



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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RESOLUTION NO. 20-623-2

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) STATING
CONVICTION THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IS A HUMAN RIGHTS
AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS WHICH RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY
STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION,
PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION AND HOUSING AND REAFFIRMING
ITS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS, SCAG is the largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the United States covering six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), and serving 19 million people pursuant to 23 USC § 134 et seq. and 49 USC § 5303 et seq. subject to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1994 Presidential Executive Order No. 12898 on Environmental Justice; and

WHEREAS, SCAG is responsible for bringing Southern California's diverse residents and local partners together with unifying regional plans, policies, and programs that result in more healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, communities across Southern California and nationwide continue to show their pain, anger, and calls for action over the senseless and violent deaths of Tony McDade, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, among others, as well as the systemic injustice in our society that led to these deaths and of too many more people of color; and

WHEREAS, SCAG acknowledges the historic role government and the planning profession have played in systemically driving and perpetuating societal inequities along racial lines that have resulted in vastly different living and social conditions and access to opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic disruption have exposed the gross inequities that exist in our society; and

WHEREAS, SCAG recognizes that systemic racism resulting from the inherent biases and prejudices within social and political organizations, groups, or institutions continue to create barriers to success for people of color; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism negatively impacts the social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care; and

WHEREAS, SCAG seeks to lead and/or join efforts to reverse the effects of the inequitable policies, processes, and practices of the past, and recognizes that it has a role to play in understanding and communicating the impacts that planning decisions have on low income families, communities of color and other disadvantaged communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments, that;

1. SCAG stands in solidarity with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change to eliminate all barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared values and ability to thrive; and SCAG affirms its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and SCAG declares its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the region.
2. Furthermore, based upon this affirmation, an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice shall be established by the President to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice throughout the agency's activities, and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. Regular reports shall be provided to the Regional Council on the work of the committee and a final set of recommendations shall be prepared, including any recommendations to amend SCAG's bylaws within 9 months, for consideration by the Regional Council and General Assembly in May 2021.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at its regular meeting this 2nd day of July, 2020.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Rex A. Richardson
President, SCAG
Councilmember, City of Long Beach

Attested by:

Kome Ajise
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:

Justine Block
Acting Chief Counsel