

2017 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INNOVATION

I am pleased to share with you an exciting program for SCAG 52nd Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly. This year's conference, "Innovating for a Better Tomorrow," will be held May 4-5 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert. The conference program includes guest speakers and breakout panels on a variety of topics including housing, smart city infrastructure and how automation and artificial intelligence will impact the future workforce. At the conference luncheon, we will also present the winners of the 2017 SCAG Sustainability Awards, the region's highest honors for projects that promote and improve mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability in Southern California. This year, a total of seven planning projects were selected. Please join us in recognizing the cities of Long Beach, Lynwood and San Bernardino, the Imperial County Transportation Commission, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Transportation Corridor Agencies and University of California Los Angeles Department of Transportation on May 4. The event is free for elected officials and city managers. For other guests, there is a special \$250 early bird rate that's been extended until April 14. For more information, visit the conference website: scag.ca.gov/ga2017.

WELCOME ART YOON, SCAG'S NEW DIRECTOR OF POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I am pleased to announce SCAG's new Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Art Yoon. Art has over 27 years of experience working as a public relations professional in the private and public sectors and joins SCAG with an extensive background in government, having served as a member of the Hermosa Beach City Council and also as Mayor and as a staffer to three U.S. Congressional Representatives and one U.S. Senator. Prior to joining SCAG, Art was the Executive Vice President of FilmLA for four years. Among his many accomplishments, Art worked with FilmLA in collaboration with SCAG to secure a \$1.65 billion tax credit for the entertainment industry in 2014, making California more competitive for productions. Art has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Johns Hopkins, a Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown and a Master's in Business Administration from USC and resides in Newport Beach with his wife and 5 year old son.

SCAG DELEGATION MEETS WITH STATE LAWMAKERS IN SACRAMENTO

On March 14-16, SCAG led a delegation of Southern California leaders to the state Capitol to meet with a bipartisan group of state lawmakers and promote the region's legislative priorities. The visit, organized in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC) and including many cross-sector leaders, sought to develop a more active and engaged Southern California Delegation within the legislature. We held meetings with 23 senators and assemblymembers and several legislative staff, discussing Southern California's regional priorities related to housing, transportation infrastructure and cap-and-trade funding. SCAG will continue to work with the region's elected leadership in Sacramento to advance SCAG's legislative priorities, which were formally adopted by the Regional Council in January. For more details, visit: <http://newsletter.scag.ca.gov/scagupdate/032017.htm>.

'FIX OUR ROADS' COALITION MEETING WITH SOCAL NEWS GROUP EDITORIAL BOARD

On March 22, SCAG President Michele Martinez, Orange County Business Council President Lucy Dunn and I were part of a 'Fix Our Roads' coalition meeting with the editorial board of the Southern California News Group (SCNG). Our meeting was to encourage

the editorial board to support transportation funding solutions in California. While there is broad agreement that California needs more revenue devoted to transportation, there is division on where that revenue should come from. The SCNG recently came out against raising revenues for transportation, but at our meeting we provided the big-picture view of the state's transportation funding and President Martinez outlined the extent of the region's transportation and infrastructure needs. I'm pleased to say that our meeting had a positive effect in educating the editorial board and their readership. Their latest editorial is available online: <http://bit.ly/2oK0Bau>.

SCAG JOINS GOV. BROWN AND STATE LEADERS ON ROAD REPAIR BILL

On April 4, I joined Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, along with city and county officials in Riverside, at a press conference to discuss the [Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017](#), or Senate Bill 1. The legislation invests \$52.4 billion over the next decade to fix roads, freeways and bridges in communities across California and put more dollars toward transit and safety. Governor Brown spoke in strong support of roads as the key to California's greatness. In my remarks, I emphasized the state of disrepair of our roads and bridges and corroborating the need for investment in infrastructure repair. The video from our press conference is available at: <http://bit.ly/2oK6fJP>.

SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS UPDATE

For the past several months, staff has been working with our county transportation commission partners on two amendments to the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS), the region's vision for balancing future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental and public health goals. The proposed changes were to the plan's list of transportation projects, making additions or changes to project scopes, costs and/or schedules. At this week's meeting, SCAG's Regional Council will be voting to approve the Proposed Final Amendment #1 and the Transportation Committee will consider releasing Draft Amendment #2 for a 30-day public comment and review period. Federal approvals of the two amendments will ensure that Measure M and other critical transportation projects will be able to proceed towards implementation in a timely manner.

In March, SCAG convened a meeting of the Natural & Farm Lands Working Group as well as the Active Transportation and Public Health working groups. These working groups have been meeting since 2014 and were instrumental in finalizing the policies and strategies in the 2016 RTP/SCS. This most recent meeting provided participants with an overview of recent statewide plans and initiatives, funding opportunities and ways to implement strategies proposed in the 2016 RTP/SCS.

GO HUMAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN RELAUNCHES ACROSS THE REGION

In partnership with county transportation commissions and health departments across the region, SCAG will relaunch its successful Go Human advertising campaign during the month of May to coincide with National Bike Month. The marketing campaign promotes traffic safety and encourages people to walk and bike. During the months of May and June, new advertisements featuring messages that encourage drivers to slow down and look for people walking and biking will begin appearing in all six SCAG counties. The campaign will include Go Human billboard, transit and bus shelter advertisements, digital ads and radio spots. Placement of advertisements are prioritized in places that have been designated as collision priority areas based on local data and we hope that the campaign will generate 120 million impressions across the region and reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to pedestrians and bicyclists. Financial support for this effort is provided by the Office of Traffic Safety.

SCAG's Go Human campaign is also partnering with the cities of Santa Ana and Rancho Cucamonga by co-hosting open-streets events that promote safer and more accessible bicycling. The events are part of a broader effort to support local planning projects and making walking and biking safer and more convenient. For more details, please visit the Go Human Events page: <http://gohumansocal.org/Events>.

SCAG JOINS STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE RESILIENCY

On March 27, SCAG staff participated in the inaugural meeting of the technical advisory committee for California's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP), which is designed to develop a coordinated response to the impacts of climate change across the state. The program was established by the state Office of Planning and Research via Senate Bill 246, signed in 2015. The committee, which will meet quarterly, will facilitate coordination among local, regional and state-level efforts to adapt to climate change. More information on the state's climate adaptation strategy, "Safeguarding California," is available here: <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>.

TOURS HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL AS GOODS MOVEMENT GATEWAY

SCAG and partner agencies in the region took part in a tour in February for the Federal Highway Administration Office of Freight Management division. The delegation began their tour in Imperial County and San Diego before arriving in the Inland Empire for a meeting with SCAG, Caltrans, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA). SBCTA Executive Director Ray Wolfe, RCTC Executive Director Anne Mayer and I presented on goods movement in the SCAG region and the group toured an intermodal facility owned by BNSF Railway. This meeting comes at a critical time as the SCAG region continues to advocate for funding for goods movement projects necessary to grow the economy and trade through mechanisms like discretionary grant monies to be awarded through the FASTLANE program.

On March 9, SCAG President Michele Martinez led a delegation of 30 SCAG elected officials and special guests on a tour of the Port of Long Beach, to educate members on the importance of goods movement to the region. Harbor Commissioner Doug Drummond welcomed the group and Port staff presented information on the magnitude of the daily operations at POLB, while SCAG staff shared how the port's activities were part of a larger goods movement industry throughout the region.

DEMONSTRATION SHOWCASES NEXT GENERATION TRUCKS ON AUTOPILOT

On March 8, SCAG staff, Regional Council members and regional partners attended the Southern California Truck Platooning Demonstration at the Port of Los Angeles. Three heavy duty trucks demonstrated Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control. This technology provides communication between vehicles, automatically controlling speed, spacing and braking. This allows vehicles to travel closer together creating greater efficiencies. Caltrans organized the demonstration in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, the Partners for Advanced Transportation Technology, Gateway Cities Council of Government, the Volvo Group, Cambridge Systematics and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

SCAG ROLLS OUT OPEN DATA TO STUDENTS

SCAG is providing two exciting opportunities for university students to compete for scholarships and share their research with a variety of public, private and non-profit leaders at our Regional Conference and General Assembly in May. The SCAG/Esri Story Maps Student Challenge invites students to conceptualize, create and submit story maps using the Esri ArcGIS Online platform and the SCAG GIS Open Data Portal. Esri Story Maps are web applications that let authors combine maps with narrative text, images and multimedia, including video. SCAG is also soliciting submissions of student-led projects for the annual Student Poster Exhibition that will be displayed at the Regional Conference and General Assembly. Eligible projects include any applied projects or research papers that demonstrate innovative solutions to sustainability-related planning issues on a local or regional scale. Applications for both programs are due April 11th. Guidelines and submissions instructions can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2nFv08e>.

AIR QUALITY AND EMISSION REDUCTION TARGET UPDATE

On Thursday, March 23, I testified before the Air Resources Board at their meeting to discuss the process for setting new targets for reducing per-capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Alongside my counterparts from metropolitan planning organizations in the San Francisco, San Diego and Sacramento regions, I emphasized the importance of keeping the next round of GHG reduction targets both ambitious and achievable. Highlighting the hard work the region of Southern California has been doing to reduce emissions, including transit investments, “fix-it-first” infrastructure policy implementation and active transportation programs, I maintained that further progress will require collaboration and support from the state. I also advised that SCAG’s Regional Council would be asked to make a formal recommendation for new per-capita GHG reduction targets in April. The Los Angeles Times also quoted my testimony in a story about the reduction targets: <http://lat.ms/2p2o32q>.

I am pleased to report that both the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) have adopted the 2016 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). This plan was jointly developed by SCAQMD and ARB, along with SCAG, to meet federal and state Clean Air Act requirements. Upon approving the plan, ARB also adopted a resolution directing staff to develop concepts for an Indirect Source rule that would control pollution from large facilities including ports, railyards, warehouses and distribution centers. The adoption and ultimate approval of this plan by the U.S. EPA will help the region comply with health-based national air quality standards set out by the Clean Air Act and allow SCAG to perform the required transportation conformity analysis. Further details are available in this month’s staff report to the Regional Council and Policy Committees.

On March 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that Imperial County has attained the 2006 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter. This means that as of May 12, Imperial County will no longer be subject to certain Clean Air Act requirements (such as submitting attainment-related air plans) as long as they continue to meet the 2006 standards for fine particulate matter. The attainment represents a significant milestone in improving air quality in the county, but Imperial must now set its sights on attaining the more stringent 2012 standards. To view the Federal Register Notice, visit <http://bit.ly/2o4Fdi1>.

CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDING UPDATE

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has released draft guidelines for the third round of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. The AHSC provides grants and affordable housing loans for compact transit-oriented development and related programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. SCAG staff is currently assessing the draft guidelines to determine what impacts the revisions may have on policies and projects in the region. SGC will be accepting comments on the draft guidelines until April 14. SGC will also hold a public workshop to solicit comments on the guidelines on Monday, April 10 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles. For additional information on SCAG’s ongoing capacity-building efforts and technical assistance for AHSC applicants, contact Sarah Dominguez at: dominguezs@scag.ca.gov.

The California Natural Resources Agency is currently soliciting applications for the Urban Greening grant program. This program supports projects that either achieve greenhouse gas reductions through urban forestry, reducing energy use in buildings through the strategic planting of trees to shade buildings, or projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled by constructing bicycle or pedestrian facilities. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, special districts and nonprofit organizations. Concept proposals are due by April 11 and projects are due by May 1. For more information, please visit <http://resources.ca.gov/grants/urban-greening/>.

SCAG ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL INVESTMENT ON VOLKSWAGEN INVESTMENT PLAN

Early in March, SCAG staff advocated for investment in the region in public comments submitted to the ARB in response to the Cycle 1 Volkswagen Investment Plan for California. Volkswagen is required to invest \$800 million in Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) projects in California over a 10-year period, pursuant to a settlement agreement. The full funding commitment will be spent in \$200 million increments over four 30-month cycles. In SCAG's comments, staff stressed the importance of allocating adequate resources to the region of Southern California, which is home to half of the state's population. Staff also expressed support for the City of Los Angeles' application to be candidate to be one of the first two Green Cities in the state. A successful Green City applicant will receive concentrated investment in ZEV programs like car sharing, ZEV transit or freight services and infrastructure and public awareness efforts to support those programs. Investments in Southern California will be essential to helping the entire state achieve its air quality and climate change goals.

SCAG PRESENTS AT YOSEMITE POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

On March 18, I joined a group of California mayors, city council members, county supervisors, city managers and other civic leaders in Yosemite National Park for the 26th Annual Yosemite Policymakers Conference. The event focused on strategies for protecting and advancing critical elements of the "American Dream," including affordable housing, reliable transportation options and sustainable natural resources. The agenda was designed to provide the state's policymakers with the tools and support they need to implement innovative solutions to these concerns. I made a presentation to the conference on "California's Transportation System in a New Political Era," sharing highlights from the 2016 RTP/SCS and outlining potential implications of upcoming demographic shifts for transportation funding and project implementation.

CLEAN CITIES COALITION UPDATE

The SCAG Clean Cities Coalition, a program that supports local government partnership efforts to expand the use of alternative-fuel vehicles in the region, submitted its annual Transportation Technology Deployment Report to the U.S. Department of Energy in early March. This annual report highlights regional stakeholder activities and accomplishments from the previous calendar year, including: Data on the sales of alternative fuels, deployment of alternative-fuel vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles, idle-reduction initiatives, fuel economy activities and programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The Department of Energy will now analyze and translate the data to quantify the total reduction of petroleum use and greenhouse gas emissions, both in the region and nationwide. In 2016, the SCAG Clean Cities Coalition region reduced petroleum use by 49 million gallons and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 75 tons.

SCAG GIS SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

This month, SCAG welcomes the City of Hawaiian Gardens into the GIS Service Program. Staff will conduct a GIS rollout, presenting the city with a free laptop computer, ArcGIS software, spatial data and software training. SCAG also held a customized two-day GIS training workshop for staff at the City of La Quinta, teaching them entry-level GIS skills including map making, spatial queries, data creation and geocoding. SCAG has also continued a pilot internship program to bring additional GIS services and resources to member agencies. SCAG interns have been placed in nine different local jurisdictions: the cities of Baldwin Park, Jurupa Valley, La Puente, San Fernando, Los Alamitos, Colton, Irwindale, Pico Rivera and Santa Paula, where they are supporting a wide range of mapping and planning activities. In the coming months, SCAG staff will to expand this program to cities in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys.