



NO. 657
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The Regional Council (RC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Art Brown, President	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Supervisor Curt Hagman, 1st Vice President		San Bernardino County
Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President		RCTC
Supervisor Luis Plancarte		Imperial County
Supervisor Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Don Wagner		Orange County
Supervisor Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Supervisor Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich		ICTC
Hon. Brian Goodell		OCTA
Hon. Alan Wapner		SBCTA
Hon. Trish Kelley		TCA
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Gil Rebolgar	<i>Brawley</i>	District 1
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2
Hon. Linda Krupa	<i>Hemet</i>	District 3
Hon. Clint Lorimore	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4
Hon. Zak Schwank	<i>Temecula</i>	District 5
Hon. Damon L. Alexander	<i>San Bernardino</i>	District 7
Hon. Deborah Robertson	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8



Hon. L. Dennis Michael	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	District 9
Hon. Ray Marquez	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Rick Denison	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
Hon. John Gabbard	<i>Dana Point</i>	District 12
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Tammy Kim	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. Lauren Kleiman	<i>Newport Beach</i>	District 15
Hon. Valerie Amezcua	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Jon Dumitru	<i>Orange</i>	District 17
Hon. Ashleigh Aitken	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. José Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Andrew Sarega	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	District 41
Hon. Ken Mann	<i>Lancaster</i>	District 43
Hon. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Casey McKeon	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. Elizabeth Becerra	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	District 66
Hon. Celeste Rodriguez	<i>San Fernando</i>	District 67
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Supervisor Hilda Solis
Hon. Frank Navarro

Members Not Present

Colton

Members Not Present

Los Angeles County
District 6



Hon. Marshall Goodman	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Claudia Frometa	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Konstantine Anthony	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. David J. Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Eunisses Hernandez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 48
Hon. Paul Krekorian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49/Public Transit Rep.
Hon. Bob Blumenfield	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 50
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Katy Young Yaroslavsky	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 52
Hon. Monica Rodriguez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 54
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 55
Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 56
Hon. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Traci Park	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
Hon. John Lee	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 59
Hon. Hugo Soto-Martinez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 60
Hon. Kevin de León	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 61
Hon. Tim McOsker	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Karen Bass	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large
Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	Air District Representative
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Carmen Flores, Chief Human Resources Officer
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Michael Houston, Chief Counsel, Director of Legal Services
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Brown called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He also reminded the members that if a member of this body was attending remotely but not at a noticed location on the agenda, they could observe but not participate in any discussion or voting of this body.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, stated that there may have been some members of the Regional Council intending to come to the meeting in person but due to the potential labor union issue or labor strike, some members opted not to attend. He reiterated comments by President Brown and noted that if any members went to another location that was noticed on the agenda with another Regional Council member that it would be acceptable for them to participate in the meeting. He asked members who were participating remotely at a noticed location that SCAG was not aware of to put it on the record for the clerk to note. The following members confirmed they were at noticed locations: Ashleigh Aitken and Tammy Kim (Irvine); Joe Kalmick (Seal Beach); Brian Goodell (Mission Viejo); Liz Becerra (Victorville); Rick Denison (Yucca Valley); Ken Mann (Lancaster); Lauren Kleiman (Newport Beach); and Alan Wapner and Curt Hagman (Ontario).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Brown opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there no written public comments received before or after the deadline.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Brown closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

In the interest of time, action on Items 1 and 2 were acted upon together. The roll call vote is reflected below.

1. Connect SoCal 2024: Policy Framework
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There were no public comments speakers for Item No. 1.

Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer, stated she would be providing an update on Connect SoCal and asking for their support to adopt the policy framework. She reported that SCAG would release a draft of Connect SoCal 2024, their updated long range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), which covers their whole Southern California region in the fall. She explained this plan represented an update of the Connect SoCal 2020 and reflected a continuous and ongoing process to research, collect data and develop projects and programs to support the region. She further explained that the prior year, the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) and the Regional Council adopted a policy framework to provide direction to staff on the development of the plan including the major issues they wanted staff to bring forward to them for consideration at each of the policy committees, as well as outline three special subcommittees that met for a limited time. She indicated it culminated in some white papers and a set of recommendations that were presented at the Joint Policy Committee meeting in March earlier in the year. She described that the item before them summarized and confirmed the policy framework for the Connect SoCal 2024 ahead of the release of their draft plan in the fall. She noted that the major elements of the policy framework included the vision and goals, a definition for priority equity communities to meet their federal requirements, and a set of draft regional planning policies. She indicated that all of these items had gone through the policy committees and had been informed by their outreach process. She stated they were requesting the Regional Council adopt the policy framework and with their approval of this policy direction, staff would incorporate the policies into the draft plan that would be released in the fall for further public comment. She thanked all the members who had been involved in their policy conversations over the last year and especially the chairs and vice chairs of the subcommittees and three policy committees.

Immediate Past President Jan Harnik, RCTC, indicated that when they went through the last process for Connect SoCal 2020 there was a lot of input and expression of the need for more input. She stated she believed that there was more input reflected in the document. She stated there were things important to integrate with the framework and noticed they were included.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

2. REAP 2.0 CTC Partnership Program Award List

There were no public comments speakers for Item No. 2.

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, reported the application for the full REAP program had been approved. He recognized their leadership and the EAC's direction over a year ago to apply for some

early planning resources to staff up, bring the right team on board, and develop programs so that as soon as SCAG had these approvals, they could get the money out into the region. He explained that before them was one piece of the REAP 2.0 funds which was focused on transportation investments. Specifically, it was split across three different categories: transit ridership, multimodal communities, and shifting travel behavior. He indicated it was an exciting group of 33 transformative planning and implementation projects.

Nolan Borgman, Planning Supervisor, provided an update on the County Transportation Commissions (CTC) partnership program. He explained that the action to approve their recommended project and contingency list continues on a path that they set when the Regional Council approved the REAP 2.0 program development framework in July 2022 and the CTC Partnership Program guidelines in October 2022. He reported that in addition to extensive REAP 2.0 outreach, SCAG also convened a CTC working group, met individually with the CTCs, and visited each county during this process. With respect to the process, he reported their call opened on April 12, closed on May 9, and received 37 excellent proposals that totaled just under \$116 million. He conveyed appreciation to the CTCs for their partnership. He noted that they had 10 total reviewers, and their scoring system was out of 50 points which was designed with input from the state to limit subjectivity, so the scores tended to be consistent. He explained their selection did not just weight scores but also eligibility, the ranking prioritization that CTCs provided, a funding target for each CTC based on county population, and a target that 70% of the funds go to implementation projects, which was also from the REAP guidelines. He noted in total SCAG was recommending to fully fund 27 projects and partially fund six. He indicated the majority of partially unfunded proposals were on a contingency list which would be awarded as funding became available. He clarified that if it needed to be reallocated, they would start with the partially funded projects within that county, then move into the eligible unfunded projects, and then move into other counties to make sure that they get the money spent.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

A MOTION was made (Alexander) to approve **Item No. 1:** Adopt the updated Policy Framework for Connect SoCal 2024; and **Item No. 2:** 1) Approve the REAP 2.0 CTC Partnership Program Project Award List and Contingency List; and 2) Authorize the SCAG Executive Director or his designee to enter into agreements with the designated County Transportation Commissions under this program and execute all documents incident to the agreements. Motion was SECONDED (Lorimore). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Aitken, Alexander, Allen, Barger, Becerra, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, Clark, Crosswhite, Denison, Dumitru, Finlay, Gabbard, Gazeley, Goodell, Hagman, Harnik, L. Hernandez, Judge, Kalmick, Kelley, Kelly, Kim, Kleiman, Krupa, Lock Dawson, Lopez,

Lorimore, Mann, Marquez, Meister, Michael, Nava-Froelich, Ortiz, Plancarte, Rebollar, Rhodes, Robertson, C. Rodriguez, Saleh, Sandoval, Sarega, Saro, Schwank, Solache, Spiegel, Tye, Wagner, Wapner, and Yokoyama (51)

NOES: McKeon (1)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

3. Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Executive Director’s Employment Agreement and Annual Work Plan
4. Minutes of the Regular Meeting – June 1, 2023
5. Approval for Additional Stipend Payments
6. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: Contract No. 23-014-C01, Information Technology (IT) – Geospatial Application Development and Support
7. Resolution No. 23-657-1 Authorizing Acceptance of Grant Funds from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant Program
8. REAP 2.0 Regional Pilot Initiatives Framework
9. AB 825 (Bryan) & AB 645 (Friedman) Follow-up
10. Governor & Legislative Permitting Reform Proposals
11. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

12. July 2023 State and Federal Legislative Update
13. REAP 2.0 Program Call for Applications Update

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14. RHNA Reform Process Updates
 15. REAP 1.0 Biannual Program Update
 16. Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Performance Measures
 17. Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337): Status Update on Additional Stakeholder Outreach and Preliminary Outline of Draft Contents
 18. Climate Action Resolution Quarterly Update
 19. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
 20. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Saleh) that the Regional Council approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 11 and Receive and File Items 12 through 20. Motion was SECONDED (Yokoyama). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Aitken, Alexander, Allen, Amezcua, Becerra, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, Clark, Crosswhite, Denison, Dumitru, Finlay, Gabbard, Gazeley, Goodell, Hagman, Harnik, L. Hernandez, Judge, Kalmick, Kelley, Kelly, Kim, Kleiman, Krupa, Lock Dawson, Lopez, Lorimore, Mann, Marquez, McKeon, Meister, Michael, Nava-Froelich, Ortiz, Plancarte, Rebollar, Rhodes, Robertson, C. Rodriguez, Saleh, Sandoval, Sarega, Saro, Schwank, Solache, Spiegel, Tye, Wagner, Wapner, and Yokoyama (52)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Spiegel on Item 3 (1)

BUSINESS REPORT

Business Representative Lucy Dunn highlighted some of the sections in the business report such as the new Southern California report co-authored by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (LA Chamber) and the Inland Empire Economic Center (IEEC). Additionally, she touched on the business community's support of the Governor's infrastructure plan, provided insights on the housing market discussing how lenders were extremely cautious and that all the economic indicators looked like they were going into a bit of recession. Ms. Dunn discussed some of the results of the 2023 BizFed Pulse Poll. She shared the poll found that fees and taxes were number one as the most critical

concern and that although homelessness ranked first in 2022, it had fallen to fourth place in 2023. She also noted that crime climbed to second place which was higher on the concern scale than they had seen in 15 years, followed by inflation, homelessness, energy costs, government regulations, interest rates, energy reliability, etc. Lastly, she stated that insights gleaned from the poll also revealed some red alert shifts in post pandemic transportation, recreation and workplace needs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Brown provided a recap of the Executive Administration Committee retreat in Buena Park and noted that during the two-day work planning session, they reflected on the past year and discussed strategic planning for the year ahead. He stated that they had a productive and engaging discussion on their priority areas for his work plan, which will be presented to the Regional Council at a future meeting. He reported that SCAG staff were present at the opening of LA Metro's Regional Connector project on June 16. He explained that this important project creates three new subway stations in Downtown Los Angeles, creating more transit access to major job centers, local businesses and cultural destinations to support increased transit ridership in the region. He also reported that SCAG was represented at the National Association of Regional Councils conference this year which took place in Detroit early last month. He noted that Regional Council member Alan Wapner moderated a panel on street safety and SCAG Planning Director Sarah Jepson spoke about equity in planning. He emphasized that this event was important for SCAG because it allows for an exchange of ideas and best practices with other metropolitan planning organizations across the nation. He also reported that he attended a *Go Human* demonstration, showcasing a pop-up parklet, bike lane, artistic crosswalk and curb extension at the Buena Park Food Truck Festival on June 23. He indicated that this demonstration showed specific ways to improve bike and pedestrian safety. Lastly, he reported that there would be no meeting of the Regional Council in August and that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, reported he had joined Vice Mayor and Second Vice President Cindy Allen at an event that was scheduled by the administration to announce a total of \$1.5 billion in awards to the region from the state. He also reported the state formally announced the award of \$246 million to the region for REAP 2.0. He briefly touched upon approval of the REAP 2.0 application and the multiple calls for projects. He indicated that the CTC partnership item that they had approved earlier was the first of these allocations. He also provided an update on REAP 1.0, the one-time \$47 million that had been allocated a couple of years ago and indicated that more than 100 projects were funded under this program which focused on planning and helping jurisdictions in the sixth cycle RHNA goals. He also reported that in June the Regional Council adopted the Connect SoCal Amendment #3 and the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Consistency Amendment and since then SCAG had received an accelerated federal final approval of

conformity determination which allows for \$26 billion of transportation projects to move forward. He also provided an update on RHNA Reform and reported that the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) was required by state law to submit a final report to the State Legislature by December 31. He informed the members that staff would present the draft recommendations at a special meeting of the CEHD Committee on August 16. He also reported that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved SCAG's \$1 million Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program and explained that this funding would enable SCAG to help advance broadband projects in underserved areas and that they would collaborate with local jurisdictions that lacked resources to engage consultants or manage the project themselves. Lastly, he reported that Regional Council approved the Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning Policy Framework earlier this year. He reminded the members that the framework directed SCAG to convene the SoCal Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which would advise staff on development of the Greenprint tool and ensure it is aligned with the approved policy framework. He noted the first meeting would take place on July 26 and would be open to the public. He informed the member that the TAC would present their recommendations to the Energy and Environment Committee in October and Regional Council in November.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Council Member Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, introduced two environmental interns who had completed their first year of college: Owen Knapper from Rialto Unified School District and Genesis Ibrahim-Balogun from Fontana Unified School District.

Board Counsel Duran introduced four summer associates hired by Best, Best & Krieger who were present observing the Regional Council meeting: Sam Johnson, second year law student at Southwestern Law School in downtown Los Angeles, Marisa Galvez, second year law student at USC Gould School of Law, Cara Vincent Williams, second year law student Chapman University Law School, and Kate Peters, second year law student at UC Irvine Law School.

Regional Council Member Karen Spiegel, Riverside County, thanked Lucy Dunn for her written report. She also noted that the EAC retreat was scheduled on the same night as the Western Riverside Council of Government meeting and asked that they plan around this in the future.

President Brown announced the City of Buena Park approved the development 1,300 units which was a mix of townhomes and apartment houses. He indicated that they had a public hearing where two thirds of people were against it, but the city council voted five to zero to approve the housing.



Regional Council Member Jose Luis Solache, Lynwood, District 26, asked if there was any thought to go dark in July and instead of August.

Mrs. Chidsey indicated that traditionally a lot of councils go dark in August, so they were trying to match up with those schedules.

Regional Council Member Robertson suggested doing a survey to see which cities were dark in August or July. President Brown acknowledged the request.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the Regional Council meeting at 12:57 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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