
News Release

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26 projects to promote sustainable housing development get green light from SCAG's Regional Council

Los Angeles – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has approved 26 local proposals that promote sustainable housing development as part of its 2020/2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP).

The 26 proposals – spread from Santa Monica to Coachella – are designed to promote diverse housing types in communities served by multiple transportation options and create dynamic, built environments that support multimodal mobility and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

Thursday's Regional Council action clears the way for SCAG staff to work closely with the 26 programs to further define the scopes of work and develop a project initiation schedule and budgets. Approximately \$4.8 million in State planning resources are expected to be available to cover anticipated project expenses.

“Sustainable housing and development strategies are critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and, ultimately, building healthier and more equitable communities,” said SCAG President Rex Richardson, Vice Mayor of Long Beach.

As the metropolitan planning organization representing six Southern California counties, SCAG is responsible for developing a sustainable communities strategy to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets. Communities had until Jan. 29 to submit proposals under the 2020-2021 SCP's Housing and Sustainable Development program.

The approved proposals were:

For advancing implementation of Accessory Dwelling Units: Buena Park, Compton, Garden Grove, Laguna Beach, Paramount, Pasadena, Santa Fe Springs, Santa Monica.

For creating Housing Sustainability Districts, Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones and housing-supporting Tax-Increment Financing Districts: Covina, Los Angeles (three separate proposals, for the Hollywood area, the LAC/USC Health Village, and the One San Pedro), Palmdale, Yucaipa

For establishing objective development standards for streamlined housing, Prohousing Designation Programs and parking innovations: Burbank, Coachella, Grand Terrace, Montebello, Newport Beach, Rialto, San Dimas, Santa Fe Springs, Santa Monica, South El Monte, South Pasadena, Westminster.

All projects must be completed by June 2023. Project initiation schedules are expected to be determined by June of this year.

No applications were received from Ventura or Imperial counties.

Kome Ajise, SCAG Executive Director, noted that the 26 projects support the goals and objectives of Connect SoCal, SCAG's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

"Ultimately, programs such as this are about safer, healthier communities and preserving the quality of life we treasure in Southern California," Ajise said. "At the same, we're addressing the housing crisis with innovative solutions and positioning ourselves to be even more competitive for critically needed funding."

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov.