointment, asked for a summary of ways for cities to ask for waivers to reduce speed limits. Ms. Carpenter acknowledged different understandings of flexibility offered under the law and mentioned the goal of developing a new approach to setting speed limits. She offered to further discuss the matter with Councilmember Silva.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, commented on a recent traffic fatality. She also expressed concern about safety issues particular to electric vehicles and hearing-impaired individuals.

Councilmember John Valdivia, San Bernardino, SBCCOG, commented on the relevance of the topic and noted traffic-calming measures and road diets for traffic-sensitive corridors and school zones. He invited Ms. Carpenter to provide a presentation in his jurisdiction. Ms. Carpenter thanked Councilmember Valdivia for his comment and acknowledged the invitation.

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, asked what can be done by elected officials to support reduced speed and expressed interest in having Ms. Carpenter speak in his jurisdiction. He also asked if types of vehicles, in addition to speed, were being considered in terms of safety. Ms. Carpenter thanked Councilmember Brotman for his comment and acknowledged the invitation. She recommended speaking to Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells and having more conversations to bring attention to the issue. She spoke to internal changes within Caltrans regarding safety programs and further analysis needed.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, expressed appreciation for the work of Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells and the work of Caltrans. She advocated for prioritizing separated

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bicycle lanes for improved safety.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, reiterated the importance of separated bicycle lanes and retrofits.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, requested a follow-up presentation with the EEC regarding flexibilities under existing regulations.

Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, commented on bicycle lanes and existing dangerous conditions on some lanes. He advocated for additional safety considerations. Ms. Carpenter acknowledged the comment and explained alternatives for bicycle lanes.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, commented on the importance to include pedestrians in the conversation and the impact of high speeds on pedestrian safety.

#### 4. Pathways to Clean Vehicle Technology and Alternative Fuels Implementation in San Bernardino County

Ms. Allison Linder, Senior Regional Planner, introduced Mr. Jeff Ang-Olson, ICF, and she provided background on a study recently conducted by SCAG and SBCTA titled “Pathways to Clean Vehicle Technology and Alternative Fuels Implementation in San Bernardino County.” The study was completed in July 2020 to explore the transition to cleaner goods movement transportation while being mindful of the impact of the industry within San Bernardino County. ICF was hired to hold workshops, conduct public outreach and create an action plan.

Mr. Ang-Olson began his presentation by explaining the project purpose and its scope, the vehicle-based portion of emissions in the South Coast Air Basin from a climate mitigation and ozone attainment perspective. The study focused on San Bernardino County and pinpointed two primary objectives: 1) implementation strategies for local governments and regional agencies; and 2) exploring an optimal path for achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) goals. He outlined the project roadmap, outlining four phases: 1) documenting and forecasting conditions; 2) analyzing alternative paths to clean vehicles and fuels; 3) considering implementation strategies at the local and regional level; and 4) developing a final report and action plan. He summarized the outreach completed, including an industry economic roundtable event and two focus groups. He then reviewed the study area and emissions baselines involved in scenario analysis.

Providing an overview of scenarios, Mr. Ang-Olson shared five models: 1) Electrification; 2) Aggressive Electrification; 3) Natural Gas as a Bridge; 4) Biofuels; and 5) Low NOx Diesel and Biofuels. He broke down sales fractions of electric vehicles and natural gas vehicles by scenario and

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displayed graphs of respective GHG and NOx emissions impacts. He explained incremental costs of scenarios by year and cumulatively, with major fueling savings in most scenarios. Findings of scenario models showed the Electrification and Natural Gas as a Bridge can achieve large GHG and NOx reductions relative to the baseline by 2040, but none of the scenarios hit the NOx reduction target, and only the Aggressive Electrification scenario hits the GHG target. Biofuels and Low NOx Diesel scenarios can achieve significant emission reductions, but without operating cost savings.

Mr. Ang-Olson continued to describe the action plan approach, considering barriers and strategies to compile an action plan. He outlined implementation strategies for private vehicles, suggesting that local governments can gather information about electric vehicle (EV) registrations and charging stations. Jurisdictions can also revise building and zoning codes, streamline permitting processes and deploy public charging infrastructure. He noted that there may be fewer options for commercial vehicle implementation strategies afforded to cities, but cities can work towards information gathering, updating EV readiness provisions and streamlining other types of alternative fuels. Finally, for municipal fleets, over which cities and counties have more control, jurisdictions can conduct fleet assessments and develop clean vehicle procurement targets. Jurisdictions can also invest in deploying infrastructure and procuring low carbon fuels for remaining internal combustion engine vehicles.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, thanked Mr. Ang-Olson for his presentation and commented on the polluting aspects of natural gas as a fossil fuel. She mentioned a report by the Sierra Club on natural gas.

Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Indio, CVAG, asked if hydrogen fuels were considered in the scenarios presented. Mr. Ang-Olson confirmed that hydrogen fuels were taken into account in the analysis but were not part of the five scenarios, as they were not considered to be viable. Councilmember Ortiz then asked, when looking at GHG reductions in electrification, how estimations are made on the portion of renewable energy versus fossil fuel energy. Mr. Ang-Olson said that the state renewable portfolio standards were considered as well as California Energy Commission's forecasts on energy mix for the Southern California grid.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, commented on a Regional Council agenda item regarding grant funds from Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) for implementing strategies for commercial fleets. She asked for clarification if the full lifecycle of different fuels were considered, including emissions during extractions. Mr. Ang-Olson confirmed that the upstream emissions, including extraction, processing and export, were considered. He clarified the difference between renewable natural gas and fossil natural gas. Councilmember Sahli-Wells commented on work of the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) and efforts in Culver City to transition its municipal fleet.

Councilmember Toni Momberger, Redlands, SBCTA, asked about the lifespan for batteries of EVs and whether the cost of disposing batteries were considered. Mr. Ang-Olson said that this was not captured, as this information is still uncertain.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, asked about the calculation of the infrastructure cost, noting that it appeared similar for EVs and Natural Gas as a Bridge, and she mentioned planned obsolescence. Mr. Ang-Olson replied that Natural Gas as a Bridge assumes electrification for light-duty vehicle; thus, charging infrastructure makes these costs similar. In terms of planned obsolescence, Mr. Ang-Olson affirmed that any type of infrastructure has a lifespan, but he stated that the lifespan of a natural gas fueling station was assumed to be 20 years or more, extending beyond the 2040 timeframe for the study. Councilmember Mahmud asked if assumptions were made on the expected longevity for both the EV truck and natural gas heavy-duty vehicles. Mr. Ang-Olson stated that the study assumed the vehicles would be purchased in 2020 and would not be scrapped during the lifespan of the project. Councilmember Mahmud suggested this as an area of study in the future.

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, asked what kind of assistance jurisdictions can get from Mr. Ang-Olson and others, particularly regarding a plan for electrifying municipal fleets. Mr. Ang-Olson stated that the action plan is a starting point that points to other resources, including tools and total cost of ownership calculations.

##### 5. Climate Adaptation Talks and Communication Toolkit

Ms. Kimberly Clark, Program Manager of Resource Conservation and Resilient Communities, shared resources from the Climate Adaptation Talks and Communication Toolkit, which is available for download on SCAG's website. She began her presentation by providing a project background on the SocCal Climate Adaptation Framework, which commenced in February 2019 and is funded by a Caltrans SB1 Adaptation Planning Grant. She stated that its focus is on developing tools and resources for local adjudications. The focus of her presentation was on outreach and communication strategies.

Ms. Clark introduced Ms. Lorianne Esturas, Assistant Regional Planner, to impart an overview on outreach. Ms. Esturas discussed the Climate Talk Box pop-up educational experience, which was displayed at five events throughout the region in 2019. She states that SCAG is developing an ESRI StoryMap to share content from the pop-up box, and she walked members through the StoryMap.

Ms. Clark then shared outreach workshop templates, and she displayed a slide deck and other communication strategies included within the toolkit. She applied insights of communication strategies from the toolkit to the example of the California wildfires in 2020. First, she presented facts and metrics on the wildfires and their impact, addressing financial and health damages and

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the growing threat that wildfires pose. She further discussed its relevant Connect SoCal's plan goal.

She stated that the project has won a 2020 APA California Award of Excellence, and a video shown during the awards ceremony was played for members. She then shared a summary of impacts specific to the SCAG region and a list of engagement tools for adaptation planning. In closing, she provided a look ahead of steps for the SoCal Climate Adaptation Framework, leading to January 2022, when local jurisdictions' Safety Element updates are due.

Chair David Pollock suggested a direction and recognized issues being experienced throughout California and the SCAG region with wildfire season and extreme heat events. He stated that SCAG and the EEC has a responsibility to plan for climate change and increased resiliency. If members agreed, he stated that we would like to ask that SCAG staff develop a resolution for action at the November EEC meeting, and he suggested a gist for content of the resolution.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, commented in support of Chair Pollock's suggestion. She offered to make a motion for such action.

Grieg Asher, SCAG staff, clarified procedures around motions and announced that staff will note Chair Pollock's request and prepare a resolution for consideration by the EEC at the next meeting in November 2020.

Councilmember Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa, OCCOG, commented on the need for adaptation strategies and the effects on land uses, practices and mitigation measures. She commented on scientific consensus around climate change and aberrations. Finally, she commented in support at further looking at a resolution.

Chair Pollock requested that a link to the video shown during Agenda Item No. 5 be shared with committee members.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

A Chair's Report was not provided.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Grieg Asher, SCAG staff, stated that staff has heard the sentiment of the committee, and staff will prepare an agenda item and report for discussion, with a drafted resolution, for the November 2020 EEC meeting.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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Regional Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, discussed a keynote presentation for California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) that she made this morning, and she shared data from Connect SoCal. She encouraged conversation around investment in active transportation mobility. She asked for a future agenda item at EEC and the Emerging Technologies Committees to be given by Anaergia, a company that works on organic waste elimination. She mentioned that Anaergia will be constructing replications of the Rialto Bioenergy Facility, and she discussed benefits of organic waste-to-energy conversion. Chair David Pollock acknowledged her request.

Chair Pollock noted a future presentation by Southern California Gas Company to the EEC planned for November.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, announced that an ordinance to ban the sale of mylar balloons has been introduced in the City of Glendale. He discussed the impact of balloons on blackouts, and he expressed a goal of creating a regional safe haven.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:50 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	0									0
Brotman, Daniel		Glendale, AVCIIPA	1		1	1									3
Clark, Margaret		Rosemead, SGVCOG	1		1	1									3
Copeland, Robert		Signal Hill, GCCOG	1		0	1									2
Davila, Maria		South Gate, GCCOG	0		0	0									0
Davis, Ned		Westlake Village, LVMOG	1		1	1									3
Ehrenkranz, Jordan		Canyon Lake, WRCOG	0		0	0									0
Genis, Sandra		Costa Mesa, OCCOG	1		0	1									2
Horne, Shari		Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1		1	1									3
Litster, Elaine		Simi Valley, VCOG	1		1	1									3
Mahmud, Diana		So. Pasadena, SGVCOG	1		1	1									3
Momberger, Toni		Redlands, SBCTA	1		1	1									3
Moran, Cynthia		Chino Hills, SBCTA	1		1	0									2
Ortiz, Oscar		Indio, CVAG	1		1	1									3
Osborne, Jim		Lawndale, SBCCOG	0		0	0									0
Parks, Linda		Ventura County	1		1	1									3
Pearce, Jeannine		Long Beach, District 30	1		1	1									3
Plancarte, Luis		Imperial County	1		1	1									3
Pollock, David (CHAIR)		Moorpark, VCOG	1		1	1									3
Pulido, Miguel		Santa Ana, OCTA	0		0	0									0
Ramirez, Carmen (Vice Chair)		Oxnard, RC District 45	1		1	1									3
Raths, Greg		Mission Viejo, OCCOG	1		1	1									3
Robertson, Deborah		Rialto, RC District 8	1		1	1									3
Rollins, Richard		Port Hueneme, VCOG	1		0	1									2
Sahli-Wells, Meghan		Culver City, RC District 41	1		1	1									3
Shader, Rhonda		Placentia, President's Appointment	1		0	1									2
Silva, Jesus		Fullerton, President's Appointment			0	1									1
Springer, Sharon		Burbank, SFVCOG	1		1	1									3
Valdivia, John		San Bernardino, SBCCOG	1		0	1									2
Wilson, Edward H.J.		Signal Hill, GCCOG	1		0	1									2
Wright, Bonnie		Hemet, WRCOG	0		0	0									0

Attachment: EFC Attendance Sheet 2020-21 (Minutes of the Meeting - October 1, 2020)