

SCAG LEADERSHIP DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

On June 8-9, President Margaret Finlay convened an Executive Administration Committee Retreat at the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Center. The two-day retreat was focused on outlining President Finlay's priorities and initiatives, which include: Goods movement; open data/big data resources and partnerships; regional earthquake preparedness and building resilience; water access and resources; and promoting active transportation in the region. The EAC members also discussed the update to SCAG's Strategic Plan, including new draft agency vision, goals and mission statement, as well as improving SCAG's branding and communications.

SCAG DEMOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP ADDRESSED DECLINING BIRTH RATES, AGING LABOR POOL

On June 26, more than 150 people from over 70 different organizations attended SCAG's 28th annual Demographic Workshop held at the University of Southern California. The event, jointly produced with the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, addressed declining birth rates, population shifts and rapidly advancing technology that are transforming Southern California's labor force and creating new long-term challenges and opportunities. Highlights from the conference included a suite of presentations on how robotics may integrate into our future workforce while also providing meaningful services. Audience members also heard from researcher Elizabeth Rhodes on a pilot project testing the efficacy of the concept of universal basic income. The panels and roundtables provided new data and fresh insights on our changing region to help local leaders make better policy and business decisions. Conference presentations and photos are available on the SCAG website: www.scag.ca.gov/demographics. Archived videos of panel discussions will be available soon.

REGIONAL EARTHQUAKE INITIATIVE GIVES LOCAL LEADERS TOOLS FOR RESILIENCE

On June 14, SCAG held a third Regional Earthquake Preparedness Initiative workshop to help local jurisdictions strengthen their infrastructure, safety codes and economic resilience. The workshop, which was held in Ventura, was led by world-renown seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones and brought together over 40 local city and county leaders from the area for a hands-on experience developing tools to assess, mitigate and prepare for the disruption of a large-scale earthquake. Building on an initial series of informational seminars held in the Fall of 2016, SCAG is completing the second phase of its Regional Earthquake Preparedness Initiative and will continue to provide technical assistance for member cities this year. To view the presentation and materials from the workshop, visit: www.scag.ca.gov/earthquakepreparedness.

SCAG LAUNCHES OPEN DATA/BIG DATA COMMITTEE FOR A SMART AND CONNECTED REGION

On June 13, SCAG convened the inaugural meeting of its new committee, Open Data/Big Data - Smart and Connected SCAG Region. The committee will examine how SCAG can help local cities harness the power of data, and its members include elected officials, information experts from partner agencies and academic institutions and regional technology stakeholders from the private sector. The first meeting introduced the topics of big/open data, data analytics and smart community technology. Future meetings will begin to address city-level challenges and opportunities presented by big/open data, private sector engagement and how to conduct effective data-driven decision making. SCAG will be distributing a survey to local jurisdictions to identify information needs and collaboration opportunities. More information on the committee is available on the SCAG website: www.scag.ca.gov/committees/Pages/CommitteeL2/SingleCommittee.aspx?CID=40.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANS AND PROJECTS

SCAG is now accepting applications for new planning and non-infrastructure proposals as part of the Regional Active Transportation Program. The program received additional resources as a result of the adoption of Senate Bill 1, and SCAG's 2017 Active Transportation Call for Proposals will provide approximately \$2 million in grant awards of up to \$200,000 each. The funding is intended to support planning and non-infrastructure projects that promote safety and encourage people to walk and bicycle, such as SCAG's Go Human demonstration events, and to seed active transportation concepts that provide a preliminary step for future applicants. Public agencies that have not been previously awarded a California Active Transportation Program Grant are eligible for funding. Applications will be accepted through August 31. Forms and related resources are available on SCAG's Sustainability Planning Grant webpage <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov>. SCAG staff will host a webinar for potential applicants on July 20, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Rye Baerg at baerg@scag.ca.gov. To discuss opportunities for participating in SCAG's Go Human campaign, contact Alek Bartosouf, bartosouf@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG OFFERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Los Angeles County Metro has initiated the fifth round of its Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program, which will provide up to \$3,100,000 in local grants for municipalities in Los Angeles County who adopt transit-supportive regulatory plans. SCAG will be providing technical assistance for the new grant cycle's Transit Oriented Communities Tax Increment Financing (TOC TIF) Pilot Program, which will fund feasibility studies for eligible cities and/or the County to consider tax increment financing districts around transit stations. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will also soon adopt guidelines for the establishment of TIF districts, which will be a key factor in the award and allocation of Metro's grants. The grant application deadline is July 31 at 5:00 p.m. Additional information is available on Metro's website at <https://www.metro.net/projects/tod/>. If you would like to quickly assess whether or not an area is eligible to be considered as a financing district, visit SCAG's EIFD/CRIA online app: <http://arcg.is/2mMKdnK>.

TOOLBOX TUESDAY WORKSHOP TEACHES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCING STRATEGIES

On June 27, SCAG held an installment of the popular Toolbox Tuesday workshop series to provide an overview and technical training on new criteria for Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFDs) and Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIAs). Guest speakers from Kosmont Companies and Metro shared information about grant opportunities and digital tools for new development efforts in local jurisdictions, and SCAG staff demonstrated a new technical assistance application. The Toolbox Tuesday series provides free classes for local governments and other partners in the SCAG region, offering a range of practical skills and useful planning knowledge. For information on past workshops and upcoming events, visit <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/ToolboxTuesdayTraining.aspx>. Contact India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov to be added to the mailing list.

SCAG'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS BEST PRACTICE

In developing the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), SCAG worked diligently to analyze environmental justice impacts by engaging stakeholders and conducting intensive research. Guided by a portion of the national Civil Rights Act that establishes the need for transportation agencies to identify and mitigate adverse impacts of proposed projects on disadvantaged populations, SCAG drafted a comprehensive Environmental Justice Appendix to the 2016 RTP/SCS. This appendix has been recognized by the Federal Highway Administration as an instance of best practices, and excerpted in a federal web course on the fundamentals of environmental justice.

MORONGO RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

SCAG member jurisdiction The Morongo Band of Mission Indians was recently awarded a federal grant of more than \$167,000 to update a fleet of heavy-duty vehicles with emission-reducing particulate filter technologies. The Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grant is administered by the U.S. EPA's West Coast Collaborative, a clean air public-private partnership that works to reduce harmful emissions by funding engine replacements and retrofits to clean up a variety of older diesel engines, particularly in economically disadvantaged communities with high rates of asthma, heart and lung disease. Congratulations to Morongo. More information about DERA-funded projects is available at www.westcoastcollaborative.org.