

RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Since the Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan at its meeting on May 6, staff have been working towards researching and implementing actions. Highlights of these activities include:

- Exploratory discussions are underway with the Lincoln Land Institute and the Claremont Lincoln University regarding potential listening and learning opportunities to provide foundational education to various audiences in the region.
- SCAG's cross-divisional Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness (IDEA) team is in the midst of a foundational educational workshop series entitled "IDEA Foundations." These sessions have been specifically designed for the IDEA team to establish a shared language and common understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) principles while also providing the team with the tools to set strategic objectives and goals for the team's workplan.
- The IDEA team piloted a workshop entitled "Addressing Microaggressions in the Workplace" in June. After attending the pilot education session, SCAG has proceeded to offer the workshop to all staff. This educational and interactive workshop will provide staff with the education and tools to recognize, address, and prevent microaggressions that may occur in the workplace, building upon principles previously provided to staff in other trainings focused on equity, learning workstyles, and unconscious bias.
- For the month of June, SCAG's logo was updated to celebrate Pride Month, signifying our support of the LGBTQ+ community. With the modification to our logo, our hope is that SCAG can do its part to increase visibility and offer support and a sense of belonging to those within the LGBTQ+ community – both within SCAG and in the region we serve. In addition to these activities, the IDEA team, in partnership with the Engagement Committee, launched a series of weekly educational articles posted to the agency's intranet featuring notable accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community, while also highlighting an organization supporting the LGBTQ+ community each week.
- This June, SCAG highlighted the importance of Juneteenth and provided space for staff to take time to celebrate this critical day in U.S. history. As a commitment to advancing racial equity at SCAG and within the region, staff was encouraged to celebrate Juneteenth in their own ways, while providing several resources that educate, uplift, and celebrate.
- Research is underway to develop and provide more opportunities for small businesses to learn about SCAG's procurement processes and how to submit bids.
- Human Resources is evaluating SCAG's current recruitment process as a key component of preparing an inclusive and equitable talent management strategy. We have completed the discovery stage, which included a review of current documentation, a review of the agency's DEI strategy and objectives related to recruitment, and interviews with staff who have recently engaged in various aspects of the recruitment process. Human Resources is working to prioritize the objectives to implement and will be collaborating with key process stakeholders to enhance our recruitment process.

DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP ADDRESSES THE FUTURE FOR POST-PANDEMIC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Co-hosted by SCAG and the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy, the 32nd Annual Demographic Workshop brought together more than 400 people over the two-part event held on Tuesday, June 8, and Tuesday, June 15. This year's theme, "The Post-Pandemic City," focused on demographic changes across the region and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A demographic check-up panel covered the latest trends in migration, fertility, and vaccination, as well as the new 2020 census counts due for release. Additional panels focused on myths and realities of California's mass exodus and declining mobility, and the new trends in workplace, travel, and residential locations. The program also included a keynote address from Tiffany Chu, Senior Vice President, Remix

at Via, and a series of expert-led roundtable discussions that build skills about topics discussed throughout the day.

Special thanks to our supporting partners at the U.S. Census Bureau, California State Census Data Center, California Department of Finance, California Department of Housing and Community Development, and USC Population Dynamics Research Group. To view presentations from the event, please visit scag.ca.gov/demographics.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The SCAG Scholarship Program, now in its 11th year, is intended to provide financial support to a select group of high school and community college students who have expressed interest in urban planning and public policy as part of their long-term career goals. The scholarship winners were announced at SCAG's Regional Council meeting on June 3. As part of the application process, students were required to submit a completed application form, a minimum 500-word essay, two letters of recommendation, and a current academic transcript.

FROM THE INLAND EMPIRE

Brenna Bell and **Ryan Byrne** of Murrieta, **Gabriel Cao** of Chino Hills and **Andrew Ballard** of Oak Hills were chosen to receive 2021 SCAG scholarships. Bell graduated from Murrieta Valley High School and will attend Claremont McKenna College, majoring in environment, economics, and politics. Byrne graduated from Murrieta Valley High School and will attend Loyola Marymount University or American University, majoring in political science. Cao graduated from Ruben S. Ayala High School in Chino Hills and plans to major in political science. Ballard graduated from Oak Hills High School and will attend California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, majoring in mechanical engineering. His scholarship was funded through a partnership with the California Transportation Foundation.

FROM IMPERIAL COUNTY

Hyun-Soo Choi and **Priscila Jimenez** of El Centro were announced as winners of 2021 SCAG scholarships. Choi graduated from Southwest High School in El Centro and will attend the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in public health. Jimenez graduated from Central Union High School in El Centro and will attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, or the University of California, Davis, majoring in sustainable environmental design or earth sciences.

FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Leslie Busch of La Verne, **Rocco Fantini** of Northridge and **Carly Granda** of Claremont were chosen to receive 2021 SCAG scholarships. Busch graduated from Citrus and will attend Yale University this fall, majoring in political science. Fantini graduated from Granada Hills Charter School and will attend the University of Chicago with a double major in public policy studies and economics. Granda graduates later this month from the Webb Schools in Claremont and will attend Cornell University, majoring in policy analysis and management.

FROM ORANGE COUNTY

Rhett Bourne of San Juan Capistrano and **Miles Riehle** of Laguna Beach received SCAG scholarships. Bourne graduated from San Juan Hills High School and will attend Brigham Young University, majoring in civil engineering. Riehle graduated from Laguna Beach High School and will attend the University of California, Davis, majoring in environmental policy analysis and planning. His scholarship was funded through a partnership with the California Transportation Foundation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SCAG's executive board officers, including President Clint Lorimore and Second Vice President Carmen Ramirez, joined Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee Chair Alan Wapner and Vice-Chair Peggy Huang, met with first-term **State Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh** (R-Yucaipa), who represents California's 23rd Senate District. They were also joined by Regional Councilmembers Randall Putz, Larry McCallon, and Rey Santos. Senator Ochoa Bogh previously served as a Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District Board Member. Senator Ochoa Bogh shares SCAG's priority of increasing housing affordability while protecting local control. In addition, Senator Ochoa Bogh serves as the Chair of the Inland Empire Caucus and is focused on helping children and families in California thrive. She expressed a desire to continue the conversation and leverage SCAG's resources and knowledge as she continues to advocate for Southern California in Sacramento.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REGIONAL EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT RELEASED

The Transportation Safety Regional Existing Conditions report, released in advance of the *Go Human* Traffic Safety Peer Exchanges, reviews the most recent regionwide and county collision data, patterns, and trends. The report highlights where collisions are occurring, when collisions are occurring, who is being hurt (including race/ethnicity considerations), and why collisions are occurring. The report contextualizes the work that SCAG has been doing for years on establishing annual transportation safety targets and can serve as a reference for jurisdictions considering future planning work and improvements. SCAG's Transportation Safety [webpage](#) features links to the [report](#), corresponding fact sheets, and [StoryMap](#). To learn more, please contact Courtney Aguirre at aguirre@scag.ca.gov.

SB 379 COMPLIANCE CURRICULUM FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS PUBLISHED

SCAG has published a new resource as part of the [Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework](#) to support city and county efforts to meet Senate Bill (SB) 379 requirements for local jurisdictions to incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into general plan safety elements. The [SB 379 Compliance Curriculum for Local Jurisdictions](#) serves as a guidebook for local jurisdictions that links SCAG's climate adaptation planning resources and tools to support local safety element updates pursuant to SB 379. To learn more about the SB 379 Guidebook and additional resources of the Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework, SCAG hosted a two-hour Toolbox Tuesday training on June 29, which explored these resources and heard from local jurisdictions showcasing different ways of incorporating climate adaptation strategies into local planning to meet the requirements of SB 379. Resources from the training session will be posted to the [Toolbox Tuesday Online Training Materials webpage](#).

GO HUMAN UPDATE

GO HUMAN TRAFFIC SAFETY PEER EXCHANGES

SCAG's *Go Human* campaign kicked off its Traffic Safety Peer Exchange summer series on June 9 with a session focused on "Using Data to Craft a Safety Narrative: High Injury Networks." Additional sessions in June focused on funding strategies and better community engagement. *Go Human* will hold 12 free virtual sessions through mid-August. The series is designed to bring together traffic safety practitioners from jurisdictions and community-based organizations throughout the six-county SCAG region. The Traffic Safety Peer Exchanges are supported by funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please visit the [Traffic Safety Peer Exchange webpage](#) or [click here](#) to register for a future session. To learn more, please contact Courtney Aguirre at aguirre@scag.ca.gov.

GO HUMAN PRESENTS AT NATIONAL WALK/BIKE/PLACES 2021 CONFERENCE ON ENGAGEMENT & PANDEMIC RESPONSE

On June 17, SCAG's *Go Human* staff led a panel at the National Walk/Bike/Places 2021 Conference, which was hosted in person and virtually in Indianapolis. The team led a panel called, "Redirecting Dollars for Pandemic Response: *Go Human's* Mini-Grants for Safety & Resiliency." Joined by community-based leaders from Central City Neighborhood Partners and Los Angeles Walks, as well as Councilmember Arlis Reynolds from the City of Costa Mesa, the panel showcased the strategic and adaptive mini-grant as a model to invest in community-identified and community-led strategies and partnerships to support community members most impacted by traffic harm throughout the pandemic.

GO HUMAN PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SCAG's *Go Human* campaign was honored with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). The NARC Achievement Award is designed to recognize excellence in programs and services of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations. *Go Human* is a multi-pronged community engagement campaign created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities involving people walking and biking and increase rates of active transportation. One of the many pivotal *Go Human* strategies includes engaging priority and historically disinvested communities through the development of its "Kit of Parts," a tool for jurisdictions to temporarily demonstrate potential and planned street design treatments and safety infrastructure. Since its release in 2019, the *Go Human* Kit of Parts has been deployed over 45 times for a variety of projects and experienced by tens of thousands of residents at events across Southern California. SCAG is grateful that NARC has recognized the excellence and importance of this campaign. To learn more about *Go Human*, please visit gohumansocal.org.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK WINS APA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

The American Planning Association (APA) has selected the [Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework](#) as the recipient of the 2021 APA Sustainable Communities Division Awards for Excellence in Sustainability in the Policy, Law or Tool category. The award honors projects, plans, policies, individuals, and organizations whose work is dedicated to supporting sustainable communities. SCAG developed the Regional Climate Adaptation Framework to assist local and regional jurisdictions in managing the negative impacts of climate change. The framework provides an overview of how the Southern California region can work together to plan and prepare for the impacts of sea-level rise, extreme heat, increasingly frequent and damaging wildfires, and other climate-related issues. Please visit the [Southern California Climate Adaptation Framework webpage](#) to learn more.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM LISTENING SESSIONS

The upcoming Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Call for Applications will focus on Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice. SCAG is hosting a listening session to gather input to help shape proposed project types and inform development of the program guidelines. To support implementation of [SCAG's Racial Equity Early Action Plan](#), SCAG is seeking to prioritize proposals that fall within or directly benefit Communities of Concern, SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities, and Environmental Justice Areas for this Call for Applications. To participate in the listening session, please [register here](#). For more information, please visit the [SCP program webpage](#).

TOOLBOX TUESDAY – EQUITY IN ACTION: EVALUATING BASELINE COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

Building on the [Racial Equity: Baseline Conditions Report](#), which is a preliminary assessment of racial equity in the region, this Toolbox Tuesday training sessions guided participants through the process of developing a baseline conditions assessment for their own jurisdiction. Participants learned how to identify key indicators, align with community partners, and analyze data to develop a local level equity baseline. Continuing SCAG's work to support others in their efforts to advance equity across the region, staff highlighted opportunities for consultation and partnership with community-based organizations, partner agencies, and other stakeholders, and pointed to opportunities for deeper analysis of the data and root causes of inequities. Resources from the training session will be posted to the [Toolbox Tuesday Online Training Materials webpage](#). Additional equity focused Toolbox Tuesdays are being planned for later this year. To learn more, please contact Courtney Aguirre at aguirre@scag.ca.gov.