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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2021

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## ***Desert Hot Springs one of 8 jurisdictions to split \$2.5 million in SCAG funding to address mobility, air quality challenges***

Desert Hot Springs' plans for an advanced parking management system in its downtown and light industrial areas has received a boost from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

The city is one of eight jurisdictions in SoCal to receive funding from SCAG under the Sustainable Communities Program (SCP). SCAG's Regional Council on Thursday (July 1) approved the awarding of \$2.5 million, in total, through the SCP *Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations* initiative, a major element of which is to support innovative solutions to the mobility and air quality challenges associated with parking, freight and last-mile deliveries, and commerce at the curb.

"Innovative efforts such as those underway in Desert Hot Springs will go a long way toward improving quality of life in communities across Southern California while also recognizing the growing importance of goods movement and e-commerce on our regional economy," said Clint Lorimore, President of SCAG and an Eastvale City Councilmember. "We're proud to support the groundbreaking work that's occurring at the local level, and look forward to the positive, lasting impact these projects will have."

The Smart Cities concept uses information and communications technology to manage assets, resources and services efficiently, while addressing challenges and improving the quality of living within a community. To qualify for SCP *Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations* funding, individual projects needed to address specific program goals, such as creating dynamic, connected, built environments that support multimodal mobility and reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles; reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality by reducing driving alone, idling or searching for parking; and allocating curb space and other public resources more equitably.

In Desert Hot Springs, the city will develop a parking plan encompassing the commercial and light industrial hubs currently characterized by inconsistent parking strategies and limited parking standards. The project will create a framework of innovative practices that meet future development and mobility demand needs through data collection, parking management, curb innovation, and complete streets strategies.

Over the next several months, SCAG staff will work with Desert Hot Springs and each of the jurisdictions receiving funding to help develop plans, scopes of work, timelines and budgets.

Those other jurisdictions are:

**In the Inland Empire:** The City of Rialto, for its Smart Cities plan for warehousing and logistics.

**In Los Angeles County:** The Los Angeles Department of Transportation, for the use of data and technology to inventory and manage curb space; the City of Long Beach, for its curb space management study; and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for its GoSGV e-bikesharing program.

**In Orange County:** The City of Stanton, for its citywide curb management plan; the City of Laguna Woods, for its mobility technology plan; and the City of Garden Grove, for its curb data study.

Three other jurisdictions were identified as potential awardees, should additional funds become available: the City of Culver City, for its Fox Hills Area parking management plan; the City of San Clemente, for its parking management plan; and the City of Torrance, for its parklet program.

Kome Ajise, SCAG Executive Director, said the *Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations* funding will help individual communities address their mobility and air quality challenges, while modeling innovative solutions for others to consider.

“The world is changing at a pace unimaginable just a few years ago. For cities and our region, the challenge is not only to keep up with this extraordinary rate of change, but to make sure we’re evolving the right way and building a better world in the process,” Ajise said.

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#### ***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 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’s regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).