



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

August 15, 2019

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Policy A Committee Conference Room

SCAG's Main Office

900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Ping Chang, Manager of Compliance and Performance Monitoring Department at SCAG, welcomed all participants.

SCAG Headquarters:

Maria Alonso, Huerta Del Valle

Leeor Alpern, SCAQMD

Demi Espinoza, Safe Routes Partnership

Elizabeth Hansburg, People for Housing OC

Lori Huddleston, LA Metro

Jazmine Johnson, PSR-LA

Arthur Levine, Huerta Del Valle

Mercedes Meneses, LA Metro

Gail Shiimoto-Lohr, City of Mission Viejo

Warren Whiteaker, OCTA

Regional Offices:

Rene Felix, ASM Eduardo Garcia's Office

SCAG Staff:

Anita Au

Ping Chang

Jazmine Estores

Ma'Ayn Johnson

Mariano Peinado

David Salgado

Arnold San Miguel

Tom Vo

Rachel Wagner

Webinar:

Jenny Chen, RCTC

Carolyn Coleman, CAP OC

Doug Darnell, City of Riverside

Ana Española, City of Pasadena

Justine Garcia, City of Rancho Cucamonga

Fred Jackson, City of Inglewood

Erik Krause, City of Glendale

Nish Krishnamurthy, SCAQMD

Bryn Lindblad, Climate Resolve

Nardy Lopez, City of Palmdale

Rebecca Marsile, Orange County Health Care Agency

Martha Masters, RCTC

Kim Stater, City of Highland

Rebecca Zaragoza, Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability



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2. UPDATES - EJWG APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

The April 18, 2019 Environmental Justice Working Group meeting summary is available for review. Please send any revisions or corrections to Anita Au at au@scag.ca.gov

3. HUERTA DEL VALLE PRESENTATION

Arthur Levine and Maria Alonso, Huerta Del Valle

Presentation Summary:

- Huerta del Valle (HdV) started as a movement for making healthy and locally grown foods more accessible and affordable in Maria Alonso's community. The organization's overall mission is to be an alternative that works towards creating sustainable community empowerment and establishing healthy food systems.
- HdV started with a small project site in the City of Ontario and has now expanded to six sites within the Inland Empire. The organization also provides a "farmer's training program" that provides education on local and sustainable farming methods.
- There are currently 60 families with gardens currently in operation and HdV wishes to work towards implementing a "one garden every mile" policy so that these communities can continue to be more involved in the health of their environment and local economic development.
- Future plans for HdV include an opportunity to collaboratively manage and rehab a 40-acre park site along with other local public entities, where HdV will be able to use a portion of land for organic farming and animal grazing.

Comments and Questions:

- Question: Where will the collaboratively managed 40-acre park site be located?
Answer: It is within the southern portion of the Santa Ana River. Huerta del Valle now manages approximately 60-70 acres of agricultural land that can be used for community benefit with the addition of this park site.
- Question: What is the most appropriate way to contact Huerta del Valle for more information?
Answer: Flyers can be provided for those here at the SCAG office but for those tuning in via webinar, general questions can be directed to info@huertadelvalle.org. Our website is <http://huertadelvalle.org> and Maria's email is MAlonso@huertadelvalle.org. My email is ALevine@huertadelvalle.org.
- Question: Is there any consideration for the use of golf course land for community gardening? There is potential for spaces on golf courses that are safe from being hit by golf balls that could be taken advantage of.
Answer: Absolutely. We are excited to explore all kinds of options including that one. There are some really cool, high-profile urban farms that have taken place in areas like baseball fields. Our organization is aware of the benefits that can come from using golf courses, school campuses, areas behind churches, plots of semi- and undeveloped land.
- Question: Will this presentation be posted online after today's meeting?
Answer: Today's presentation can definitely be posted online and you could also request it via email. Huerta del Valle just asks that if any photos from the presentation are used to please ask beforehand in order to be aware of where their material is being circulated.
- Question: How do you preserve these potentially super valuable resources particularly for communities that need them the most?
Answer: Our organization was able to be part of the focus groups for the Lewis Corporation when they were developing this concept of the harvest or "agro growth". In practice it could be a lot more challenging to mix these uses of development and agricultural resource but it would be amazing to figure out ways where housing needs and greenspace access needs are



somehow solved together. Huerta del Valle is also very interested in finding disparate needs and creating holistic solutions. These are questions and conversations that our organization definitely wants to have moving forward.

4. REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SOCIAL EQUITY UPDATE

Ma'Ayn Johnson, Regional Planner Specialist, SCAG

Presentation Summary:

- SCAG staff presented on the RHNA process, objectives, and methodology, noting that SCAG is currently awaiting a regional determination number from the State Department of Housing.
- The RHNA Methodology options were released on August 3, 2019 for public comment period ending on September 13, 2019.
- SCAG staff provided a brief description of the three Proposed RHNA Methodology options, specifically breaking down the consideration factors for each option.
- Please see meeting presentation for further information or email housing@scag.ca.gov with any questions.

Comments and Questions:

- **Question:** It was mentioned in a meeting earlier today that there would be some data corrections/refinements made to the RHNA calculator tool and I noticed with Option 3 that there were a jump in results with the total if you played around with the numbers. I feel like this might have to do with the regional distribution at each horizon year. Is there a thought of how to smooth this out so you don't get the jump in numbers each year or is that part of what SCAG staff has been looking at?
Answer: Option 3 is heavily based on local input so some of that jump you see is due to the jump in reported local input. We do welcome suggestions regarding mechanisms that could allow for more of a standardization process of local input but as it is right now, it is based off of whatever is reported in local inputs.
- **Question:** As mentioned in the previous question, do you know when we can expect a revised RHNA calculator tool with updated data to be made available?
Answer: Yes, we just updated the RHNA calculator tool internally but we do want to perform a quality check because we don't want to release multiple versions with constant changes. Release of the updated calculator tool will be dependent on this quality check and we encourage any other data corrections to be sent as soon as possible to be incorporated into one big update for this too.

5. SOUTH COAST AQMD 5TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Leor Alpern, South Coast AQMD

Presentation Summary:

- SCAQMD's 5th annual Environmental Justice Conference is on Thursday September 12th in Downtown Los Angeles.
- The half-day event is a free regional conference that will feature Councilmember Nury Martinez, Chair of the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee as a keynote speaker.
- The conference aims to provide attendees with tools and resources in dealing with environmental justice issues and will also be covering topics such as the implementation of AB 617.

Comments and Questions:

- **Question:** As part of the conference will highlights based off of analysis and reports be given regarding AB 617 communities?



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- **Answer:** Yes to an extent. We're going to be talking about AB 617 within the context of community specific strategies. However if you're interested in getting a really focused AB 617 overview I would encourage to go on the SCAQMD website where a full presentation from a prior meeting is available.
- **Question:** (1:15:00 mark – Cannot hear Gail's question)
Answer: The three communities for the first year included an area of East Los Angeles, West Commerce, and a portion of Downtown Los Angeles. The second community included the areas West Long Beach, Wilmington, and Carson. Third community was in the Muscoy area of San Bernardino. There were a couple communities discussed for the second year one of them being out in the Coachella area and the other being in Southeast Los Angeles County. All of this information can again be found on the SCAQMD website

6. EJ REPORT UPDATE

Tom Vo, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG

Presentation Summary:

- Based on the working group's feedback, SCAG staff made organizational changes to the EJ Report, including reorganizing the report under four categories: quality of life, health and safety, commute impacts and transportation costs.
- SCAG staff also explained how they incorporated further analyses in jobs-housing balance and funding.
- SCAG staff presented on the updated analysis areas: Environmental Justice areas, SB535 Disadvantaged Communities, and Communities of Concern.
- Please see meeting presentation for further information on email Anita Au, au@scag.ca.gov, or environmentaljustice@scag.ca.gov with any question

Comments and Questions:

- **Question:** Could you clarify the difference between SB535 defined Disadvantaged Communities to the Communities of Concern definition?
Answer: SB535 was developed by CalEnviroScreen and basically looks at a census tract's population and then different environmental hazards such as asthma rate, obesity, toxic sites and so on. At the end the census tract would be rated on a scale of 0 to 100 and from this, the top 25% would qualify as a Disadvantaged Community. Communities of Concern looks at the same factors but also requires an area to have both a higher minority population and lower household income compared to the SCAG region. SCAG's Environmental Justice Areas also look at minority population and household income but does not require both factors to be met in order to be considered

Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

Presentation Summary:

- SCAG staff presented on the updated EJ Toolbox which was significantly revised with the intent of making this document a resource for local jurisdictions and community groups to further EJ efforts.
- SCAG staff explained the next steps for the EJ Toolbox and emphasized that it will be a dynamic document to be updated between adoption of Connect SoCal and future RTP/SCS's.
- Please see meeting presentation for further information on email Anita Au, au@scag.ca.gov, or environmentaljustice@scag.ca.gov with any questions.



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Comments and Questions:

- Comment: Appreciative that comments were able to be provided and for the consideration and incorporation of comments in the draft. For comments that did not make it in, maybe consider for the final document. Appreciate that comments were categorized into buckets so as cities are preparing and updating General Plans they are easy to pull from to update certain sections. I wonder if there other model policies that could encourage cities to do local resolutions such as a local green new deal that might connect well to EJ principles outlined in the presentation. A section on recommended resolutions.
Answer: We will definitely work on incorporating all comments into the final draft and encourage more comments to be sent for consideration. The suggestions you provided are also great for consideration so please do send those as well