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| February 2, 2021 | DeAndre Valencia    | Resident of Pomona, CA | CEHD AI #2  
EEC AI #3  
TC AI #2  
RC AI #1  
- Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities | Strong support for SCAG setting forth Resolution No. 21-629-02, Increasing Broadband Access to Bridge the Digital Divide Throughout Southern California, on behalf of BizFed | SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)                                                      |
| February 2, 2021 | Steven Castro        | Resident of Azusa, CA | CEHD AI #2  
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| February 2, 2021 | Donna Duperron       | Resident of Torrence, CA | CEHD AI #2  
EEC AI #3  
TC AI #2  
RC AI #1  | Strong support for SCAG setting forth Resolution No. 21-629-02, Increasing Broadband Access to Bridge the Digital Divide Throughout Southern California, on behalf of BizFed | SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)                                                      |
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<td>Carol Church</td>
<td>Resident of Anaheim, CA</td>
<td><strong>CEHD AI #2</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>EEC AI #3</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>TC AI #2</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>RC AI #1</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities</td>
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<td>Ryan Ole Hass</td>
<td>Resident of Santa Monica, CA</td>
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# Regional Council (RC)
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<td>Resident of Encino, CA</td>
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<td>Jessica Lall</td>
<td>Resident of Los Angeles, CA / Central City Association of Los Angeles</td>
<td>CEHD AI #2 EEC AI #3 TC AI #2 RC AI #1 - Resolution for SCAG to Bridge</td>
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<td>9. February 3, 2021</td>
<td>Steve PonTell</td>
<td>Resident of Rancho Cucamonga, CA</td>
<td>CEHD AI #2 EEC AI #3 TC AI #2 RC AI #1 - Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities</td>
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<td>10. February 3, 2021</td>
<td>Williams P. Curley III</td>
<td>City of Mission Viejo / Harper &amp; Burns LLP</td>
<td>RC Closed Session AI #1 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation</td>
<td>Questions to help guide any such discussions related to outstanding concerns over State HCD's issuance of 1.34 million housing units to the SCAG region for the 6th cycle RHNA</td>
<td>SCAG Regional Council Future Discussion on State Department of Housing and Community Development Issuance of 1.34 Million Housing Units to the SCAG Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. February 3, 2021</td>
<td>Terri M. Carbaugh</td>
<td>Brandman University</td>
<td>CEHD AI #2 EEC AI #3 TC AI #2</td>
<td>Strong support for sincere gratitude to SCAG of</td>
<td>SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)</td>
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<td>RC AI #1</td>
<td>Governments for its work to address to issue of broadband access, considering broadband infrastructure’s impact on students</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>February 3, 2021</td>
<td>Donna Duperron, David Fleming and Tracy Hernandez</td>
<td>CEHD AI #2, EEC AI #3, TC AI #2, RC AI #1</td>
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<td>BizFed Support Letter re: SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 Bridging the Digital Divide</td>
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<td>BizFed and</td>
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Dear SCAG ePublic Comments,

Dear Honorable Rex Richardson,

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We appreciate SCAG’s effort to closing the digital divide and providing long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expand economic opportunities, and bridges the economic divide via Resolution No. 21-629-02.

Sincerely,
DeAndre Valencia
vanda3030@gmail.com
460 Lucera Court111 111 Pomona, CA 91766 Constituent
From: Steven Castro <myvoice@oneclickpolitics.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:39 AM
To: ePublic Comment Group <ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov>
Subject: SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)

Re: SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)

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Sincerely,
Steven Castro
steven@azusachamber.org
240 W Foothill Blvd Azusa, CA 91702 Constituent
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Sincerely,
Donna Duperron
donna@torrancechamber.com
3480 Torrance Blvd. #305 Torrance, CA 90503 Constituent

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Sincerely,
Carol Church
carol@rebuildsocal.org
2400 E. Katella Ave., 570 Anaheim, CA 92806 Constituent

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Sincerely,
Ryan Ole Hass
ryanolehass.re@gmail.com
757 Ocean Avenue, #306 Santa Monica, CA 90402 Constituent

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Sincerely,
Ruth Drizen-Dohs
rdd@drizen-dohs.com
19360 Rinaldi Street Suite 648 Porter Ranch, CA 91326 Constituent

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Sincerely,

Madm M C Townsend
info.regionalcalblackchamber@yahoo.com
16133 Ventura Blvd # 700 Encino, CA 91436 Constituent
Re: SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)

Dear SCAG ePublic Comments,

Dear Honorable Rex Richardson,

Central City Association of Los Angeles is an advocacy organization made up of over 300 businesses, nonprofit organizations and trade associations committed to the vibrancy of Downtown Los Angeles and increasing investment in the region. We are writing in strong support for Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) setting forth Resolution No. 21-629-02, Increasing Broadband Access to Bridge the Digital Divide Throughout Southern California.

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Sincerely,

Jessica Lall
ckarger@ccala.org
626 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 850 Los Angeles, CA 90017 Constituent

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Sincerely,
Steve PonTell
spontell@nationalcore.org
9421 Haven Ave. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 Constituent
February 3, 2021

The Honorable Rex Richardson, President
Regional Council Members
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90017

Subject: SCAG Regional Council Future Discussion on State Department of Housing and Community Development Issuance of 1.34 Million Housing Units to the SCAG Region

Dear President Richardson and Members of the SCAG Regional Council,

The SCAG RHNA Appeals Board just completed a monumental task in completing its review of more than 50 appeals filed by SCAG jurisdictions on their respective draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocations.

In listening to these public hearings, we were reminded of the concerns that were expressed by jurisdictions and residents – both within the filed appeals, as well as public comments expressed – on the need for SCAG to conduct a Closed Session of its Regional Council to discuss outstanding concerns over the State Department of Housing and Community Development (State HCD) issuance of 1.34 million housing units to the SCAG region for the 6th cycle RHNA.

We hope that this opportunity is made available to the Regional Council members. Should such a meeting be convened, I respectfully would offer the following questions to help guide any such discussions. And please feel free to contact me to further discuss.

Respectfully,

HARPER & BURNS LLP

William P. Curley III, City Attorney
City of Mission Viejo

William P. Curley III
wcurley@harperburns.com
**Inquiry:**

The issue is the starting point: the 1.34 million housing units that California State Department of Housing and Community Development (State HCD) issued for the SCAG region, and if said number is statutorily defensible. In other words, did SCAG receive from State HCD, a defective regional allocation? And if SCAG did receive a defective regional allocation, what steps should SCAG take to right this wrong?

Both SCAG and local governments have raised concern that State HCD failed to use SCAG’s 2020 RTP/SCS growth forecasts in determining the region’s existing and projected housing need, and by such failure, did not comply with Government Code Section 65584.01(a) governing RHNA (See Attachment 1, Exhibit A).

Further, recent studies issued in 2020, after HCD’s October 2019 determination of 1.34 million housing units, conclude that HCD’s calculation doubled SCAG’s regional housing need, through over-counting and double counting errors outlined by the Embarcadero Institute. Thus, instead of 1.34 million housing units, SCAG’s RHNA should have been in the order of 651,000 housing units for the 6th cycle. Additional background information on these two issues is provided in Attachment 1.

The answers to several key questions warrant consideration and discussion during the SCAG Regional Council Closed Session:

1. Did HCD follow the law when calculating the regional determination of 1.34 million housing units?
   a) Was this discussed at the RHNA Litigation Study Team meeting of November 2, 2020?
   b) Did the RHNA Litigation Study Team conclude that State HCD did not follow the law?
   c) Did SCAG’s Legal Counsel determine that State HCD did not follow the law?
   d) If so, are we really just going to let this issue go?

2) If HCD did not follow the law, does SCAG have a moral obligation to its member jurisdictions to demand that the law be followed?
   a) If we let this issue go, are we setting ourselves up for the same problems to occur in the next RHNA cycle?
   b) Should not HCD be held accountable for not following the law?
   c) Do we want SCAG to be an active agent in perpetuating incorrect and unlawful implementation of State law?
   d) If SCAG does nothing, won’t our jurisdictions pay the price for inaction for the next decade, by having to find sites for an over-inflated housing need for the 6th cycle? Are we just going to explain this away as a learning experience?
e) Further, if SCAG does not challenge HCD on its noncompliance and its errors, what groundwork, and what precedence, does this lay for the 7th RHNA cycle?

3) Has SCAG informally discussed these concerns with State HCD, and if so, what was State HCD’s response?

4) What are the options before us to address this matter?
   a) Does SCAG have legal standing to sue State HCD over this violation of the law?
   b) What other options are on the table?
Background Information:

State HCD Regional Determination: 1.34 Million Housing Units for SCAG Region
On October 15, 2019, the State Department of Housing and Community Development (State HCD) issued a final regional housing need of 1.34 million units for the six-county SCAG region to plan for, for the 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) period of October 2021 to October 2029.

Regionally, this is more than three times the amount that State HCD issued in 2012 for the current RHNA 5th cycle.

At the direction of the Regional Council, SCAG prepared an official objection letter to State HCD on September 18, 2019, pursuant to State Government Code provisions.

SCAG’s objection letter specifically noted that State HCD failed to use SCAG’s 2020 RTP/SCS growth forecasts in determining the region’s existing and projected housing need, and by such failure, raised concern that State HCD did not comply with Government Code Section 65584.01(a). Section 65584.01(a), which is provided in Exhibit A, states that State HCD shall use the regional forecasts of a council of governments, if said forecasts are within a 1.5% tolerance range of the State Department of Finance population projections. SCAG’s population forecasts were within the 1.5% tolerance range. SCAG’s letter also raised additional concerns with data sources and methodology that State HCD used to calculate the 1.34 million housing units. Based on SCAG staff’s technical documentation, SCAG recommended an alternative proposed 6th cycle RHNA determination ranging from 824,000 to 921,000 units. State HCD maintained the 1.34 million units for the SCAG region.

Freddie Mac and Embarcadero Institute Reports:
Further, in 2020, two reports were released that raised question on the accuracy of the 1.34 million housing unit allocation from State HCD: a February 2020 Freddie Mac report and a September 2020 Embarcadero Institute report. These reports raised concerns whether State HCD’s regional determination was over-inflated. The Embarcadero Institute Report further researched and recalculated each factor for SCAG’s regional housing need, and concludes that SCAG’s housing need should be approximately 651,000 housing units as compared to the issued 1.34 million housing units, due to double-counting errors conducted by State HCD. The Embarcadero Institute Report also identified that this same error was conducted with the regional determinations for the San Diego Council of Governments (SANDAG), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and the Sacramento Area of Governments (SACOG), resulting in a 941,000 housing unit over-count, cumulatively, for the four regions. The greatest over-count was for the SCAG region; 73%, or approximately 691,000 units, applies just to the SCAG region.
Request to Re-Convene SCAG's RHNA Litigation Study Team:
Based on these concerns, members of the Regional Council and SCAG jurisdictions requested SCAG to re-convene its SCAG RHNA Litigation Study Team, to have the RHNA Litigation Study Team discuss whether to pursue legal action against State HCD for noncompliance with housing statute and the new additional information that raised question on State HCD's calculation of the 1.34 million housing units. After several months of requests, the SCAG RHNA Litigation Study Team was convened on November 2, 2020, and the RHNA Litigation Study Team met in a closed meeting and determined to not pursue any legal challenge against State HCD.

SCAG RHNA Litigation Study Team Report-Out:
At the 11/04/2020 SCAG Executive/Administration Committee (E/AC) meeting and the 11/05/2020 SCAG Regional Council meeting, SCAG President Rex Richardson verbally reported out that the SCAG RHNA Litigation Study Team met on Monday, November 2, 2020. He summarized that the RHNA Litigation Study Team:

1) Discussed HCD's 1.34 million housing unit determination for the SCAG region and the Freddie Mac study, and,

2) Conducted a healthy discussion, and reached a general consensus that SCAG should not pursue litigation against HCD over the regional housing determination number.

At the 11/05/2020 Regional Council meeting, Councilmembers Wendy Bucknum (Mission Viejo) and Trevor O'Neil (Anaheim) requested that the full Regional Council be provided the opportunity to discuss and make a decision on this issue. They felt that the importance of the issue and its impact on the RHNA of all the SCAG jurisdictions, warranting the consideration of the entire Regional Council to weigh in.

Councilmember O'Neil further requested that the information that the RHNA Litigation Task Force reviewed at its 11/02/2020 meeting, be shared with the entire Regional Council, and that the full Regional Council body discuss and make a decision on SCAG's course of action with State HCD. At the January 7, 2021 Regional Council meeting, President Richardson announced that such a Closed Session meeting of the Regional Council would be convened.

The item is now being considered at Thursday's 2/04/2021 Regional Council meeting, under Closed Session, for discussion and action.

Further, during December 2020 and January 2021, SCAG’s RHNA Appeals Board conducted public hearings on 51 appeals filed by SCAG jurisdictions. During the RHNA Appeals process, many of the appellants supported the request that the SCAG Regional Council conduct a meeting to discuss the starting number issued by State HCD, expressing concerns with allocations that were multiple-fold higher than their 5th cycle allocation and the ability to find enough sites to plan for these allocations. The SCAG
staff and the RHNA Appeals Board determined that State HCD’s regional determination number is not a valid basis for a RHNA appeal, and is not within the authority of SCAG’s RHNA Appeals Board or Regional Council to modify.
EXHIBIT A

California Government Code Section 65584.01(a):

The department's determination shall be based upon population projections produced by the Department of Finance and regional population forecasts used in preparing regional transportation plans, in consultation with each council of governments. If the total regional population forecast for the projection year, developed by the council of governments and used for the preparation of the regional transportation plan, is within a range of 1.5 percent of the total regional population forecast for the projection year by the Department of Finance, then the population forecast developed by the council of governments shall be the basis from which the department determines the existing and projected need for housing in the region. If the difference between the total population projected by the council of governments and the total population projected for the region by the Department of Finance is greater than 1.5 percent, then the department and the council of governments shall meet to discuss variances in methodology used for population projections and seek agreement on a population projection for the region to be used as a basis for determining the existing and projected housing need for the region. If agreement is not reached, then the population projection for the region shall be the population projection for the region prepared by the Department of Finance as may be modified by the department as a result of discussions with the council of governments.
Re: SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02 (Support)

Dear SCAG ePublic Comments,

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Rex Richardson
President, Southern California Association of Governments Regional Council
900 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Richardson,

I am writing on behalf of Brandman University to extend our sincere gratitude to the Southern California Association of Governments for its work to address the issue of broadband access. We are long past the time when Internet access could be considered to be a luxury, or even a novelty. Access to reliable and affordable Internet services is as essential to Southern California families as access to clean water and electricity.

Broadband infrastructure is critical to Brandman’s mission as a nonprofit provider of higher education services to busy working adults. Our university, which has campuses in the Antelope Valley, Irvine, Murrieta, Ontario, Palm Desert, Santa Clarita, Victorville and several other cities in California and Washington, specializes in blended and entirely online programs. Online programs are tremendously valuable for working adults who, when deciding whether or not to pursue a degree, must consider whether they will have the time to balance their studies with such responsibilities as work, family, or even military service.

Online education should be a lifeline for would-be students who live in rural communities where attending college would otherwise require long commutes or relocation, or for prospective students in low-income households where transportation costs may place obstacles in the way to a fulfilling degree, credential, or certificate. The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center counted, as of December 2018, more than 5.7 million Californians who started college but did not complete their higher educations. We at Brandman know online and blended programs can help many to re-enroll and earn the academic award that will help themselves, their families and, ultimately, their communities enjoy healthier and more prosperous futures.

Our collective experiences of this past year have forced us to realize that not all Californians have equal access to broadband services. Remote work and K-12 classes have likely protected many from COVID-19, but Californians without access to quality broadband services have been denied opportunities to safely earn a living or receive the full benefits of their education. We at Brandman hope the Regional Council votes to support the proposed Resolution No. 21-629-2 during its meeting of Feb. 4, 2021. We look
forward to the resolution’s adoption and to learning of SCAG’s future recommendations to close the
digital divide.

Thank you,

Terri M. Carbaugh
Vice Chancellor, Advancement, Alumni Relations, and Public Affairs

CC: Brandman Chancellor Gary Brahm

Sincerely,
Terri Carbaugh
carbaugh@brandman.edu
16355 Laguna Canyon Rd. Irvine, CA 92618 Constituent

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February 3, 2021

Honorable Rex Richardson  
President  
Southern California Association of Governments  
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

via email: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov

RE: SCAG Resolution No. 21-629-02, Increasing Broadband Access to Bridging the Digital Divide Throughout Southern California

Dear Honorable Rex Richardson,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Business Federation, BizFed, an grassroots organization representing 210 business organizations comprised of 450,000 employers, and 3.5 million employees, we are writing in strong support for Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) setting forth a Resolution No. 21-629-02, Increasing Braodband Access to Bridge the Digital Divide Throughout Southern California.

As we all have experienced, the Covid-19 pandemic has only reinforced our reliance on broadband and the importance of closing the digital divide. With school, work, and healthcare increasingly online as a public health imperative, Californians’ ability to access and use broadband has become the difference between being able to fully engage or being cut off.

We appreciate SCAG’s effort to closing the digital divide and providing long-term community benefits that include the ability to fully engage in the digital economy, access existing and emerging services, expand economic opportunities, and bridges the economic divide via Resolution No. 21-629-02.

If you have any questions, please feel free to connect with DeAndre Valencia @ deandre.valencia@bizfed.org

Sincerely,

Donna Duperron  
BizFed Chair  
Torrance Area Chamber

David Fleming  
BizFed Founding Chair

Tracy Hernandez  
BizFed Founding CEO  
IMPOWER, Inc.
BizFed Association Members

- Covina Chamber
- Culver City Chamber of Commerce
- Downey Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Center Business Improvement District
- Downtown Long Beach Alliance
- El Monte/South El Monte Chamber
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce
- Employers Group
- Engineering Contractor’s Association
- EXP
- F.A.S.T.- Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic
- FilmLA
- Friends of Hollywood Central Park
- Fur Information Council
- FuturePorts
- Gardena Valley Chamber
- Gateway to LA
- Glendale Association of Realtors
- Glendale Chamber
- Glendora Chamber
- Greater Antelope Valley AOR
- Greater Downey Association of REALTORS
- Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber
- Greater Los Angeles Association of REALTORS
- Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association
- Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
- Harbor Trucking Association
- Historic Core BID of Downtown Los Angeles
- Hollywood Chamber
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Hotel Association of Los Angeles
- Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce
- Independent Cities Association
- Industry Business Council
- Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership
- International Warehouse Logistics Association
- La Cañada Flintridge Chamber
- LA County Medical Association
- LA Fashion District BID
- LA South Chamber of Commerce
- Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
- Larchmont Boulevard Association
- Latino Food Industry Association
- Latino Restaurant Association
- LAX Coastal Area Chamber
- League of California Cities
- Long Beach Area Chamber
- Los Angeles Area Chamber
- Los Angeles County Board of Real Estate
- Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
- Los Angeles Gateway Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Latino Chamber
- Los Angeles Parking Association
- Marketplace Industry Association
- Motion Picture Association of America, Inc.
- MoveLA
- NAIOP Southern California Chapter
- National Association of Royalty Owners
- National Association of Tobacco Outlets
- National Association of Women Business Owners
- National Association of Women Business Owners - LA
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Latina Business Women’s Association
- Orange County Business Council
- Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
- Pacific Palisades Chamber
- Panorama City Chamber of Commerce
- Paramount Chamber of Commerce
- Pasadena Chamber
- Pasadena foothills Association of Realtors
- PHRMA
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
- Pomona Chamber
- Propel LA
- Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors
- ReadyNation California
- Recording Industry Association of America
- Regional Black Chamber-San Fernando Valley
- Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Regional San Gabriel Valley Chamber
- Rosemead Chamber
- San Dimas Chamber of Commerce
- San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
- San Pedro Peninsula Chamber
- Santa Clarita Valley Chamber
- Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp.
- Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
- Sherman Oaks Chamber
- South Bay Association of Chambers
- South Bay Association of Realtors
- South Gate Chamber of Commerce
- Southern California Contractors Association
- Southern California Golf Association
- Southern California Grantmakers
- Southern California Leadership Council
- Southern California Minority Suppliers Development Council Inc.
- Southern California Water Coalition
- Southland Regional Association of Realtors
- Sunland/Tujunga Chamber
- The Young Professional at the Petroleum Club
- Torrance Area Chamber
- Town Hall Los Angeles
- Tri-Counties Association of Realtors
- United Cannabis Business Association
- United Chambers – San Fernando Valley & Region
- United States-Mexico Chamber
- Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle Systems Association
- US Green Building Council
- US Resiliency Council
- Valley Economic Alliance, The
- Valley Industry & Commerce Association
- Vernon Chamber
- Vietnamese American Chamber
- Warner Center Association
- West Hollywood Chamber
- West Los Angeles Chamber
- West San Gabriel Valley Association of Realtors
- West Valley/Warner Center Chamber
- Western Manufactured Housing Association
- Western States Petroleum Association
- Westside Council of Chambers
- Westwood Community Council
- Westwood Village Rotary Club
- Whittier Chamber of Commerce
- Wilmington Chamber
- World Trade Center
- Young Professionals in Energy - LA Chapter

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