

**Regional Council (RC)
List of Public Comments**

Received before 5pm on Wednesday, January 6, 2021

	Date	Sender Name	Organization	Agenda Item (AI #)	Notes	Subject Line
1.	December 4, 2020	Robert Cruz	SoCalGas	AI #1 - Climate Change Action Resolution	Support the Resolution as presented on November 5th and proudly join the call as a regional partner to work together to improve regional climate adaptation and resilience	RE: A Resolution of the Southern California Association of Government's Affirming a Climate Change Crises in the SCAG Region and Calling on Local and Regional Partners to Join Together to Improve Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience
2.	January 6, 2021	Henry Fung	Resident of Covina, CA	N/A	Oppose Regional Housing Needs Determination litigation	Comment for SCAG Regional Council meeting, January 7, 2021



Robert Cruz
Public Affairs Manager

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Los Angeles, CA 90013

Email: RCruz1@socalgas.com

SCAG Energy and Environment Committee
Due January 6th by 5pm to: EECPublicComment@scag.ca.gov

RE: A Resolution of the Southern California Association of Government's Affirming a Climate Change Crises in the SCAG Region and Calling on Local and Regional Partners to Join Together to Improve Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Dear Energy and Environment Committee Members:

SoCalGas has been a longstanding supporter of the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG's) forward-looking energy and environmental goals. We too, are committed to helping the State achieve its climate and clean energy goals. SoCalGas' mission is to build the cleanest, safest and most innovative energy company in North America. To that end, last year SoCalGas' leadership committed to replace 20% of our core gas supplies with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2030.

We support the Resolution as presented on November 5th and proudly join the call as a regional partner to work together to improve regional climate adaptation and resilience. Consistent with SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, "Connect SoCal", we appreciate that the Resolution is aspirational and collaborative.

As a trusted long-term energy provider, we have a pivotal role to play in helping the cities and counties we serve achieve our shared environmental goals and it is critical that comprehensive strategies and pathways consider a multitude of diverse energy technologies to achieve them. Identifying and leveraging emissions reductions solutions that employ existing proven and cost-effective strategies while also allowing flexibility for future technologies, provides the best chance of attaining statewide carbon neutrality.

To this end, our company is enhancing and exploring technology solutions to help reduce energy emissions systemwide. We offer multiple programs to help municipalities and customers reduce their emissions through clean energy procurement, energy conservation, home weatherization and energy efficient equipment. Many customers are often unaware these programs exist or that they are eligible to participate in. In partnership with SoCalGas, SCAG's leadership and its members can help promote these energy efficiency programs across our service territory.

We are also excited to announce that the California Public Utilities Commission permitted a voluntary pilot program of our Green Tariff that would allow our customers to voluntarily elect to replace all or a portion of their natural gas use with RNG. The Green Tariff Program is similar to clean energy procurement programs offered by electric utilities and community choice aggregators. Final approval on

the Green Tariff Program is expected by the end of 2020. This Tariff would provide residents the ability to maintain gas service while offsetting all or a portion of the emissions associated with their gas use.

We are also working to help communities enhance their resiliency through emerging technologies like microgrids, hydrogen and fuel cells. We know energy resiliency is a critical focus for SCAG, and we are committed to helping ensure community energy reliability. The inherent resilience of the gas system to climate impacts can significantly benefit local and regional energy reliability, and our efforts to decarbonize the system with RNG and hydrogen allow emission reduction benefits to be achieved simultaneously. In fact, SoCalGas and San Diego Gas and Electric recently announced the creation of a Hydrogen Blending Demonstration Program that would inject green hydrogen produced by renewable electricity into sections of the gas grid. The program is anticipated to begin in early 2021 with an initial hydrogen blend level at 1% and may increase to as much as an industry-leading 20%.

We applaud SCAG's leadership and support the Resolution (as presented on November 5th). We are committed to working with SCAG and its membership municipalities to achieve their environmental goals and hope to continue to provide helpful information.

Thank you,

Robert Cruz
Public Affairs Manager
SoCalGas

From: Henry Fung <calwatch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 4:09 PM
To: ePublic Comment Group <ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov>
Subject: Comment for SCAG Regional Council meeting, January 7, 2021

(This is a revision to a comment sent to the Executive/Administrative Committee, done so to be in the record for Regional Council.)

Dear honorable members of the SCAG Regional Council:

Recently it seems that several cities are requesting that SCAG schedule a closed session for possible litigation on the state regarding the Regional Housing Needs Determination. While I have no opinion on whether a closed session be scheduled. as a taxpayer and resident of the SCAG region, I strongly oppose litigation.

SCAG has received many plaudits for its planning and programming activities. The RHNA methodology was praised by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The Go Human campaign, slow streets programs, and driver education have resulted in safer streets for walkers, bicyclists, and other non-automobile users. SCAG also acts as a forum for encouraging business investment through the sustainable communities program and the annual economic summit. Spending money on litigation necessarily means that some of these programs could be eliminated.

What these cities wish to do is to drain the SCAG budget, and possibly the budgets of many of its members, on litigation that is not likely to be successful. The President's RHNA litigation study group has already studied the issue and chosen not to move forward. This decision should be respected. Hopefully they will share why they chose to make this decision in closed session.

With COVID-19 affecting city and county budgets extensively through revenue losses and added costs, any litigation by cities will necessarily result in city general fund programs being cut. The loss of police officers, firefighters, library employees, parks workers, and the possible elimination of many programs essential in supporting families during the pandemic could be cut all because cities don't want to plan for housing. Many cities have already gone to the voters to raise their sales taxes to fund these services. The voters did not expect for the money to be spent on lawyers.

Some of the Orange County cities that want litigation may feel that they can afford to sue the State. If so, they should fund the litigation themselves and not have it drain the SCAG budget. The SCAG cities that do not want to participate should not be required to pay for these expenses, or for the State's expenses should they lose.

Also, an adversarial position could result in more legislation passed at the State level that could make litigation moot. I support the SCAG President and executive leadership to continue to dialogue productively with the State, the Governor's Administration, and our legislators, and not go in the direction of fruitless litigation that could direct money away from both COVID-19 relief and the necessary steps to plan beyond COVID-19, and into the pockets of lawyers.

Sincerely,
Henry Fung
Covina, CA