# SCAG™
## INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**T:** (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

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Energy & Environment
**Deborah Robertson, Rialto**

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**Ray Marquez, Chino Hills**

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**HYBRID (IN-PERSON & REMOTE PARTICIPATION) ***

# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*In-Person & Remote Participation**
*Thursday, October 6, 2022*
*9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

*\*Public Participation: The SCAG offices are currently closed to members of the public. Please see next page for detailed instructions on how to participate in the meeting.*

**To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:**
**https://scag.zoom.us/j/116153109**

**To Attend and Participate by Phone:**
**Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833**
**Meeting ID: 116 153 109**

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## *PUBLIC ADVISORY*

Given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A), the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1420. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.

# Instructions for Public Comments

*You may submit public comments in two (2) ways:*

1. **In Writing:** Submit written comments via email to: **CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov** by 5pm on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. You are **not** required to submit public comments in writing or in advance of the meeting; this option is offered as a convenience should you desire not to provide comments in real time as described below.

   All written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

2. **In Real Time:** If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) or at the time the item on the agenda for which you wish to speak is called, use the "raise hand" function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer. For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called; items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted on with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

   If unable to connect by Zoom or phone and you wish to make a comment, you may submit written comments via email to: CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

*In accordance with SCAG's Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is "willfully interrupted" and the "orderly conduct of the meeting" becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.*

**OUR MISSION**
*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

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# Instructions for Participating in the Meeting

SCAG is providing multiple options to view or participate in the meeting:

**To Participate and Provide Verbal Comments on Your Computer**

1. Click the following link: https://scag.zoom.us/j/116153109
2. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click "Download & Run Zoom" on the launch page and press "Run" when prompted by your browser.  If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
3. Select "Join Audio via Computer."
4. The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, "Please wait for the host to start this meeting," simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
5. During the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" function located in the participants' window and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

**To Listen and Provide Verbal Comments by Phone**

1. Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room.  Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully.
2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 116 153 109**, followed by **#**.
3. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing **#** to continue.
4. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress.  Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.
5. During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number. SCAG staff will unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Limit oral comments to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

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## CEHD - Community, Economic and Human Development Committee
### *Members – October 2022*

1. **Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama**
   CEHD Chair, Cerritos, RC District 23

2. **Hon. David J. Shapiro**
   CEHD Vice Chair, Calabasas, RC District 44

3. **Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler**
   Alhambra, RC District 34

4. **Hon. Al Austin**
   Long Beach, GCCOG

5. **Hon. David Avila**
   Yucaipa, SBCTA

6. **Hon. Megan Beaman-Jacinto**
   Coachella, RC District 66

7. **Hon. Claudia laPeña**
   Thousand Oaks, RC District 46

8. **Hon. Gary Boyer**
   Glendora, RC District 33

9. **Hon. Drew Boyles**
   El Segundo, RC District 40

10. **Hon. Wendy Bucknum**
    Mission Viejo, RC District 13

11. **Hon. Juan Carrillo**
    Palmdale, RC District 43

12. **Hon. Ramon Castro**
    Imperial County CoC

13. **Hon. Letitia Clark**
    Tustin, RC District 17

14. **Hon. Steve DeRuse**
    La Mirada, RC District 31

15. **Hon. Diane Dixon**
    Newport Beach, RC District 15

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16. **Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada**
Ontario, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

17. **Hon. Keith Eich**
La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36

18. **Hon. Rose Espinoza**
La Habra, OCCOG

19. **Hon. Waymond Fermon**
Indio, CVAG

20. **Hon. Margaret Finlay**
Duarte, RC District 35

21. **Hon. Alex Fisch**
Culver City, RC District 41

22. **Hon. Mark Henderson**
Gardena, RC District 28

23. **Hon. Peggy Huang**
TCA Representative

24. **Hon. Cecilia Hupp**
Brea, OCCOG

25. **Hon. Kathleen Kelly**
Palm Desert, RC District 2

26. **Sup. Matt LaVere**
Ventura County CoC

27. **Hon. Tammy Kim**
Irvine, RC District 14

28. **Hon. Jed Leano**
Claremont, SGVCOG

29. **Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson**
Riverside, RC District 68

30. **Hon. Anni Marshall**
Avalon, GCCOG

31. **Hon. Andrew Masiel**
Tribal Govt Regl Planning Board Representative

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**32. Hon. Lauren Meister**
West Hollywood, WSCCOG

**33. Hon. Bill Miranda**
Santa Clarita, SFVCOG

**34. Hon. John Mirisch**
Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

**35. George Nava**
Brawley, ICTC

**36. Hon. Marisela Nava**
Perris, RC District 69

**37. Hon. Kim Nguyen**
Garden Grove, RC District 18

**38. Hon. Trevor O'Neil**
Anaheim, RC District 19

**39. Hon. Ed Paget**
Needles, SBCTA

**40. Hon. Sunny Park**
Buena Park, OCCOG

**41. Hon. Ariel Pe**
Lakewood, GCCOG

**42. Hon. Misty Perez**
Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

**43. Hon. Michael Posey**
Huntington Beach, RC District 64

**44. Hon. Nithya Raman**
Los Angeles, RC District 51

**45. Hon. Gabriel Reyes**
San Bernardino County CoC

**46. Hon. Rex Richardson**
Long Beach, RC District 29

**47. Hon. Sonny Santa Ines**
Bellflower, GCCOG

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**48. Hon. Nicholas Schultz**
Burbank, AVCJPA

**49. Hon. Becky Shevlin**
Monrovia, SGVCOG

**50. Hon. Andy Sobel**
Santa Paula, VCOG

**51. Hon. Wes Speake**
Corona, WRCOG

**52. Hon. Mark Waronek**
Lomita, SBCCOG

**53. Hon. Acquanetta Warren**
Fontana, SBCTA

**54. Hon. Christi White**
Murrieta, WRCOG

**55. Hon. Tony Wu**
West Covina, SGVCOG

**56. Hon. Frank Zerunyan**
Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

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# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**Thursday, October 6, 2022**
**9:30 AM**

The Community, Economic and Human Development Committee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
*(The Honorable Frank Yokoyama, Chair)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Matters Not on the Agenda)**
This is the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that is *not* listed on the agenda.  Although the committee may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon at this time.  Public comment for items listed on the agenda will be taken separately as further described below.

*General information for all public comments:*  Members of the public are encouraged, but not required, to submit written comments by sending an email to: CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, October 5, 2022.  Such comments will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) are available at the Office of the Clerk, located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 during normal business hours and/or by contacting the office by phone, (213) 630-1420, or email to aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to verbally address the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee in real time during the meeting will be allowed up to a total of 3 minutes to speak on items on the agenda, with the presiding officer retaining discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting. The presiding officer has the discretion to equally reduce the time limit of all speakers based upon the number of comments received.  If you desire to speak on an item listed on the agenda, please wait for the chair to call the item and then indicate your interest in offering public comment by either using the "raise hand" function on your computer or pressing *9 on your telephone.  For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar (if there is a Consent Calendar), please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called; items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted upon with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

<u>Approval Items</u>

1.  Minutes of the Meeting – September 1, 2022     PPG. 9

<u>Receive and File</u>

2.  Request to Release Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR Notice of Preparation   PPG. 17

3.  SCAG Water Action Resolution     PPG. 31

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

4.  REAP 2021: Draft Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing                    30 Mins.    PPG. 50
*(Jacob Noonan, Housing Program Manager II)*

5.  Neighborhood Mobility Areas                                                         15 Mins.    PPG. 94
*(Lyle Janicek, Senior Regional Planner)*

6.  REAP Call for Collaboration Program Update                                         45 Mins.     PPG. 103
*(Alisha James, Community Engagement Specialist)*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**
*(The Honorable Frank Yokoyama, Chair)*

**STAFF REPORT**
*(Jonathan Hughes, Regional Affairs Officer, SCAG Staff)*

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**October 6, 2022**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**
**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD)**
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD). A VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/.

The Community, Human and Development Committee (CEHD) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically), given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A). A quorum was present.

**Members Present:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair** | *Cerritos* | **District 23** |
| **Hon. David Shapiro, Vice Chair** | *Calabasas* | **District 44** |
| Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler | *Alhambra* | District 34 |
| Hon. Gary Boyer | *Glendora* | District 33 |
| Hon. Drew Boyles | *El Segundo* | District 40 |
| Hon. Wendy Bucknum | *Mission Viejo* | District 13 |
| Hon. Juan Carrillo | *Palmdale* | District 43 |
| Hon. Letitia Clark | *Tustin* | District 17 |
| Hon. Diane Dixon | *Newport Beach* | District 15 |
| Hon. Keith Eich | *La Cañada Flintridge* | District 36 |
| Hon. Margaret E. Finlay | *Duarte* | District 35 |
| Hon. Alex Fisch | *Culver City* | District 41 |
| Hon. Peggy Huang | | TCA |
| Hon. Cecilia Hupp | *Brea* | OCCOG |
| Hon. Kathleen Kelly | *Palm Desert* | District 2 |
| Hon. Tammy Kim | *Irvine* | District 14 |
| Sup. Matt LaVere | *Ventura County* | CoC |
| Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson | *Riverside* | District 68 |
| Hon. Anni Marshall | *Avalon* | GCCOG |
| Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr. | *Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning* | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hon. Lauren Meister | *West Hollywood* | WSCCOG |
| Hon. Bill Miranda | *Santa Clarita* | SFVCOG |
| Hon. John Mirisch | *Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt.* | Member at Large |
| Hon. Marisela Nava | *Perris* | District 69 |
| Hon. Trevor O'Neil | *Anaheim* | District 19 |
| Hon. Ariel Pe | *Lakewood* | GCCOG |
| Hon. Misty Perez | *Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt.* | Member at Large |
| Hon. Michael Posey | *Huntington Beach* | District 64 |
| Hon. Sonny Santa Ines | *Bellflower* | GCCOG |
| Hon. Becky Shevlin | *Monrovia* | SGVCOG |
| Hon. Andy Sobel | *Santa Paula* | VCOG |
| Hon. Wes Speake | *Corona* | WRCOG |
| Hon. Mark Waronek | *Lomita* | SBCCOG |
| Hon. Acquanetta Warren | *Fontana* | SBCTA |
| Hon. Christi White | *Murrieta* | WRCOG |

**Members Not Present**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hon. Al Austin, II | *Long Beach* | GCCOG |
| Hon. David Avila | *Yucaipa* | SBCTA |
| Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto | *Coachella* | District 66 |
| Hon. Claudia Bill-de la Peña | *Thousand Oaks* | District 46 |
| Hon. Ramon Castro | *Imperial County* | CoC |
| Hon. Steve De Ruse | *La Mirada* | GCCOG |
| Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada | *Ontario, Pres. Appt.* | Member at Large |
| Hon. Rose Espinoza | *La Habra* | OCCOG |
| Hon. Waymond Fermon | *Indio* | CVAG |
| Hon. Mark Henderson | *Gardena* | District 28 |
| Hon. Jed Leano | *Claremont* | SGVCOG |
| Hon. George A. Nava | *Brawley* | ICTC |
| Hon. Kim Nguyen | *Garden Grove* | District 18 |
| Hon. Edward Paget | *Needles* | SBCTA |
| Hon. Sunny Park | *Buena Park* | OCCOG |
| Hon. Nithya Raman | *Los Angeles* | District 51 |
| Hon. Gabriel Reyes | *San Bernardino County* | CoC |
| Hon. Rex Richardson | *Long Beach* | District 29 |
| Hon. Nicholas Schultz | *Burbank* | AVCJPA |
| Hon. Tony Wu | *West Covina* | SGVCOG |
| Hon. Frank Zerunyan | *Rolling Hills Estates* | SBCCOG |

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable Frank Yokoyama called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and asked Councilmember Margaret Finlay, City of Duarte, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chair Yokoyama provided detailed instructions and general information on how to provide public comments. Additionally, he noted that public comments received via email to CEHDPublicComment@scag.ca.gov after 5pm on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, would be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

Chair Yokoyama opened the public comment period and noted that this was the time for members of the public to offer comment for matters that are within SCAG's jurisdiction but are not listed on the agenda.

SCAG staff noted there were no written public comments received via email before or after the 5pm deadline on Wednesday, August 31, 2022. SCAG staff also noted that there were no public comments for matters not listed on the agenda.

Chair Yokoyama closed the public comment period for matters not listed on the agenda.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

No reprioritizations were made.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the July 7, 2022 Meeting

Receive and File

2. CEQA Initiation for the Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report

3. Connect SoCal CEQA Addendum No. 3 to programmatic Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2019011061)

4. Transportation Conformity Determinations of Proposed Final 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Proposed Final 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment #2

5. Equity Analysis Update (formerly Environmental Justice Analysis) – Performance Measures

6. SCAG Water Action Resolution

A MOTION was made (Finlay) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Hupp) and passed by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:**  Andrade-Stadler, Boyles, Bucknum, Carrillo, Dixon, Eich, Finlay, Fisch, Huang, Hupp, Kelly, Kim, LaVere, Lock Dawson, Marshall, Masiel, Sr., Meister, Miranda, Mirisch, M. Nava, O'Neil, Pe, Perez, Posey, Santa Ines, Shapiro, Shevlin, Sobel, Speake, Waronek, White, and Yokoyama (32)

**NOES:**  (0)

**ABSTAIN:**  Boyer (1)

There were no public comments on this item.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

7. High Quality Transit Area (HQTA) Analysis Pilot Program

Chair Yokoyama provided a brief overview of the HQTA program and noted that staff invited three panelists to provide a summary on their findings, recommendations and tools that provide high-level analysis of existing conditions, transit-oriented developments (TOD) opportunity sites, and potential public realm improvements that could catalyze future development activity within HQTAs from SCAG's six (6) Pilot Projects. He asked Zacharias Gardea and Grieg Asher, SCAG staff, to provide remarks and introduce the speakers.

Mr. Orlando Gonzalez, Gruen Associates project manager, Kamille Parks, Gruen Associates planner, and Jennifer Savage, planner at the City of San Clemente were introduced to the Committee.

Each panelist shared their presentation, which included an overview and a high-level analysis of the HQTA/Station Area Vision Plan, which was created by SCAG in 2017 to help implement the goals and objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), Connect SoCal. Also included in the discussion were Toolkit development options, project goals,

findings and recommendations of the Pilot Program selection process, a summary of case studies and outreach achievements.

The panelists and SCAG staff responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers, including observations that focused on the future relevance of HQTA projects, growth data as it relates to the next RTP/SCS, autonomous vehicle studies, economic development, and climate change impacts.

There were no public comments on this item.

The comprehensive staff report and PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet.

8.   Demographic Workshop and Demographic Update

Chair Yokoyama asked Kevin Kane, SCAG staff, to provide a preview of the data, research and expert-led roundtables for the upcoming 33rd Annual Demographic Workshop, which will be held virtually on September 14 and September 21, 2022.

Mr. Kane's presentation included background information and an update of the recently released demographic data for the SCAG region and the preliminary Connect SoCal 2024 employment housing and population projections.

Mr. Kane announced that the 33rd Annual Demographic Workshop, titled *"Forecasting the New Normal,"* would be held virtually. He outlined the program highlights and encouraged the Committee and interested parties to attend.

Mr. Kane responded to comments and questions expressed by the Councilmembers, including observations that focused on housing data, current housing projections, immigration composition flow to California and questions regarding job index quality and housing balance analysis.
There were no public comments on this item.

The comprehensive staff report and PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet.

9.   Connect SoCal 2024 Local Data Exchange and Regional Data Platform Status Update

Chair Yokoyama stated that in preparation for SCAG's next Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), Connect SoCal 2024, staff has developed and started its Local Data Exchange (LDX) process. He asked Tom Vo, SCAG staff, to provide status updates and highlights of this work.

Mr. Vo provided background information and a brief introduction and overview of the Connect SoCal 2024 plan. He noted that the LDX process is local jurisdictions' opportunity to provide input related to the future growth of employment, household, and land use to help the development of the Connect SoCal 2024 plan.

Mr. Vo's presentation included an outline and summary of the LDX Process, Regional Data Platform Tools and Resources, LDX Timelines, and Next Steps.

Mr. Vo encouraged participation and provided instructions for signing up to receive more information and scheduling for one-to-one LDX meetings. He requested that feedback from local jurisdictions be received by the December 2, 2022 deadline.

There were no public comments on this item.

In the interest of time, Chair Yokoyama asked the Committee to direct any questions they had related to the LDX process, to SCAG staff after the meeting.

The comprehensive staff report and PowerPoint presentation were included in the agenda packet.

10. CEHD Committee 12 Month Framework and Lookahead

Chair Yokoyama announced that staff committed to providing a 12-month look ahead for SCAG's three policy committees. He noted the look-ahead was also provided to the Executive Administration Committee (EAC) at the 2022 EAC Retreat. He asked Jenna Hornstock, SCAG staff, to provide additional details of the policy development framework and overview of the CEHD 12-Month Agenda Outlook for FY 2023.

Ms. Hornstock provided background information and a brief overview. Ms. Hornstock noted that the look ahead was designed to help the Committee better understand the materials presented and facilitate participation in the development around the policy priorities and land use strategies that will become the final recommendations and ultimate approval of Connect SoCal 2024. Highlights of the presentation included the following topics:

- Draft Vision and Goals
- Policy Priorities: Core Vision, Key Connections and Emerging Issues
- Programmatic Areas: Connect SoCal, Local Assistance Program and Regional Updates

There were no public comments on this item.

Chair Yokoyama asked the Committee to direct any questions they had to SCAG staff after the meeting.

The comprehensive staff report, PowerPoint presentation and the CEHD 12 Month LookAhead Calendar were included in the agenda packet.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Yokoyama reminded the Committee to complete the Regional Council and Policy Committee Meeting Schedule Survey by September 23, 2022. He noted that the survey would help inform the future schedule of the Regional Council and Policy Committees.

**STAFF REPORT**

SCAG staff Jonathan Hughes provided a brief report that included information regarding SCAG co-sponsored events, including the 33rd Annual Demographic Workshop which would be held virtually on September 14 and September 21, 2022.

Mr. Hughes announced the REAP 2.0 stakeholder meetings and the launch of Money Mondays, periodic emails highlighting funding and grant opportunities for SCAG jurisdictions.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items requested.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Yokoyama adjourned the CEHD Committee meeting at 11:36 a.m. in memory of SCAG's First Vice President and Supervisor, County of Ventura, Carmen Ramirez.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carmen Summers
Community, Economic and Human Development Committee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CEHD COMMITTEE]
//

**2022-23**

| MEMBERS | Representing | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | Total Mtgs Attended To Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andrade-Stadler, Adele | Alhambra, District 34 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Austin, II, Al | Long Beach, GCCOG | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avila, David | Yucaipa, SBCTA | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Beaman Jacinto, Megan | Coachella, District 66 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Bill-de la Peña, Claudia | Thousand Oaks, RC District 46 | 1 | 1 | D | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Boyer, Gary | Glendora, RC District 33 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Boyles, Drew | El Segundo, District 40 | 1 | 1 | A | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Bucknum, Wendy | Mission Viejo, District 13 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Carrillo, Juan | Palmdale, District 43 | | | R | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Castro, Ramon | Imperial County, CoC | | | K | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clark, Letitia | Tustin, District 17 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| De Ruse, Steve | La Mirada, District 31 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Dorst-Porada, Debra | Ontario, Pres. Appt. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dixon, Diane B. | Newport Beach, District 15 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Eich, Keith | La Cañada Flintridge, RC District 36 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Espinoza, Rose | La Habra, OCCOG | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fermon, Waymond | Indio, CVAG | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Finlay, Margaret E. | Duarte, District 35 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Fisch, Alex | Culver City, District 41 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Henderson, Mark E. | Gardena, District 28 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Huang, Peggy | TCA | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Hupp, Cecilia | Brea, OCCOG | 1 | 1 | D | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Kelly, Kathleen | Palm Desert, District 2 | 1 | 1 | A | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Kim, Tammy | Irvine, RC District 14 | 1 | 1 | R | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| LeVere, Matt | Ventura County, CoC | 1 | 1 | K | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Leano, Jed | Claremont, SGVCOG | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Lock Dawson, Patricia | Riverside, District 68 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Marshall, Anni | Avalon, GCCOG | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Masiel, Sr., Andrew | Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Meister, Lauren | West Hollywood, WCCOG | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Miranda, Bill | Santa Clarita, SFVCOG | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Mirisch, John | Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt. | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Nava, George A. | ICTC | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nava, Marisela | Perris, District 69 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Nguyen, Kim B. | Garden Grove, District 18 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| O'Neil, Trevor | Anaheim, District 19 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Paget, Edward | Needles, SBCTA/SBCCOG | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Park, Sunny Youngsun | Buena Park, OCCOG | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pe, Ariel "Ari" | Lakewood, GCCOG | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Perez, Misty | Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt. | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Posey, Mike | Huntington Beach, OCCOG | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Raman, Nithya | Los Angeles, District 51 | | | D | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reyes, Gabriel | San Bernardino County CoC | | | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Richardson, Rex | Long Beach, District 29 | | | R | | | | | | | | | | |
| Santa Ines, Sonny | Bellflower, GCCOG | | 1 | K | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Schultz, Nick | Burbank, AVCJPA | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Shapiro, David J. | Calabasas, District 44 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Shevlin, Becky A. | Monrovia, SGVCOG | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Sobel, Andy | Santa Paula, VCOG | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Speake, Wes | Corona, WRCOG | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Waronek, Mark | Lomita, SBCCOG | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Warren, Acquanetta | Fontana, SBCTA | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| White, Christi | Murrieta, WRCOG | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Wu, Tony | West Covina, SGVCOG | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Yokoyama, Frank Aurelio | Cerritos, District 23 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Zerunyan, Frank | Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| **TOTAL ATTENDANCE** | | 31 | 38 | | 35 | | | | | | | | | |

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**October 6, 2022**

**To:** Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

**From:** Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner
(213) 236-1983, calderon@scag.ca.gov

**Subject:** Request to Release Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR Notice of Preparation

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL**

*Kome Ajise*

**RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC:**
Authorize the release of the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Connect SoCal 2024 (2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) to initiate a 30-day public review and comment period, beginning October 17, 2022 and ending November 16, 2022, and direct staff to carry out administrative tasks for the public release.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, TC, AND RC:**
Receive and File.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**
*At the March 3 and September 1, 2022 EEC meetings, SCAG staff informed the EEC that SCAG, as the Lead Agency, is responsible for preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the upcoming proposed 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), referred to alternatively as "Connect SoCal 2024", "Plan", or "Project", and that staff would be preparing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a PEIR to formally kick off the PEIR process. SCAG staff has prepared a NOP (see Attachment 1) in accordance with applicable provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). SCAG staff requests that the EEC authorize the release of the NOP for a required 30-day public review and comment period beginning on October 17, 2022 and ending on November 16, 2022. Following the release of the NOP, SCAG will host two virtual public scoping meetings, each providing the same information, on November 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and November 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. After close of the public review and comment period, SCAG staff will report back to the EEC regarding comments received.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Pursuant to federal and state planning requirements, SCAG updates and adopts a long-range RTP every four years. SCAG's last Plan was adopted in 2020 and an updated Plan is anticipated to be adopted by April 2024. The RTP emphasizes the development and preservation of the region's transportation system.  For a transportation project to become eligible for federal and state funding, it must be included in the financially-constrained portion of the RTP.  In addition, per state law, the Plan must include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates compliance with California Air Resources Board greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets from cars and light duty trucks.

CEQA, codified at Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq., and its implementing regulations, CEQA Guidelines, found at California Code Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq., require SCAG as the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential environmental impacts for any discretionary governmental action and disclose the evaluation in a CEQA document that is appropriate for the proposed governmental action (CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(b)). Based on SCAG staff's preliminary evaluation of previous RTP/SCSs and associated PEIRs, levels of significance for environmental impacts from the upcoming proposed Connect SoCal 2024 are anticipated to be similar in magnitude as those for the previous Plans. Therefore, an EIR is found to be the appropriate CEQA document for Connect SoCal 2024. Connect SoCal 2024 is a regional planning document updated every four years and will update the 2020 RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal, as amended. Additionally, given the regional level of analysis provided in a RTP/SCS for a large geographic area with a minimum 20-year planning horizon, a Program EIR (PEIR) is the appropriate type of EIR for Connect SoCal 2024.

A PEIR is a "first-tier" CEQA document designed to consider "broad policy alternatives and program wide mitigation measures" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15168). The programmatic environmental impact analysis for the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR will evaluate potential environmental effects consisting of direct and indirect effects, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts resulting from the Plan, and will include feasible mitigation measures and a range of reasonable alternatives to the Plan, including a No Project Alternative, to avoid or reduce any identified potentially significant adverse environmental effects of the Plan. As a first-tier document, the PEIR may serve as a foundation for subsequent, project or site-specific environmental review documents (including Addenda, Supplemental EIRs, Subsequent EIRs) that may be conducted by implementing agencies serving as CEQA lead agencies for later, individual transportation and development projects with narrower scope in the region (CEQA Guidelines Section 15385).

**CEQA BASIS FOR A NOTICE OF PREPARATION:**

SCAG staff has completed the preparation of a NOP of a Draft PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024 pursuant to PRC Section 21080.4 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082 and 15375. Based on the information

provided in the Background Section above and discussed in the NOP, SCAG staff has determined that an Initial Study is not required to be prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d). The NOP contains a project description of the upcoming proposed Connect SoCal 2024, its location, and probable environmental effects of Connect SoCal 2024, in order to enable interested agencies, organizations, and individuals (collectively referred to as the public) to meaningfully review and provide comments and input on the proposed scope and content of the Draft PEIR.

**SCHEDULE:**

Key milestones and expected dates for the development of Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR are listed below in Table 1: Key Milestones for the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR.

**Table 1: Key Milestones for the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR**

| Milestones | Date (Expected) |
|---|---|
| Release NOP of a Draft PEIR for Public Review and Comments | October 17, 2022 (this EEC meeting) |
| Public Scoping Meetings | November 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and November 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. |
| Release of Draft PEIR for Public Review and Comments | Within 30 days after Draft Connect SoCal 2024 Release |
| Draft PEIR Public Workshop | Within 30 days after Draft PEIR Release |
| Draft PEIR Public Review and Comment Period Closes | At least 45 days after Draft PEIR Release |
| Certification for the Final PEIR for the Final Connect SoCal 2024 | April 2024 |

Key milestones and expected dates for the EEC review of the development of Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR are listed below in Table 2: Key Milestones for EEC Action on the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR.

**Table 2: Key Milestones for EEC Action on the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR**

| Milestones | Date (Expected) |
|---|---|
| EEC Authorization to Release the NOP for Public Review and Comments | October 17, 2022 (this EEC meeting) |
| EEC Review of the Proposed Draft PEIR for the Proposed Draft Connect SoCal 2024 and Consideration to Recommend that RC Release the Proposed Draft PEIR for Public Review and Comments | Fall 2023 |
| EEC Review of the Proposed Final PEIR for the Proposed Final Connect SoCal 2024 and Consideration to Recommend that RC Certify the | March 2024 |

| Proposed Final PEIR | |
|---|---|

Staff will provide periodic status updates to the EEC as development of the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR progresses.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
Work associated with this item is included in the current Fiscal Year 2022/23 Overall Work Program (22-020.0161.04: Environmental Compliance, Coordination & Outreach).

**ATTACHMENT(S):**
1.  Notice of Preparation of a Draft PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024

**SCAG**

INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**T:** (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

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Human Development
**Frank Yokoyama, Cerritos**

Energy & Environment
**Deborah Robertson, Rialto**

Transportation
**Ray Marquez, Chino Hills**

# NOTICE OF PREPARATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **TO:** | **Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals** |
| **SUBJECT:** | **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Connect SoCal 2024 (2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) (State Clearinghouse No. TBD)** |
| **DATE:** | **October 17, 2022** |
| **LEAD AGENCY:** | **Southern California Association of Governments** |
| | **900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700** |
| | **Los Angeles, California 90017** |

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as Lead Agency, is publishing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), referred to alternatively as "2024 RTP/SCS", "Connect SoCal 2024", "Plan", or "Project".

To ensure full consideration of environmental issues with potential significant adverse impacts when preparing the Draft PEIR, **all written comments on the NOP must be received within thirty (30) days of the start of the required 30-day public review and comment period, which begins October 17, 2022, and ends November 16, 2022 at 5:00 PM (PST)**.

Two (2) virtual public scoping meetings for the NOP, each providing the same information, will be held on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, and **Thursday, November 10, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.** The meetings will be held in an online format using Zoom. You may join, view, and participate in the meetings by using the Zoom application, by your web browser, or by phone. Information for the webcast is provided below:

> https://scag.zoom.us/j/81023287939
> Dial by location: +1 669 900 6833 US Toll or +1 669 444 9171 US Toll
> Meeting ID: 810 2328 7939

Please send your comments on the NOP to Ms. Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner, either electronically to: ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov or by mail to the address shown above. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive CEQA notices regarding the PEIR for the Plan, need additional information, or require special accommodations or translation services for a scoping meeting, please email Ms. Karen Calderon at least 72 hours prior to the scoping meeting or call (213) 236-1983 so that SCAG has sufficient time to make arrangements.

## INTRODUCTION

CEQA and its implementing regulations (CEQA Guidelines) require SCAG as the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential environmental impacts for any discretionary governmental action and disclose the evaluation in a CEQA document that is appropriate for the proposed governmental action. Connect SoCal 2024 is a regional planning document updated every four years (see further discussion below) and will update the 2020 RTP/SCS, as amended. Given the regional level of analysis provided in a RTP/SCS for a large geographic area with a minimum 20-year planning horizon, a Program EIR (PEIR) is the appropriate type of EIR for Connect SoCal 2024.

A PEIR is a "first-tier" CEQA document designed to consider "broad policy alternatives and program wide mitigation measures" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15168). The programmatic environmental impact analysis for the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR will evaluate potential environmental effects consisting of direct and indirect effects, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts resulting from the Plan, and will include feasible mitigation measures and a range of reasonable alternatives to the Plan, including a No Project Alternative, to avoid or reduce any identified potentially significant adverse environmental effects of the Plan. As a first-tier document, the PEIR may serve as a foundation for subsequent, site-specific environmental review documents (including EIRs, Supplemental EIRs, Subsequent EIRs, and Addenda) that may be conducted by implementing agencies serving as CEQA lead agencies for subsequent individual transportation and development projects in the region (CEQA Guidelines Section 15385).

This NOP is intended to serve the following purposes: (1) to notify responsible agencies, interested agencies, organizations, and individuals that SCAG is preparing the Draft PEIR which will assess the potential adverse environmental impacts that may result from implementing the proposed Plan; and (2) to provide information on the proposed Plan and allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the scope and content of the environmental information to be considered and evaluated in the Draft PEIR. Written comments regarding the scope and contents of the environmental impact analysis in the Draft PEIR received during the required 30-day NOP review period will be considered to refine the scope and content of the Draft PEIR, as appropriate and included in an appendix of the Draft PEIR.

The NOP is filed for posting with county clerks of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties and is published in local newspapers, including ethnic press that address the large geographic reach and diverse population within the six-county SCAG region. The NOP is also available for public review from (1) SCAG's website at: https://scag.ca.gov/peir; (2) Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse website at: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/; and (3) the county clerk's website for the six counties in the SCAG region.

## PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

### Project Location

SCAG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.) 134(d)(1). The SCAG region consists of six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura), and 191 cities (Figure 1, *SCAG Region*). To the north of the SCAG region are the counties of Kern and Inyo; to the east is state of Nevada and state of Arizona; to the south is the county of San Diego; and to the northwest is the Pacific Ocean. The SCAG region also consists of 15 subregional entities that serve as partners in the regional planning process. (Figure 2, *SCAG Subregions*).

SCAG is one of 18 MPOs in the State of California. The total area of the SCAG region is approximately 38,000 square miles. The region includes the county with the largest land area in the nation, San Bernardino County, as well as the county with the highest population in the nation, Los Angeles County. The SCAG region is home to approximately 18.8 million people, or 48 percent of California's population, according to the 2020 Census, representing the largest and most diverse region in the country.



**Figure 1: SCAG Region**
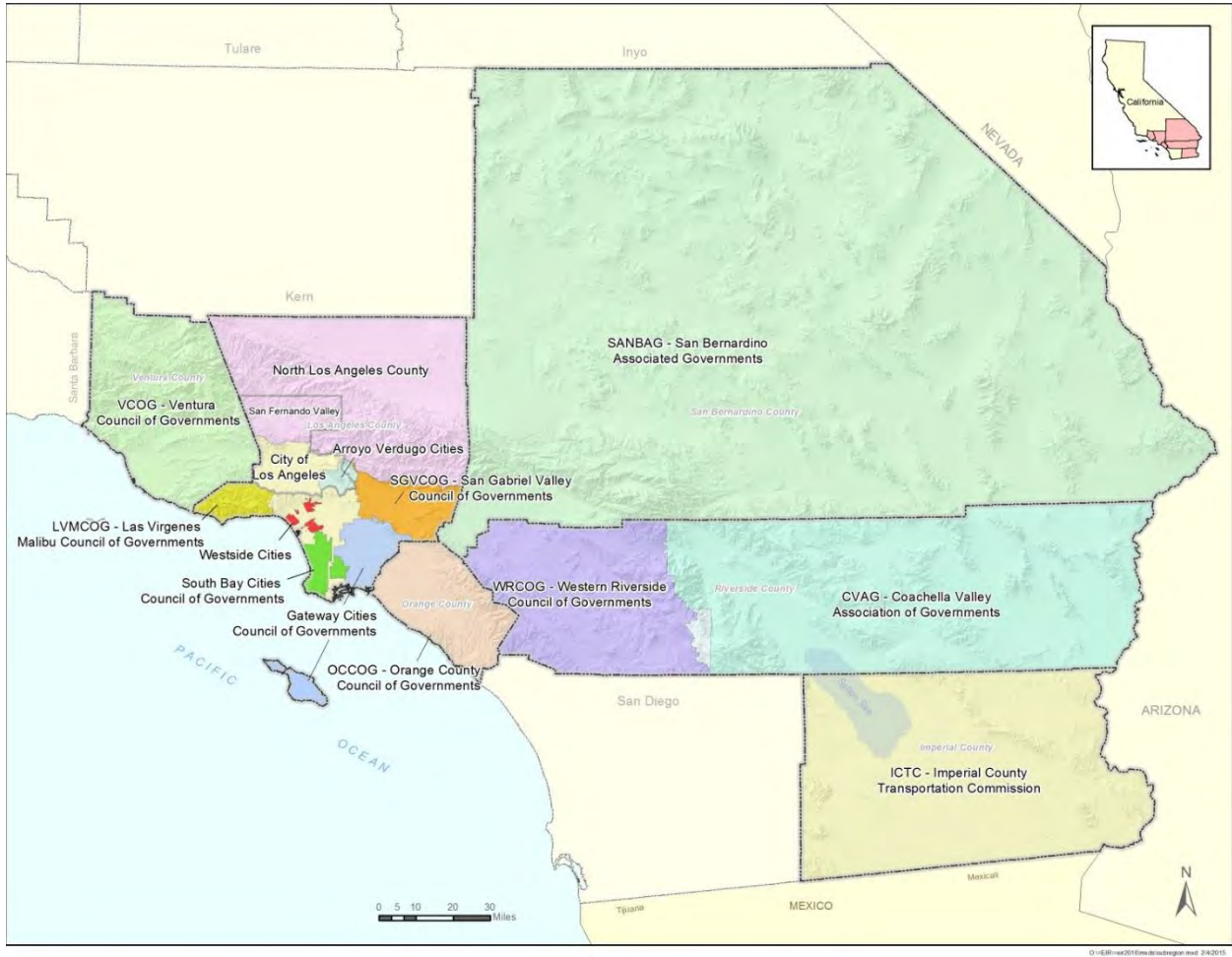
**Figure 2: SCAG Subregions**

## SCAG Roles and Responsibilities

In addition to federal designation as a MPO, SCAG is designated under California state law as the Multicounty Designated Transportation Planning Agency and Council of Governments for the six-county region. Founded in 1965, SCAG is a Joint Powers Authority, established as a voluntary association of local governments and agencies.

SCAG serves as the regional forum for cooperative decision making by local government elected officials and its primary responsibilities in fulfillment of federal and state requirements include the development of the RTP/SCS; the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP); the annual Overall Work Program; and transportation-related portions of local air quality management plans. SCAG's other major functions include determining the RTPs and programs are in conformity with state air quality plans; preparation of a Regional Housing Needs Assessment; and intergovernmental review of regionally significant projects.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Connect SoCal 2024 (2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)

Pursuant to federal and state planning requirements, SCAG updates and adopts a long-range RTP every four years. SCAG's last Plan was approved for transportation conformity purposes in May 2020 and adopted in its entirety in September 2020 and an updated Plan is anticipated to be adopted by April 2024.

Connect SoCal 2024 will be a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic and environmental goals. Connect SoCal 2024 represents the vision for Southern California's future through 2050, including policies, strategies, and projects. The Plan details how the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and leverage opportunities in order to support attainment of applicable federal ambient air quality standards and achieve state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. Connect SoCal 2024 will build from the policy directions established in Connect SoCal 2020 as well as more recent policy directions from SCAG's Regional Council to reflect emerging issues such as equity, resilience, and the economy. It is important to note that SCAG does not have authority to implement individual transportation projects in the RTP, nor does the SCS supersede the land use authority of cities and counties in the region. Specific projects and policies will be implemented by local jurisdictions, state agencies, and other agencies, such as County Transportation Commissions (CTCs). SCAG has already initiated the development of Connect SoCal 2024 and is working closely with all 197 local jurisdictions to collect land use data and determine a forecasted regional development pattern. SCAG is also working with CTCs to compile a regional project list that will build upon the list identified in the Connect SoCal 2020, as amended.

### *Sustainable Communities Strategies*

In accordance with the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, or SB 375 (Steinberg) and codified in California Government Code Section 65080(b)(2)(B), the Plan will include a SCS which "set[s] forth a forecasted development pattern for the region, which, when integrated with the transportation network, and other transportation measures and policies" will reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles (automobiles and light-duty trucks).

Pursuant to SB 375, SCAG's SCS is required to meet GHG emissions reduction target of 19 percent per capita by 2035 compared to 2005 emission levels, as set by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). According to Section 65080(b)(2)(B) of the California Government Code, the SCS shall:

- Identify the general location of land uses, residential densities and building intensities in the region;
- Identify areas to house all of the population of the region, including all economic segments, over the course of the planning period;
- Identify areas to accommodate an eight-year projection of regional housing needs;
- Identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region,
- Gather and consider information regarding resource areas and farmland;
- Consider state housing goals;

- Set forth a forecasted development pattern which, when integrated with the transportation network, and other transportation measures and policies, will reduce the GHG emissions from automobiles and light trucks to achieve the GHG targets set by CARB; and

- Comply with the federal Clean Air Act.

If the combination of measures in the SCS would not meet the regional targets, the MPO must prepare a separate "Alternative Planning Strategy" to meet the regional GHG emission reduction target.

### *Local Data Exchange*

A critical component to developing a successful Plan is the participation and cooperation of SCAG's local government partners and stakeholders within the SCAG region. Beginning in February 2022, SCAG began the Local Data Exchange (LDX) process wherein local jurisdictions can provide feedback and edits on roughly 25 datasets, including land use data and preliminary growth projections, which serve as technical foundation for developing the land use component of the Connect SoCal 2024. LDX is associated with SCAG's Regional Data Platform (RDP). By also providing tools and data back to local jurisdictions for their own plan updates through the RDP, the LDX process ensures participation of local jurisdiction, improves data accuracy, and improves coordination between local and regional long-range-plans.

### *SCAG's Public Participation Plan and Process*

Another key aspect of Plan development is public participation. To provide early and meaningful public participation in the Plan's development and decision-making processes, SCAG has developed and adopted a Public Participation Plan (PPP).[1] The adoption of the PPP demonstrates SCAG's commitment in increasing awareness and involvement of interested persons in SCAG's governmental processes and regional transportation and land use planning. SCAG will provide information and timely public notice, ensuring full public access to key decisions, and supporting early and continuing public involvement in the development of the Plan. To this end, SCAG will continue to engage a wide range of stakeholder groups, elected officials, special interest groups, the general public, and other interested parties through a series of workshops and public meetings, as well as SCAG's policy committees, task forces, and subcommittee structure during the development of the Plan and its associated PEIR. To stay informed on the Connect SoCal 2024 development process please visit: https://scag.ca.gov/connect-socal.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS IN THE DRAFT PEIR

The Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR is a programmatic document that will analyze potential effects of the proposed Plan on the environment. Although Connect SoCal 2024 will include a list of transportation projects and development patterns resulting from transportation and land use policies in the Plan, the PEIR does not specifically analyze environmental effects of any individual transportation or development project. Project-level environmental analyses will be prepared by implementing agencies on a project-by-project basis as individual projects proceed through the design, development, and decision-making process.

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[1] Southern California Association of Governments. Public Participation Plan. Adopted April 7, 2022. https://scag.ca.gov/community-participation-public-participation-plan.

**Environmental Setting**

The Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR must identify significant environmental impacts that would be expected to result from implementation of the proposed Plan. Significant environmental impacts must be determined by applying explicit significance criteria to compare the future Plan conditions to the existing environmental setting (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(a)). The CEQA Guidelines provide that the existing physical conditions at the time the Notice of Preparation is published will "normally" constitute the baseline. However, CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a)(1) indicates that, "where existing conditions change or fluctuate over time, and where necessary to provide the most accurate picture practically possible of the project's impacts, a lead agency may define existing conditions by referencing historic conditions…that are supported by substantial evidence."

SCAG will use a CEQA baseline that is considered the most appropriate for use to analyze the regional environmental impacts from Connect SoCal 2024 in the Draft PEIR. Considerations would include, for instance, availability of comprehensive data for land use, demographics, traffic count, and vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as well as technical and modeling assumptions for the proposed Plan. Where appropriate and identified throughout the Draft PEIR, the base year of the environmental and regulatory settings of some resource areas may vary to better characterize baseline conditions.

**Environmental Issues and Topics**

The potential content of environmental effects that warrant analysis in the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR are as follows:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

**Mitigation Measures**

CEQA requires that SCAG identify all feasible mitigation measures in the PEIR that will avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of the Plan. As SCAG has no concurrent authority/jurisdiction to implement mitigation related to transportation and land use projects or plans that implement Connect SoCal 2024, the 2024 PEIR is expected to employ the same approach to mitigation measures as those in the previously certified PEIRs for the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS and Connect SoCal (2020-2045 RTP/SCS), i.e., the 2024 PEIR will include two types of mitigation measures: SCAG mitigation measures and project-level mitigation measures.

SCAG mitigation measures are program wide measures for implementation by SCAG that address the large-scale regional impacts from the variety of projects spread over more than 20 years. In addition, the PEIR identifies project-level mitigation measures as resources for implementing agencies serving as CEQA lead agencies for later projects to consider, as applicable and feasible, when these agencies conduct and carry out subsequent, project-specific design, environmental analyses, and decision-making processes.

**Preliminary Consideration of Alternatives to the Proposed Connect SoCal 2024**

CEQA requires a discussion of alternatives to the Plan. The development of alternatives is focused on avoiding or reducing potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of the Plan while achieving most of the basic objectives of the Plan. The discussion of alternatives provides a means for evaluating the comparative merits of each alternative. The range of alternatives must be sufficient to permit a reasoned choice, and it need not include every conceivable project alternative. In addition, a CEQA document need not consider an alternative whose effect cannot be reasonably ascertained and whose implementation is remote and speculative. The key consideration for alternatives is whether the selection and discussion of alternatives foster informed decision making and public participation.

The Draft PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024 will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives to the Plan, including a No Project Alternative. The No Project Alternative is required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2) and assumes what would reasonably be expected to occur in the foreseeable future if Connect SoCal 2024 were not adopted. The No Project Alternative assumes continued implementation of goals and polices of the adopted 2020 RTP/SCS, as amended and is based on trending 2020 RTP/SCS regional population, housing, and employment growth projection to the future. The No Project Alternative includes those transportation projects that are included in the first year of the previously conforming FTIP (i.e., 2023 FTIP). As with previous cycles, each alternative for the 2024 PEIR, except the No Project Alternative, will vary in terms of policies related to regional land use development patterns. It is also anticipated that the transportation network would be generally the same for the Plan and all alternatives, except for the No Project Alternative.

Based on SCAG staff's preliminary evaluation of previous RTP/SCSs and respective alternatives analysis in the associated PEIRs, SCAG staff has generally observed that as local agencies incorporate RTP/SCS concepts into their own general/local plans, the previously analyzed no project alternatives are showing signs of converging with previous regional plans. Additionally, as the plan is updated and improves each cycle, it also gets closer to regional policies for more compact development patterns in high-quality transit areas (HQTAs). As such, SCAG has found that using a scenario planning process to identify alternative land use patterns for the 2024 RTP/SCS to be less useful and instead incorporated regional growth strategies in datasets for review by local jurisdictions which will then be incorporated into the Plan. Given this shift in approach and the converging of alternative scenarios, SCAG is currently considering a qualitative analytical approach for the alternatives other than the No Project Alternative.

SCAG anticipates that it will consider an Intensified Land Use Alternative which would be based on a transportation network for the 2024 RTP/SCS with more aggressive land use development patterns. Land use development patterns in this alternative would build on land use strategies as described in the Plan by maximizing growth around HQTAs. Potential growth patterns associated with this alternative would optimize urban areas and suburban town centers, livable corridors, and neighborhood mobility areas. The No Project Alternative and the Intensified Land Use Alternative are expected "book-ends" of the range of

potential alternatives to provide a framework for understanding the greatest potential impacts from alternatives when compared to the proposed Plan.

SCAG is seeking input on these preliminary alternatives as well as any other potential alternatives during the scoping process. Changes to the alternatives as a result of the scoping process could result in modifications to the number, content and scope of alternatives analyzed in the PEIR. Furthermore, the PEIR will identify alternatives that were initially considered, but rejected for reasons including infeasibility or inability of a particular alternative to meet the project objectives or reduce environmental impacts beyond that of the Project.

### CEQA Streamlining and Tiering

SB 375 includes CEQA incentives, or streamlining provisions, to encourage coordinated land use and transportation planning. Certain types of development projects (i.e., transit priority projects or residential/mixed use residential projects, as defined by the statute) may qualify for CEQA streamlining as long as the requisite criteria are met. Consistency will be determined by the local jurisdiction that is the lead agency for each project to be streamlined. SCAG's primary role is to include appropriate information in the SCS, such as land use information as required by SB 375 and/or guidance to aid in interpreting land use information that will allow a jurisdiction to make a consistency determination with respect to appropriate streamlining options on a project-by-project basis.

In addition to providing for streamlining CEQA documentation in accordance with SB 375, the PEIR will support other CEQA streamlining options including those provided for in other regulations such as SB 743 (transit-oriented infill development), SB 226 (CEQA streamlining for infill development) as well as provisions of the CEQA Guidelines that provide for tiering and other streamlining mechanisms.

## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS AND COMMENTS

As mentioned previously, SCAG will host two (2) virtual public scoping meetings for the NOP, each providing the same information, on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Thursday, November 10, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**.

The meetings will be held in an online format using Zoom to share information regarding the proposed Plan and the environmental review process. You may join, view, and participate in the meetings by using the Zoom application, by your web browser, or by phone. Information for the webcast is provided below:

> https://scag.zoom.us/j/81023287939
> Dial by location: +1 669 900 6833 US Toll or +1 669 444 9171 US Toll
> Meeting ID: 810 2328 7939

Each meeting will begin with a presentation and be followed by a question-and-answer session. The meetings will be open to the public and all stakeholders. Questions may be submitted via email in advance of the meeting at ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov, however there will also be opportunities for verbal questions taken at the meetings.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, SCAG is committed to providing special accommodations to those who are interested in participating in the scoping meetings. SCAG is also committed to helping those with limited proficiency in the English language by providing translation

services in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. We ask that you provide your request for special accommodations or translation services at least 72 hours prior to the scoping meetings so that SCAG has sufficient time to make arrangements.

To ensure full consideration of environmental issues with potential significant adverse impacts when preparing the Draft PEIR, **all written comments on the NOP must be received within thirty (30) days of the start of the required 30-day public review and comment period, which begins October 17, 2022, and ends November 16, 2022 at 5:00 PM (PST)**.

Written comments on the NOP can be sent to Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner, either electronically to: ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov or by mail to the address shown below:

Southern California Association of Governments
Attn: Ms. Karen Calderon
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90017

Please include a return address, the name, phone number, and email address of a contact person in your agency/organization, and the agency/organization name, if applicable.

## CONTACT US

If you have any questions on the NOP or PEIR, would like to make a special accommodations request for a scoping meeting including translation, or wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive notices regarding the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR, please contact Ms. Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner, at (213) 236-1983 or email ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov.

Signature: _____

Sarah Jepson, Director, Planning and Programs
Southern California Association of Governments

Date: _____

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**October 6, 2022**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **To:** | Community Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD) | **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL** |
| | Energy & Environment Committee (EEC) | |
| | Transportation Committee (TC) | |
| | Regional Council (RC) | |
| **From:** | Emily Rotman, Junior Planner | |
| | (213) 630-1440, rotman@scag.ca.gov | |
| **Subject:** | SCAG Water Action Resolution | |

**RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC:**
That the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) recommend the Regional Council (RC) adopt a Water Action Resolution of the Southern California Association of Governments (No. 22-647-3), which the resolution affirms a drought and water shortage emergency in the SCAG Region and calls on local and regional partners to join together to reduce water use; improve water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; and enhance water systems health and resilience.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:**
That the Regional Council (RC) adopt a Water Action Resolution of the Southern California Association of Governments (No. 22-647-3), which the resolution affirms a drought and water shortage emergency in the SCAG Region and calls on local and regional partners to join together to reduce water use; improve water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; and enhance water systems health and resilience.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD AND TC:**
Receive and File

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**
*As part of the 2022-2023 Executive Administration Committee (EAC) Strategic Plan, the EAC identified water resilience as a core policy area for regional leadership. The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) has received numerous presentations on the drought; recognizing the urgency of addressing local challenges related to water supply and infrastructure needs, the EEC recommended that SCAG take formal action. The proposed Water Action Resolution of the*

*Southern California Association of Governments affirms a drought and water shortage emergency in the SCAG Region and calls on local and regional partners to join together to reduce water use; improve water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; enhance water systems' health and resilience; and support investments in water infrastructure and conservation practices that support the region's economic and population growth and fosters planning for the Region's Housing Needs identified in Connect SoCal. In September 2022, staff sought feedback on the draft Resolution from the EEC. Feedback from EEC members and stakeholders has been incorporated into the proposed Resolution. Experts on water issues in the region will speak at Regional Council to help inform discussion on the proposed Resolution.*

**BACKGROUND:**
The SCAG region is expected to grow by 1.7 million residents between years 2019 and 2050 and jurisdictions must plan for a regional housing need of 1.3 million new housing units by 2029. Climate change continues to impact the SCAG region's health, safety and economic welfare as extended dry heat days and persistent aridity worsen severe drought in California, and these in turn the ability to manage and support healthy growth.

Although many Southern Californians and water suppliers have made progress in reducing water use and improving efficiency, water use is outpacing water replenishment and reducing water supply at unsustainable rates. Clean, safe, and reliable water supply is central to Southern California's people, economy, and natural systems, and additional conservation actions as well as new infrastructure investments are needed to address the region's water challenges. With the past 22 years having been the driest period in the southwestern United States within 1200 years, planning for water resilience at regional and local scales has become increasingly important[1]. Although Southern California water systems and planning do not yet account for persistent aridity, a shift towards greater local water reliance and efficiency can help mitigate and adapt to changing water supply and climate. Local water solutions include building upon underutilized resources, such as rainwater, grey water, stormwater, and water reuse and efficiency, as well as supporting the conservation and replenishment of water supplies, mitigating future water supply shortages, and investing in sustainable water infrastructure to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of communities, agriculture, and the environment can be sustained to support the projected economic and population growth of the region.

Additionally, extreme heat and ensuing periods of drought exacerbate challenges for both energy and water management and is a growing threat to lives and livelihoods across the state - especially for disadvantaged communities. The water-energy nexus was first recognized by the California Energy Commission in the 2005 Integrated Energy Policy Report in which it was found that 19 percent of California's total statewide electricity use – a third of non-power plant natural gas

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[1] Williams, A.P., Cook, B.I. & Smerdon, J.E. Rapid intensification of the emerging southwestern North American megadrought in 2020–2021. Nat. Clim. Chang. 12, 232–234 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01290-z

consumption and 88 billion gallons of diesel consumption -- are related to water. Water management and regional collaboration can play a prominent role in reducing energy demand and is a key part of the suite of solutions needed to help drive the clean energy transition forward.

In September 2022, staff sought feedback on the draft Resolution from the EEC and heard six verbal public comments. Staff have also been engaging with water agencies, community and non-profit organizations, members of the building and business communities, and experts in Southern California to ensure that the resolution addresses the region's water challenges and opportunities. Feedback from EEC members and stakeholders has been incorporated into the proposed Resolution, and those updates are summarized below:

- *References to the connection between water and supporting the region's housing needs and growth;*
- *Additional information on the economic impacts of drought in California, costs and affordability specific to California, and impacts of the water shortage in the Imperial Valley;*
- *Coordination with other stakeholders, including social and environmental justice organizations, housing groups, and public health organizations;*
- *Address the cost-effectiveness and feasibility for a wide range of strategies and solutions; and*
- *Inclusion of additional strategies and opportunities for water acquisition and storage, training and education, state legislation and programs, and alternative and innovative technologies.*

In SCAG's role to bring Southern California's diverse residents and local partners together with unifying regional plans, policies, and programs that result in healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient communities, the following actions, with proposed additions underlined below, are proposed for inclusion in the Resolution to reduce water use; improve water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; enhance water systems' health and resilience; and support investments in water infrastructure and conservation practices that support the region's economic and population growth and fosters planning for the Region's Housing Needs identified in Connect SoCal:

1. SCAG shall support best practices in resource conservation as well as an integrated planning approach<u>es</u> to help local jurisdictions meet housing production needs in <u>a</u> drier environment.
2. SCAG shall continue to work with local jurisdictions to encourage planning for context sensitive infill and multifamily housing development, which shows lower per capita water consumption rates than alternative housing types[2].

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[2] Keifer, J. and Krentz, L.(2018). *Water Use in the Multi-Family Housing Sector*.

3. SCAG shall, through the Resilience and Resource Conservation Subcommittee, further explore regional water challenges and solutions and report findings for consideration by SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee.

4. SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee shall make recommendations to SCAG's Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee to support legislative advocacy for increased resources for water infrastructure, <u>including investments in repairs, modernization, and enhancements of the region's aging infrastructure,</u> that can serve <u>the</u> community and regional needs of Southern California <u>and ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and resiliency of the region's water systems</u>.

5. SCAG shall coordinate with local jurisdictions, water agencies, the State<u>, and other stakeholders, including social and environmental justice organizations, housing groups, and public health organizations,</u> to foster adoption of alternative groundwater recharge technologies<u>, such as permeable pavements, surface infiltration, and well injection systems,</u> and best practices to increase and maintain a sustainable water supply for the region.

6. SCAG will explore opportunities to support implementation of green infrastructure, greywater usage systems and policy, <u>including the development of model ordinances and training and education programs,</u> as well as urban cooling infrastructure with a focus on improving groundwater recharge and reducing water usage in urban areas.

7. SCAG shall hold an Industry Forum and seek national expertise on investments in sustainable water infrastructure (and other horizontal utilities) that support housing production goals identified in the region's 6th Cycle Housing Elements.

8. SCAG shall identify, recommend and integrate into Connect SoCal 2024 policies and strategies to align investments in water infrastructure with <u>housing needs and</u> the adopted growth forecast and development pattern.

9. SCAG shall advocate with partners such as the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Regional Councils, and other stakeholders for additional flexibility in the use of state and federal resources to support integrated planning and technical assistance for groundwater resources and associated infrastructure along with transportation, land use, energy, stormwater and air quality, as well as advocate for projects that expand water resources and infrastructure.

10. SCAG staff shall prepare a white paper on the state of water in the region that addresses multiple sectors; addresses issues related to water <u>acquisition, storage,</u> supply, demand and quality; identifies challenges and opportunities to support sustainable and resilient regional development <u>as well as local jurisdictions in developing and implementing water planning efforts</u> in an increasingly arid environment; <u>explores the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a wide range of strategies under an all-of-the-above approach to addressing the region's water challenges;</u> and includes recommendations for practical ways to support implementing agencies.

11. SCAG staff shall periodically update the Energy and Environment Committee and seek guidance on the implementation of these aforementioned actions.

The proposed Water Action Resolution is included as **Attachment 1**.

Along with discussion of the proposed Resolution, at the Regional Council meeting two experts on water issues in the region will speak:

1. **Ellen Hanak** is Vice President and Director of the PPIC Water Policy Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she holds the Ellen Hanak Chair in Water Policy. Under her leadership, the center has become a critical source of information and guidance for natural resource management in California. She has authored dozens of reports, articles, and books on water policy, including *Managing California's Water*. Her research is frequently profiled in the national media, and she participates in briefings, conferences, and interviews throughout the nation and around the world. Her other areas of expertise include climate change and infrastructure finance. Previously, she served as research director at PPIC. Before joining PPIC, she held positions with the French agricultural research system, the President's Council of Economic Advisers, and the World Bank. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland.

1. **Charles Wilson** serves as Executive Director and CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC), a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public education partnership between cities, counties, business, industry, agriculture, and water agencies dedicated to securing reliable, affordable, quality water for Southern California.  The SCWC was - established in 1984 - is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about water needs and the state's water resources. Through measured advocacy, SCWC works to ensure the health and reliability of Southern California's water supply. Spanning Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Kern and Imperial counties, SCWC's approximately 200 member organizations include leaders from business, regional and local government, agricultural groups, labor unions, environmental organizations, water agencies, as well as the general public.

   Wilson has been a leading public affairs professional in Southern California for more than 30 years and is a recognized leader in the industry. Wilson has spent the past 25 years in the electric utility industry with Southern California Edison where he led the development and implementation of third-party strategic planning and communication efforts and aligned company interests with local, state, and federal government officials and agencies.

   Wilson also serves as principal owner of PC Consulting Services Inc, a consulting firm dedicated to providing strategic counsel, public affairs, government relations and communications to public agencies, private sector business clients and non-profits.

A graduate of UCLA, Charles earned his BA degree in political science with an emphasis in international relations and public administration. Wilson also earned his MA in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
Work for this item is covered under OWP item 065.4858.01, Regional Resiliency Analysis.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**
1. Resolution No. 22-647-3 - Water Resolution_Final
2. PowerPoint Presentation - Water Resolution ECC_Oct22_Final

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-647-3**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AFFIRMING A DROUGHT AND WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY IN THE SCAG REGION AND CALLING ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS TO JOIN TOGETHER TO REDUCE WATER USE; IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE, AND EFFICIENCY; ENHANCE WATER SYSTEMS' HEALTH AND RESILIENCE; AND SUPPORT INVESTMENTS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC AND POPULATION GROWTH AND FOSTERS PLANNING FOR THE REGION'S HOUSING NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN CONNECT SOCAL**

**WHEREAS**, the Southern California Association of Governments (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 approximately 19 million people within 197 jurisdictions pursuant to 23 USC § 134 et seq. and 49 USC § 5303 et seq.; 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 healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient communities; and

**WHEREAS**, clean, safe, and reliable water supply is central to Southern California's people, economy, and natural systems; and

**WHEREAS,** the conservation and replenishment of water supplies, mitigation of future water supply shortages, and investment in sustainable water infrastructure are essential to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of communities, agriculture, and the environment, and to supporting the projected economic and population growth of the region; and

**WHEREAS,** investments in sustainable water infrastructure are required to support the 1.3 million units of housing required in the 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) including recycled water systems; greywater capture and reuse; groundwater recharge; and urban runoff capture; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change will continue to threaten California's water supply and water quality resulting from a combination of persistent and extreme drought conditions, increased volatility in precipitation, continued reductions in snowpack, unsustainable use of groundwater, decreased soil moisture, and higher overall in-stream temperatures[1]; and

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[1] Governor's Office of Planning and Research, California Energy Commission, and California Natural Resources Agency (2019). *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Statewide Summary Report*.

**WHEREAS**, higher temperatures associated with climate-related extreme heat conditions will continue to increase demand for water use, reduce available water supply and groundwater replenishment rates due to environmental factors[2] ; and

**WHEREAS**, infill and multifamily development generally require less water than expansive regional development patterns, and the type of new development has a significant bearing on more water use to maintain lawns and other landscaping[3]; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2020 the State released a Water Resilience Portfolio that includes a set of actions to meet California's water needs through the 21st century, with principles that include prioritizing multi-benefit approaches that meet several needs at once; utilizing natural infrastructure such as forests and floodplains; embracing innovation and new technologies; encouraging regional approaches among water users sharing watersheds; and incorporating successful approaches from other parts of the world; and

**WHEREAS,** in August 2022 the State released a Water Supply Strategy that lays out a series of actions aimed at preparing for an estimated 10% decrease in California's water supply by 2040 due to higher temperatures and decreased runoff by developing new water through recycling and desalination; capturing and saving more stormwater, above ground and below ground; reducing use of water in cities and on farms; and improving all water management actions with better data, forecasting, conveyance, and administration of water rights; and

## SUPPLY THREATS

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, May 10, July 8, and October 19, 2021, Governor Newsom issued proclamations that a state of emergency exists statewide due to severe drought conditions and directed state agencies to take immediate action to preserve critical water supplies and mitigate the effects of drought[4]; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2022 and June 10, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted two emergency regulations to help conserve water as climate change continues to disrupt California's water system[5]; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River Basin supplies approximately 55 percent of Southern California's water[6], and, on August 16, 2021, the US Department of the Interior declared the first-ever water shortage declaration in history for the Colorado River Basin as water flows and reservoir levels have dramatically declined due to climate change; and

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[2] Ibid.
[3] SCAG (2020). *Connect SoCal, Sustainable Communities Strategy Technical Report*,
[4] State Water Resources Control Board (May 24, 2022). *Resolution 2022-0018 TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY REGULATION TO REDUCE WATER DEMAND AND IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION* State Water Resources Control
[5] State Water Resources Control Board (2022). *Water Conservation Portal, Water Conservation Emergency Regulations.*

WHEREAS, groundwater is a critical resource that accounts for 40 percent of California's total annual water supply in normal years and almost 60 percent in drought years when surface water is less available, but California's current groundwater levels are strained with approximately 63 percent of monitoring wells at historic lows[7] and groundwater overdraft has led to land subsidence and damage to infrastructure, drying up of local wells, depletion of streamflows, and decreased water quality[8]; and

## ECONOMIC THREATS

WHEREAS, recent analysis from University of California, Davis estimates that the 2016 drought in California resulted in over $600 million in direct economic damages (annual losses) and resulted in the loss of 4,700 jobs[9]; and

WHEREAS, pressures from climate change, sanitation and water quality needs, and necessary infrastructure upgrades are placing increasing strain on water prices. Estimates of the cost to replace aging infrastructure in the United States are projected to be over $1 trillion dollars in the next 20 years to replace outdated systems and could triple the cost of household water bills[10]; and

WHEREAS, California spends about $37 billion annually on its water system, with 84 percent of funding coming from local water bills and taxes, and urban utilities must raise funds to replace aging infrastructure, comply with requirements, and update infrastructure to adapt to climate change[11]; and

WHEREAS, projected increases in water rates over the next five years estimate that the percentage of U.S. households who will find water bills unaffordable could triple from roughly 12 percent to over 35 percent[12]; and

WHEREAS, monthly water bills have been growing two to three times faster than inflation in California's urban areas and lower-income households across California face growing affordability challenges as water bills increase, with nearly 13 percent statewide of single-family households with water bills that exceed 2 percent of their annual incomes[13]; and

WHEREAS, water bills have been rising faster than inflation in many parts of California to cover rising costs and State Water Board estimates that 21 percent of California's water systems have water rates that are unaffordable (i.e., cost 1.5 percent or more of median household income) for basic needs[14]; and

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[7] State of California Department of Water Resources. *California's Groundwater Live Current Groundwater Conditions.*

[8] Cooley, H. et al.( Apr. 2022). *The Untapped Potential of California's Urban Water Supply: Water Efficiency, Water Reuse, and Stormwater Capture.*

[9] Medellín-Azuara, J. et al. (2016*). Economic Analysis of the 2016 California Drought on Agriculture.*20.

[10] Mack, E, and Wrase, S (2017). *A Burgeoning Crisis? A Nationwide Assessment of the Geography of Water Affordability in the United States.*

[11] Chappelle, C. et al. (May 2021). Public Policy Institute of California. *Paying for California's Water System.*

[12] Ibid.

[13] Hanak, E. et al. (Mar. 2014). Public Policy Institute of California. *Paying For Water in California.*

[14] Chappelle, C. and Hanak, E. (May 2021). Public Policy Institute of California. *Water Affordability in California Fact Sheet.*

**WHEREAS**, renters and low-income households are less likely to participate in water conservation and efficiency programs[15]; and

## AGRICULTURE/NATURAL LAND/HEAT THREATS

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an invaluable asset to the SCAG region but agricultural production is increasingly vulnerable to drought impacts, water shortages, and over-reliance on groundwater to withstand droughts[16]; and

**WHEREAS**, the direct economic impacts of prolonged drought on water quality and agriculture at national level are estimated to be greater than $3 billion annually[17]; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 drought directly cost the California agricultural sector $1.2 billion and approximately 8,745 jobs[18] and the total impacts including other economic sectors are estimated at $1.7 billion and 14,634 jobs; and

**WHEREAS,** climate change related increases in extreme heat days reduce available water supply through evapotranspiration, and can lead to deadly pathogens in freshwater sources[19]; and

**WHEREAS**, low water storage levels and water right curtailments as a result of drought reduced surface water deliveries to farms in 2021 and water shortages led to an additional estimated 395,000 acres of idled land and an estimated $1.1 billion in crop revenue losses and increased pumping costs due to deficit irrigation[20]; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado River is the Imperial Valley's only source of water and the Imperial Valley has been using less water, conserving over 7 million acre-feet of the Colorado River and California's water supplies[21]; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2022, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation requested that states and Tribes in the Colorado River Basin, including California and the Imperial Valley that depends on water from the Colorado River, will need to collectively conserve between 2 to 4 million-acre feet in 2023[22];

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[15] Pierce, G. et al. (Mar. 25, 2021). *Solutions to the problem of drinking water service affordability: A review of the evidence.*

[16] Governor's Office of Planning and Research, California Energy Commission, and California Natural Resources Agency (2019*). California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Statewide Summary Report*.

[17] Governor's Office of Planning and Research, California Energy Commission, and California Natural Resources Agency (2019*). California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Statewide Summary Report.*

[18] Medellín-Azuara, J. et al. (2022). *Economic Impacts of the 2021 Drought on California Agriculture. Preliminary Report.*

[19] UNICEF (Mar. 18, 2022). *Water and the global climate crisis: 10 things you should know*. W

[20] Escriva-Bou, A. et al. (Apr. 2022). Public Policy Institute of California. *Policy Brief: Drought and California's Agriculture.*

[21] Hanks, J. (Jun. 16, 2022). *IID Board President Issues Statement on Federal Hearing Examining Solutions to Extreme Drought in Western U.S.*

[22] Unites States Bureau of Reclamation (June 14, 2022). Colorado River Basin. *Commissioner Touton asks Basin States and Tribes to conserve an additional 2-4 million acre-feet of water in 2023.*

WHEREAS, extreme heat increases demand for potable drinking water to offset certain heat-related health impacts[23]; and

## OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS, conserving water and local water supplies can support climate change mitigation and adaptation, as saving water and replacing imported water with water reuse and stormwater capture requires less energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions[24]; and

WHEREAS, water systems that rely on groundwater tend to have lower rates, as treatment and delivery costs are relatively low[25]; and

WHEREAS, natural areas play an important role in groundwater recharge, protecting watershed and riparian areas, and ensuring clean drinking water for the region, and on October 7, 2020, Governor Newsom issued the Nature-Based Solutions Executive Order N-82- 20, that committed California to the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030[26]; and

WHEREAS, water conservation is the easiest, most efficient, and most cost-effective way to quickly reduce water demand and extend limited water supplies[27]; and

WHEREAS, within Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's service area, the percentage of local water supplies has increased, providing over 50 percent of the water used in 2020 through use of groundwater, local surface water, recycled water, and recovered groundwater[28]; and

WHEREAS, many Southern Californians and water suppliers have made progress in reducing water use and improving efficiency; however, water use is outpacing water replenishment and reducing water supply at unsustainable rates, and additional conservation actions are needed to address the region's water challenges[29]; and

WHEREAS, California could further reduce water use by more than 30 percent in cities and suburbs by investing in measures to use water more efficiently[30]; and

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[23] Gisolfi, C. (1993). *Water Requirements During Exercise in the Heat.*

[24] Davis, M. (Jun. 2, 2022). *SCAG Energy and Environment Committee, The Evolving Role of Water in Regional Resilience Planning.* 96.

[25] Chappelle, C. and Hanak, E. (May 2021). Public Policy Institute of California. *Water Affordability in California Fact Sheet.*

[26] Executive Department State of California (Oct. 7, 2020).*Executive Order N-82-20.*

[27] State Water Resources Control Board (May 24, 2022). *Resolution 2022-0018 TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY REGULATION TO REDUCE WATER DEMAND AND IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION.*

[28] Davis, M. (Jun. 2, 2022). *SCAG Energy and Environment Committee, The Evolving Role of Water in Regional Resilience Planning.* 92.; Cooley, H. et al.(Apr. 2022). *The Untapped Potential of California's Urban Water Supply: Water Efficiency, Water Reuse, and Stormwater Capture.*

[29] Mount, J., Ellen Hanak, et. al. (May, 2019). *Water Use in California.* Public Policy Institute of California.

[30] Cooley, H. et al. (Apr. 2022). *The Untapped Potential of California's Urban Water Supply: Water Efficiency, Water Reuse, and Stormwater Capture.* The Pacific Institute.

WHEREAS, water is necessary to support growth in Southern California and build much-needed housing for the region, and a compact development pattern and the building of infill housing allows for less water consumption, greater water-efficiency, and lower infrastructure costs[31]; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 222 establishes the Water Rate Assistance Fund in the State Treasury to help provide water affordability assistance, for both drinking water and wastewater services, to low-income residential ratepayers[32]; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution in June 2022 clarifying that current state and federal funding of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) primarily supports transportation planning and related land use, stormwater and air quality considerations, and restricts use of funds for planning and technical assistance on many water related issues, which inhibits MPOs from holistically planning for water systems, including groundwater resources and associated infrastructure, resulting in a missed opportunity to integrate the program funding more effectively[33]; and

WHEREAS, SCAG has adopted mitigation measures for its most recent long-range plan, Connect SoCal 2020, related to coordinating and working with local jurisdictions and water agencies; encouraging regional-scale planning for improved stormwater management, groundwater recharge, wastewater and stormwater management, water quality management, pollution prevention, and drainage patterns; and fostering the implementation of urban greening, greenbelts, and community separator land use strategies that promote improved water quality, groundwater recharge, watershed health, reduced urban runoff, stormwater and rainwater collection[34]; and

WHEREAS, SCAG is developing a Regional Resilience Framework to help local agencies adapt to persistently arid and drought conditions in the region, with guidance and policy direction from the Resilience & Conservation Subcommittee and Energy & Environment Policy Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council of SCAG affirms a commitment to support implementing agencies plan for reduced water use; improved water conservation, reuse, and efficiency; enhanced water systems' health and resilience; and investments in sustainable water infrastructure and conservation practices that support the region's economic and population growth and fosters planning for the region's housing needs identified in Connect SoCal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
1.  SCAG shall support best practices in resource conservation as well as an integrated planning approaches to help local jurisdictions meet housing production needs in a drier environment.

2. SCAG shall continue to work with local jurisdictions to encourage planning for context sensitive infill and multifamily housing development, which shows lower per capita water consumption rates than alternative housing types[35].

3. SCAG shall, through the Resilience & Resource Conservation Subcommittee, further explore regional water challenges and solutions and report findings for consideration by SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee.

4. SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee shall make recommendations to SCAG's Legislative Communications & Membership Committee to support legislative advocacy for increased resources for water infrastructure, including investments in repairs, modernization, and enhancements of the region's aging infrastructure, that can serve the community and regional needs of Southern California and ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and resiliency of the region's water systems

5. SCAG shall coordinate with local jurisdictions, water agencies, the State, and other stakeholders, including social and environmental justice organizations, housing groups, and public health organizations, to foster adoption of alternative groundwater recharge technologies, such as permeable pavements, surface infiltration, and well injection systems, and best practices to increase and maintain a sustainable water supply for the region.

6. SCAG will explore opportunities to support implementation of green infrastructure, greywater usage systems and policy, including the development of model ordinances and training and education programs, as well as urban cooling infrastructure with a focus on improving groundwater recharge and reducing water usage in urban areas.

7. SCAG shall hold an Industry Forum and seek national expertise on investments in sustainable water infrastructure that support housing production goals identified in the region's 6th Cycle Housing Elements.

8. SCAG shall identify, recommend and integrate into Connect SoCal 2024 policies and strategies to align investments in water infrastructure with housing needs and the adopted growth forecast and development pattern.

9. SCAG shall advocate with partners such as the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Regional Councils, and other stakeholders for additional flexibility in the use of state and federal resources to support integrated planning and technical assistance for groundwater resources and associated infrastructure along with transportation, land use, energy, stormwater and air quality, as well as advocate for projects that expand water resources and infrastructure.

10. SCAG staff shall prepare a white paper on the state of water in the region that addresses multiple sectors; addresses issues related to water acquisition, storage, supply, demand and quality; identifies challenges and opportunities to support sustainable and resilient regional

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[35] Keifer, J. and Krentz, L.(2018). *Water Use in the Multi-Family Housing Sector*.

development as well as local jurisdictions in developing and implementing water planning efforts in an increasingly arid environment; explores the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a wide range of strategies under an all-of-the-above approach to addressing the region's water challenges; and includes recommendations for practical ways to support implementing agencies.

11. SCAG staff shall periodically update the Energy & Environment Policy Committee and seek guidance on the implementation of these aforementioned actions.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at its regular meeting this 6th day of October, 2022.

_____

Jan C. Harnik
President, SCAG
Riverside County Transportation Commission

Attested by:

_____

Kome Ajise
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:

_____

Michael R.W. Houston
Chief Counsel

# SCAG Proposed Water Action Resolution

October 2022

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

## Background On Drought Conditions in California

- Second driest two-year period since 1895
- **100%** of California is "abnormally dry"
- **94.1%** of California is in "extreme drought"
- **16.6%** if California is in "exceptional drought" (the most severe condition)
- First-ever water shortage declared for the Colorado River Basin in 2022
- 60% of the state's water needs are met by groundwater, up from 40% in normal conditions



SUMMER WATER SUPPLY IN 2019     SUMMER WATER SUPPLY IN SEVERE DROU...

2

# Economic Impacts of Drought in California

- $1.7 billion and 14,634 lost jobs
- Including losses of $1.2 billion and 8,745 jobs for the agricultural sector
- Significant impacts to agricultural sector as drought constrains water supply and increases water demands & raises costs and reduces revenue



3

# Impacts to Local Agencies

- Recent Executive Orders estimate a 20-30% reduction in water demand
- Water shortage emergency declared by many water districts, including the Metropolitan Water District (MWD)
- Current local water infrastructure may fall short of meeting needs for growth in many localities
- Local water agencies must submit Drought Response Plans



4

# Potential Local Actions to Reduce Water Demand

- 💧 Water conservation

- 🌱 Increasing water supply and storage infrastructure

- 🏢 Increasing groundwater and urban water runoff capture

- 💻 Adoption of new technology and approaches

- 🚿 Water infrastructure resource support needed for local action

- 🌳 Sustainable land use patterns

- 👥 Collaboration to tackle issues for regional solutions and advocacy
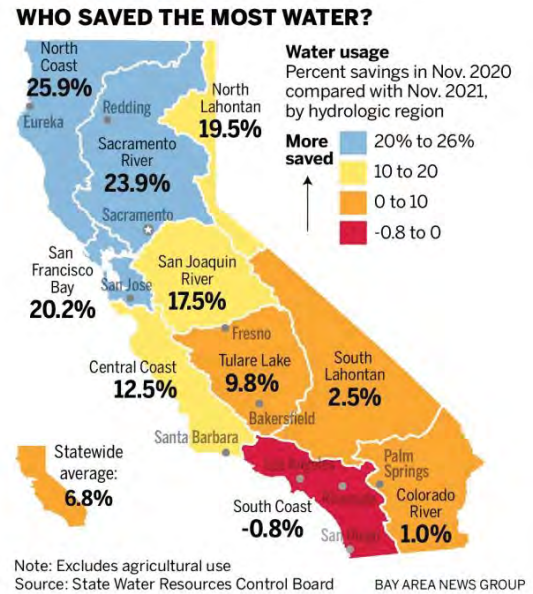
**WHO SAVED THE MOST WATER?**

North Coast 25.9%
Eureka
Redding
North Lahontan 19.5%
Sacramento River 23.9%
Sacramento

San Francisco Bay 20.2%
San Jose
San Joaquin River 17.5%
Fresno

Central Coast 12.5%
Tulare Lake 9.8%
Bakersfield
South Lahontan 2.5%

Santa Barbara

Statewide average: 6.8%
South Coast -0.8%
San Diego
Palm Springs
Colorado River 1.0%

**Water usage**
Percent savings in Nov. 2020 compared with Nov. 2021, by hydrologic region

More saved ↑
- 20% to 26%
- 10 to 20
- 0 to 10
- -0.8 to 0

Note: Excludes agricultural use
Source: State Water Resources Control Board          BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

# SCAG Water Action Resolution Proposed Direction (#1-3)

1. SCAG shall support best practices in resource conservation as well as an integrated planning approaches to help local jurisdictions meet housing production needs in a drier environment.

2. SCAG shall continue to work with local jurisdictions to encourage planning for context sensitive infill and multifamily housing development, which shows lower per capita water consumption rates than alternative housing types.

3. SCAG shall, through the Resilience & Resource Conservation Subcommittee, further explore regional water challenges and solutions and report findings for consideration by SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee.

6

## SCAG Water Action Resolution Proposed Direction (#4-5)

4. SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee shall make recommendations to SCAG's Legislative Communications & Membership Committee to support legislative advocacy for increased resources for water infrastructure, **including investments in repairs, modernizations, and enhancements of the region's aging infrastructure**, that can serve the community and regional needs of Southern California **and ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and resiliency of the region's water systems**.

5. SCAG shall coordinate with local jurisdictions, water agencies, the State, **and other stakeholders, including social and environmental justice organizations, housing groups, and public health organizations**, to foster adoption of alternative groundwater recharge technologies, **such as permeable pavements, surface infiltration, and well injection systems,** and best practices to increase and maintain a sustainable water supply for the region.

## SCAG Water Action Resolution Proposed Direction (#6-7)

6. SCAG will explore opportunities to support implementation of green infrastructure, greywater usage systems and policy**, including the development of model ordinances and training and education programs,** as well as urban cooling infrastructure with a focus on improving groundwater recharge and reducing water usage in urban areas.

7. SCAG shall hold an Industry Forum and seek national expertise on investments in sustainable water infrastructure that support housing production goals identified in the region's 6th Cycle Housing Elements.

8. SCAG shall identify, recommend and integrate into Connect SoCal 2024 policies and strategies to align investments in water infrastructure with **housing needs and** the adopted growth forecast and development pattern.

# SCAG Water Action Resolution Proposed Direction (#9-11)

9. SCAG shall advocate with partners such as the United States Conference of Mayors and other stakeholders for additional flexibility in the use of state and federal resources to support integrated planning and technical assistance for groundwater resources and associated infrastructure along with transportation, land use, energy, stormwater and air quality, as well as advocate for projects that expand water resources and infrastructure.

10. SCAG staff shall prepare a white paper on the state of water in the region that addresses multiple sectors; addresses issues related to water **acquisition, storage,** supply, demand and quality; identifies challenges and opportunities to support sustainable and resilient regional development **and local jurisdictions in developing and implementing water planning efforts** in an increasingly arid environment; **explores the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a wide range of strategies under an all-of-the-above approach to addressing the region's water challenges;** and includes recommendations for practical ways to support implementing agencies.

11. SCAG staff shall periodically update the Energy & Environment Policy Committee and seek guidance on the implementation of these aforementioned actions.

# THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

**www.scag.ca.gov**

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**October 6, 2022**

**To:**     Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD)

**From:**   Jacob Noonan, Housing Program Manager II
           (213) 236-1472, noonan@scag.ca.gov

**Subject:** REAP 2021: Draft Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL**

Kome Ajise

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**
Information Only – No Action Required

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy. 4: Provide innovative information and value-added services to enhance member agencies'         planning     and operations and promote regional collaboration. 7: Secure funding to support agency priorities to effectively and efficiently deliver work products.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**
*This report provides information on the REAP 2021 draft Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH) program. The PATH program is being developed with regionwide input resulting from ongoing broad and inclusive engagement and to align with the SCAG REAP 2021 (REAP 2.0) Program Framework which was adopted by the Regional Council on July 7, 2022. The PATH program, which was formerly named Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program (HSIP) is one of the three major funding areas in SCAG's REAP 2.0 Program Development Framework.*

*As designed, the PATH program realizes the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Key Connection in the adopted 2020 Connect SoCal Plan by creating the foundational conditions for Housing to be realized at scale across the Southern California region. The draft program document provided as an attachment to this report outlines the program components, requirements, eligible applicants and actions, and application process. The program also reflects the staff recommendation that $88 million of SCAG's REAP 2.0 funding be set-aside to support this program consistent with the guiding principles established in the REAP 2021 Program Development Framework.*

*The PATH program will be adjusted as necessary based on feedback from the SCAG Policy Committees and Regional Council and further stakeholder engagement. After submission of the*

*final REAP 2.0 application to the State, the program may be adjusted to reflect feedback from the State Partners.*

*SCAG is currently seeking public comment on the draft program until 9:00 a.m. on October 17, 2022. Staff will return to the CEHD Committee in November with the final draft PATH program and a recommendation to move the program to the Regional Council for adoption.*

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 7, 2022, the SCAG Regional Council approved SCAG's Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0) Program Development Framework, which outlines the core objectives, guiding principles, programmatic areas, major milestones, and schedule for allocating funds available to SCAG through the REAP 2.0 state grant program. The Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH) program realizes the Housing Supportive Infrastructure program included in the Framework and the Key Connection that bears the same name in the adopted 2020 Connect SoCal Plan. This program does so by creating the foundational conditions for Housing to be realized at scale across the Southern California region by accelerating infill development that facilitates housing supply, choice, and affordability, affirmatively furthers fair housing, and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

The **REAP 2.0 Program Objectives** defined in the State's Final REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines are:
1. Accelerating Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability;
2. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; and
3. Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

SCAG in in the process of detailing how the state REAP 2.0 infill definition can be applied in the Southern California region to ensure geographical diversity and support disadvantaged communities and communities that have historically been underserved. Once reviewed and confirmed by the state further description for how infill is defined will be included in all program applications.

SCAG's REAP 2.0 Program Development Framework combines coordinated and transformative housing development and finance, land use and transportation strategies to help achieve California's housing and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Within the framework are the Core Program Objectives, which describe how SCAG will further SCAG's SCS Implementation Strategy as it meets the REAP 2.0 Program Objectives.

SCAG's REAP 2.0 **Core Program Objectives** are:
- Support **transformative** planning and **implementation** activities realizing Connect SoCal objectives

- Leverage and augment the **Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy** to support activities that can be implemented quickly and in line with community-driven priorities
- Build regional capacity to deliver housing that realizes **6th cycle RHNA goals**
- Represent best practices in **vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction**
- Demonstrate consistency with **the Racial Equity Early Action Plan**
- Promote **infill development** in Connect SoCal identified Priority Growth Areas

**PROGRAMS TO ACCELERATE TRANSFORMATIONAL HOUSING (PATH) PROGRAM**

The draft PATH program proposes to make $88 million of SCAG's REAP 2.0 funding available to support proposals that provide a significant beneficial impact leading to a substantial change in land use patterns, equity, and travel behaviors. Proposed uses must advance all REAP 2.0 and SCAG's Program Development Framework goals and objectives and meet the definition of a Transformative Planning and Implementation Activity (refer to Section 2.0 in the attached draft PATH program). In addition, proposed uses must provide a Significant Beneficial Impact through demonstrating the potential to meet the REAP 2.0, Connect SoCal, and PATH program objectives by establishing and supporting the infrastructure for accelerating Housing supply, choice, and affordability, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and reducing VMT by transforming current corridor-wide or area-wide Housing policies, site planning, financial models, and/or predevelopment and development processes and patterns in a significant and quantifiable manner.

To realize transformative planning goals and ensure that program applicants have the flexibility to meet REAP 2.0 program objectives, the PATH program is structured around a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) and two Pilot Programs as summarized in the following chart. The Programs will begin following adoption by the Regional Council (anticipated November 30, 2022), approval from the State of SCAG's REAP 2.0 final funding application, and concurrence from the State on the Program (anticipated in early 2023).

*Draft* **PATH Program Components**

The NOFA and each pilot program will use a competitive application process based on a future, more detailed funding application drawing on the evaluation criteria described in Section 3.0 of the attached program document. SCAG's program encourages innovative models that can be replicated across the region and the state. REAP 2.0 funding must go beyond basic efforts to complete updates or amendments identified in housing elements or required for compliance with State housing laws and other statutory obligations; it is not for small projects or programs.

A local match is required and can be in the form of local supporting policies, partnerships, or funding match. The application for the NOFA and each pilot program, which are currently being developed, will provide the application process and scoring rubric. All applications must consider and support disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.

**1. Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) – Funding for Lasting Affordability**
    Proposed Funding Amount:      $45,000,000
    Targeted Release Date:      Early 2023
    Anticipated Award Date:      Spring 2023

In early 2023, SCAG intends to issue a NOFA to support investments in housing trust funds, catalyst funds and community land trusts in alignment with the program requirements and criteria and the state REAP 2.0 guidelines. This funding will support transformative finance strategies that can be leveraged to increase supply, choice, and lasting affordability, and achieve a mix of housing types and rental and sales price ranges that provide a portion of housing for households at or below the area median income in infill areas. Other eligible uses possibly include land banking, funding for predevelopment costs and gap financing, and funding to explore and establish new permanent funding sources.

Eligible applicants include, but not be limited to a public housing authority, housing trust fund or catalyst fund. A community-based organization, or developer of affordable housing in partnership with an eligible applicant can be considered eligible. Through the NOFA, an awarded applicant will receive a direct suballocation of funds and is expected to fulfill all required administration and reporting requirements.

**2. Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) Pilot Program**
    Proposed Funding Amount:      $35,000,000
    Targeted Release Date:      Summer 2023
    Anticipated Award Date:      Late Summer 2023

New infill housing often comes with costs tied to upgrading or replacing existing utilities infrastructure to support new demand, which can add millions of dollars in cost to residential projects and extend the housing production timeline. With the 6th cycle of the housing element

process nearing completion in the SCAG region, the 191 cities and 6 counties have identified site inventories that provide a roadmap for housing production. However, broader district level planning for utilities is not currently aligned with the site inventories identified.

The RUSH Pilot Program is focused on investments in utility infrastructure planning and capital improvements that will support a jurisdiction in meeting the housing production goals defined in the 6th cycle RHNA and housing element. Projects eligible for funding will include a sizable number of housing units and include units at affordable income levels. For this program, utilities refer to electric, water, stormwater, or sewer, but excludes gas or other fossil fuels. Broadband may be included if it is tied to one of the other utilities identified but cannot be the driving factor in a proposed project.

To initiate this pilot program, in early 2023 SCAG will host an Industry Forum centered on exploring sustainable and district level investments in utilities that align with implementing RHNA housing production goals and the site inventories included in 6th Cycle housing elements. The outcome of the event and final report will inform the development and outcomes of the pilot program. As currently envisioned, eligible applicants could include public agencies; water or other utility districts or providers; tribal entities; or large-scale developers. Eligible applicants will be further defined after the Industry Forum.

**3. Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) Pilot Program**
    Proposed Funding Amount:                  $8,000,000
    Targeted Release Date:                   Early 2023
    Anticipated Award Date:           Late Spring 2023

The HIPP pilot program is focused on 1) Scaling up development of surplus and/or excess publicly owned lands, or other underutilized privately owned land that can be redeveloped with affordable or mixed income housing and ancillary neighborhood serving businesses and supporting infrastructure, and 2) Supporting eligible applicants with regulatory land use control to develop and implement policies and initiatives within a corridor-wide or area-wide target area, focused on infill housing and based in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Eligible Applicants are entities that are in control of underutilized, surplus, or excess land available for affordable housing, or entities with regulatory land use control. Eligible Applicants are broadly construed to include, but not be limited to a public agency, a transit agency or district; a city; a county; Tribal Entity; Public Housing Authority; academic institution; water or other utility districts/providers, or Housing Trust Fund or catalyst fund. A community-based organization and/or developer of Affordable Housing in partnership with an eligible applicant can be eligible.

As part of the pilot program, staff will develop a bench of consultants and initiate studies supporting the participating entities identify, assess, and move available lands into development with an affordable housing component. The studies completed could include site feasibility and readiness assessments for development potential and environmental screening, competitiveness for state funding, capacity to attract partnerships and philanthropic investment, and other factors that could contribute to successful projects. The site feasibility and readiness assessments will be based first on alignment with existing transit and utilities infrastructure, and secondarily on future planned investments.

To support the pilot program, SCAG will complete studies on alternative building designs and materials, and processes for reducing construction and operating costs. This will include studies addressing direct and indirect greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation goals for preserving existing and constructing new multi-family rental and ownership housing. This study of sustainable urban greening and cooling solutions for multi-family housing is anticipated to launch in early 2024. The study will identify potential locations for urban greening investments that would support housing development, accelerate housing production, promote stormwater capture, and lead to energy savings. SCAG will also complete a study to identify potential cost savings from urban cooling strategies in the context of the Energy Code's performance approach for assessing electricity needs and budgets of rental and ownership multi-family residential buildings.

**Program Timeline**
The program timeline meets the timelines provided in the state REAP 2.0 program guidelines. All funds awarded must be encumbered by January 31, 2024 and expended by January 31, 2026. A final closeout report will be due to SCAG by April 1, 2026.

| PATH Program Timeline | |
|---|---:|
| Applications Released | January – March, 2023 |
| Pending Awards | Late Spring – Early Summer, 2023 |
| Awarded Funding Encumbered | January 31, 2024 |
| All Funding Fully Expended | January 31, 2026 |
| Final Report and Close Out | April 1, 2026 |

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**
The PATH program has the following program objectives. To be considered eligible, an application will be required to include responses for how the uses proposed meet all the following criteria and REAP 2.0 program requirements.

1. Transformative Planning and Implementation Activities leading to a Significant Beneficial Impact to:
   - Accelerate Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability;

- Affirmatively Further Fair Housing;
- Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled;

2. Include Equitable Targeted Outreach;
3. Leverage Partnerships, Policy Match, and Cost Effectiveness
4. Prioritize Disadvantaged Communities; and
5. Contributes to Regionally Transformative Change

The attached draft PATH program provides a summary overview of the evaluation criteria. The forthcoming standalone funding applications will include detailed evaluation guidance, including the quantitative data and qualitative narrative factors that will be used to assess submitted projects. Efforts will be made to ensure that proposals selected reflect the geographic diversity of the Southern California region and within rural, suburban, and urban infill areas. Metrics will be used to demonstrate significant beneficial impact and alignment with program objects, the SCAG REAP 2.0 core program objectives, and the Connect SoCal Plan.

**OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
Staff has conducted extensive stakeholder engagement since 2021 to inform the REAP 2.0 Framework that was approved by the Regional Council in July 2022 and the development of the PATH program. A summary of PATH program outreach conducted to date is attached to this report with information on upcoming events. On September 26, 2023, the draft PATH program was made available for public review with a public comment period lasting until 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2023. To promote availability of the draft program, on September 21 and October 5, 2022, SCAG staff hosted virtual webinars. Staff also visited subregional planning director meetings, technical advisory groups, and held housing practitioner workshops and webinars targeted across the Southern California region. As of the writing of this report, SCAG staff continues to conduct broad and inclusive engagement on the PATH program to ensure that the funding programs developed are responsive to and reflective of the organizations and agencies actively working to develop housing and realize the 6th Cycle RHNA in the Southern California region. Since May of this year, staff has been meeting with subregional partners, representatives from cities and counties, community-based organizations, housing and land trusts, housing authorities, tribal nations and other entities and agencies involved in developing land for housing, managing affordable housing programs, and supporting disadvantaged communities, communities who have historically been underserved, and community members living in areas of segregation and high concentrations of poverty. All input received will be considered in the final PATH program presented to the CEHD Committee in November.

The draft program is available at https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021.

**NEXT STEPS:**

SCAG staff will continue to conduct outreach and solicit public comments until 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2022, with the intention of submitting the final draft PATH program for consideration by the CEHD Committee on November 3, 2022. Following the CEHD meeting in November, SCAG staff intends to include the PATH program with the REAP 2.0 final application for consideration by the Executive/Administration Committee on November 30, 2022. The final application will be submitted to the State Partners by December 31, 2022, with concurrence from the State expected in early 2023. Following State concurrence, SCAG staff will issue the NOFA and pilot programs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Work associated with this item will be included in the FY22-23 OWP, once REAP 2.0 funding is received, with no fiscal impact on the existing budget.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. REAP 2021 Draft PATH Program
2. Summary of Outreach to Date
3. PowerPoint Presentation - 2021 REAP (REAP 2.0) Draft PATH

# REAP 2021 *DRAFT* Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH) Program

## Introduction

SCAG is committed to a future where we all have the option to live closer to our jobs, services, and daily destinations with transportation options so we can walk our kids to school, ride our bikes to work, take transit and have access to shared mobility services that reduce the need to drive. Infill housing, combined with transportation network improvements and strategies, results in improved multimodal access to community amenities, lowers average trip length and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

The Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0) is managed by The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) in collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC),

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and State Air Resources Board (CARB) ("the State Partners"), and provides funds to regional governments to accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance with the 6th cycle of the Housing Element, including Regional Housing Needs Assessment. In addition, REAP 2.0 is specifically designed to provide MPOs and other Eligible Entities with tools and resources to help implement and advance plans, primarily by **furthering the Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS)** adopted as part of Regional Transportation Plans to pursue greenhouse gas emission reduction targets through land use and transportation strategies.

The **REAP 2.0 Program Objectives** defined in the State's Final REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines are:

1. Accelerating Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability;
2. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; and
3. Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

SCAG's REAP 2.0 program framework combines coordinated and transformative housing development and finance, land use and transportation strategies to help achieve California's housing and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Within the framework are the Core Program Objectives, which describe how SCAG will further SCAG's SCS Implementation Strategy as it meets the REAP 2.0 Program Objectives.

These **Core Program Objectives** are:

- Support **transformative** planning and **implementation** activities that realize Connect SoCal objectives
- Leverage and augment the **Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy** to support activities that can be implemented quickly and in line with community-driven priorities
- Build regional capacity to deliver housing that realizes **6th cycle RHNA goals**
- Represent best practices in **vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction**
- Demonstrate consistency with **the Racial Equity Early Action Plan**
- Promote **infill development** in Connect SoCal identified Priority Growth Areas

The Programs to Accelerate Transformational Housing (PATH) Program will support strategies to accelerate infill development leading to increased housing supply, choice, and affordability. The CTC Partnership Program and Regional Pilot Initiative Program will connect infill housing to daily services and increase travel options that support multimodal communities to shift travel modes. The Early Program Initiatives tie this work together by building capacity for planning innovation across the region through advancements in community engagement and partnerships, data driven decision making and performance measurement and monitoring. All strategies will reduce VMT and will affirmatively further fair housing by fostering racially equitable and inclusive communities; retaining and increasing affordability, especially in high-resource areas; and protecting existing residents, especially lower- or moderate-income residents from displacement. All programs will support the needs of residents in disadvantaged communities and communities that have been historically left behind including in areas of high segregation and poverty. The strategies funded through SCAGs REAP 2.0 programs will help achieve the state planning goals, implement the 6th Cycle housing elements, meet RHNA goals, and move the region toward achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy in SCAG's Connect SoCal Plan. The strategies will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support the development of more livable communities that provide lower-cost housing choices, conserve natural resources, offer transportation options, and promote a better quality of life.

In developing a program to address these core objectives, SCAG work shall be directed by the following guiding principles:

1. Funding shall be allocated to three programmatic areas focused on Early Program Initiatives to implement Connect SoCal 2020 and realize 6th Cycle RHNA goals, Housing Supportive Infrastructure and a County Transportation Commission Partnership Program.

2. Funding opportunities within each program area will balance formula allocations with competitive programs to ensure funding supports critical planning and implementation activities across the region while also prioritizing the most regionally impactful projects.

3. Early Program Initiatives shall seek to provide immediate benefit to the region through support for transformative planning activities that can be implemented quickly to advance strategies in Connect SoCal 2020 and inform the 2024 plan update, and to meet the region's 6th Cycle RHNA commitments. Early Program Initiatives shall comprise no more than 15% of the full program budget.

4. The Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing Program and the County Transportation Commission Partnership Program shall serve as the primary vehicles for awarding REAP 2.0 funds focused on Connect SoCal 2020 implementation either through the deployment of pilot projects or support for the creation and/or expansion of new funding programs that directly support housing and mobility solutions. The Programs shall include regional initiatives and technical assistance led by SCAG and/or subregional partners to advance regionally coordinated and significant solutions as well as county-specific or geographically targeted programs that advance best practices reflecting the unique opportunities in the region.

5. The Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing Program and the County Transportation Commission Partnership Program shall include SCAG-led projects as well as the sub-allocation of resources to implementing agencies.

6. Funding guidelines will be developed specific to the Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing Program and County Transportation Commission Partnership Program or for any sub-programs, including, but not limited to, the Subregional Partnership 2.0 (SRP 2.0) and the Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) for which SCAG may award resources to a partner agency via formula allocations or competitive programs. Funds available to each program shall be specified in the program guidelines, which will each be submitted to the Regional Council for approval.

7. At least 80% of the REAP 2.0 funding in the full application will be directed to suballocated or partner-led projects, both formula-based and competitive, across all three programmatic areas to ensure efficient and effective delivery of REAP 2.0 and limit administrative costs to SCAG.

8. SCAG will work to balance funding allocation according to a number of equity considerations; ensuring that under-resourced jurisdictions are not left out due to lack of capacity and that geographic balance, equity, and need are all considerations in the suballocation of funding across all program areas.

9. No resources beyond those approved to support outreach and program development shall be expended until the application is approved by the State Partners.

# 1.0 Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Grant Program

REAP 2.0 (REAP 2021) was established through AB 140 (July 2021) as part of the mid-year budget revise for the State's FY 21-22 budget, to fund transformative and innovative projects that implement a region's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and help achieve the objectives of more housing and transportation options that reduce reliance on cars. REAP 2.0 builds on actions completed through the 2019 REAP grant program but expands the focus by integrating housing and climate goals, and by allowing for broader planning and implementation investments, including infrastructure investments supporting housing development.

## 1.1 REAP 2.0 Program Goals

The goal of the state REAP 2.0 grant program is to invest in Housing planning and Infill Housing-supportive infrastructure across the entire state in a manner to reduce VMT, increase Housing affordability, and advance equity consistent with all the following:

- Advancing the State Planning Priorities, as described in Section 65041.1 of the Government Code;
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing pursuant to Section 8899.50 of the Government Code;
- Facilitating Housing Element compliance and progress for the sixth cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment pursuant to Section 65302 of the Government Code prepared in accordance with Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code; and
- Advancing and implementing the region's SCS, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 65080 of the Government Code, or Alternative Planning Strategy, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 65080 of the Government Code, as applicable to achieve climate goals.

More information on REAP 2.0 is available online: https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021.

## 1.2 SCAG REAP 2.0 Framework Core Objectives

On June 1, 2022, the SCAG Executive/Administration Committee recommended approval of SCAG's REAP 2021 Program Development Framework, which outlines the core objectives, guiding principles, programmatic areas, major milestones, and schedule for allocating funds available to SCAG through the REAP 2.0 state grant program. Within the Framework, the Programs to Accelerate Transformational Housing (PATH), originally called Housing Supportive Infrastructure (HSIP), was created to focus funding for projects that will have an immediate and transformative impact on accelerating infill development that facilitates housing supply, choice, and affordability, affirmatively furthers fair housing, and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

The PATH Program is designed to realize the Housing Supportive Infrastructure *Key Connection* in SCAG's 2020 adopted Connect SoCal by creating the foundational conditions that allow Housing to be realized: such as financing, investments in infrastructure, and land use planning. The Framework identifies two other programmatic areas: the County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program and the Early Action Initiatives. As appropriate, each program will have its own guidelines. As envisioned all three programmatic funding areas work together to achieve the state REAP 2.0 program goals and SCAG's REAP 2.0 core program objectives.

SCAG Program Framework Core Objectives

- Support transformative planning and implementation activities that realize the objectives of Connect SoCal, region's adopted Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Leverage and augment the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy to support activities that can be implemented quickly and in line with community-driven, pandemic recovery priorities[1]
- Build regional capacity to deliver housing that realizes 6th cycle RHNA goals
- Represent best practices in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction
- Demonstrate consistency with the Racial Equity Early Action Plan
- Promote infill development in Connect SoCal identified Priority Growth Areas[2]

# 2.0    PATH Program Overview

The Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing ("PATH") Program is the new name for the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program described in SCAG's adopted Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 grant Framework. This document defines the overall program objectives, structure, funding, eligible uses, evaluation criteria, and general contracting requirements.

The state REAP 2.0 program is centered in

> "**Transformative Planning and Implementation Activities**", which are defined to mean Housing, planning, infrastructure investments supporting Infill development that facilitates Housing supply, choice and affordability, and other actions that enable meeting Housing goals that also result in Per Capita vehicle miles traveled reductions, including accelerating Infill development, supporting residents through realizing Multimodal Communities, shifting travel behavior through reducing driving, and increasing transit ridership. Transformative Planning and Implementation Activities are meant to address these goals together and to lead to changes in land use patterns and behaviors. Transformative Planning and Implementation Activities shall be in furtherance of the state REAP 2.0 program goal.

The PATH program was developed based on the final REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines, dated July 26, 2022, and through broad and inclusive outreach across the Southern California region with the intention that insight, thoughts, needs and other feedback from stakeholders within the housing and affordable housing sectors and representing the diversity of voices in the region is incorporated.[3]

When appropriate the program is consistent with, and defers to, the state REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines for establishing terms, conditions, forms, procedures, and other mechanisms necessary to effectuate the program. The REAP 2.0 final program guidelines were released by HCD on July 26, 2022.

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[1] The draft REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines included addressing the communities most impacted by the pandemic as a core objective and had required for programs to be developed to specifically address the communities most impacted by the pandemic, which prompted the inclusion of this language in SCAG's adopted Framework. The final REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines however do not reference the pandemic as a core objective and requirement.  SCAG's programs will still ensure that the communities most impacted by the pandemic are a focus of and served by REAP 2.0 programs in the targeting of Disadvantaged Communities and Communities of Concern, which are further defined in this document and correlate with communities that have been most impacted by the pandemic.

[2] SCAG is in the process of detailing how the state REAP 2.0 infill definition can be applied in the Southern California region, once reviewed and approved by the state, it will be included in all program applications.

[3] A summary of outreach and how feedback was integrated will be available on the REAP 2.0 Program webpage.

The PATH program will be adjusted as necessary based on feedback from the SCAG Policy Committees and Regional Council and further stakeholder engagement. After submission of the final REAP 2.0 application to the State, the program may be adjusted to reflect feedback from the State Partners. In the REAP 2.0 Guidelines, the state reserves the right, at their sole discretion, to suspend, amend, or modify the provisions of the REAP 2.0 Guidelines at any time, including, without limitation, the amount of funds available hereunder. If such an action occurs, the Department will notify all interested parties. As such, SCAG reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to suspend or amend the provisions of this Program in collaboration with the State, including but not limited to grant award amounts. The final Program will be updated to reflect any feedback received once SCAG's full REAP 2.0 funding application is approved by the State.

## 2.1    Program Structure

The REAP 2.0 program is intended to fund proposals that provide a *"significant beneficial impact that leads to a substantial change in land use patterns, equity, and travel behaviors."* REAP 2.0 funding must go beyond basic efforts to complete updates or amendments identified in Housing Elements or required for compliance with State housing laws and other statutory obligations; it is not for small projects or programs. To realize transformative planning goals and to ensure that program applicants have the flexibility to meet REAP 2.0 program objectives, the PATH program is structured around a Notice Of Funding Available (NOFA) and two Pilot Programs as summarized in the following chart. The Program will begin following adoption by the Regional Council, approval from the State of SCAG's REAP 2.0 final funding application, and concurrence from the State on the Program.

### PATH Program Components
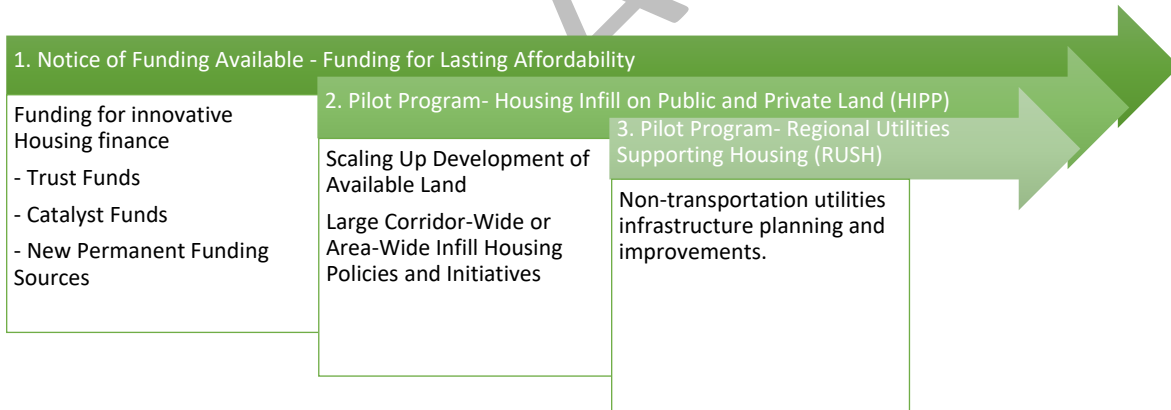


The NOFA and each pilot program will use a competitive application process based on a future, more detailed funding application drawing on the evaluation criteria described in Section 3.0. A local match is required and can be in the form of local supporting policies, partnerships, or funding match. The application for the NOFA and each pilot program will provide the application process and scoring rubric. All applications must consider and support disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.

The NOFA and pilot programs are summarized below and include lists of eligible uses. The eligible uses described are not exhaustive, however, any use proposed must have a significant geographic or region-wide benefit or scope, meet all the criteria in Section 3.0 below, and be centered in supporting Transformative Policy and Implementation Actions that achieve the state's REAP 2.0 Program Goal, meet the SCAG REAP 2.0 Program Framework Objectives, and all requirements of the PATH program.

## 2.2 Notice of Funds Available: Funding for Lasting Affordability

**Eligible Applicants**

Eligible Applicants are broadly construed to include, but not be limited to a Public Housing Authority, Housing trust fund or catalyst fund. A community-based organization, or developer of Affordable Housing in partnership with an Eligible Applicant can be considered eligible.

**Summary**

The notice of funding available will support investments in housing trust funds, catalyst funds and community land trusts in compliance with the program and the state REAP 2.0 guidelines; and funding to support transformative finance strategies that can be leveraged to increase supply, choice, and lasting affordability, and achieve a mix of housing types and rental and sales price ranges that provide a portion of housing for households at or below the area median income in infill areas.

Through the NOFA, an awarded applicant will receive a direct suballocation of funds and is expected to fulfill all required administration and reporting requirements. Eligible uses include but are not limited to:

i. **Support for Regional Housing Trusts and Catalyst Funds** – Funding to support existing and to develop and initiate local and regional housing trusts, catalyst funds, revolving funds, or other forms of public/private/ philanthropic partnerships for financing and maintaining affordable housing at the regional scale. Funding can be used to establish a trust or used to fund any of the following actions.

   - **Land Trusts and Land Banking** – Funding for the development of land banking strategies, and/or establishing land trusts to bring infill sites into community ownership and ultimately to be developed with an affordable housing component. Funds could also be used to support existing land banking/land trusts, where they exist if there is a clear nexus to the program objectives.

   - **Predevelopment, Bridge and Gap Funding** – For the regional trusts and funds as well as the community land trusts and land banking, financing targeted to develop Affordable Housing can be used for predevelopment expenses, bridge financing (between predevelopment and permanent financing), and gap funding for affordable housing developments that have assembled primary funding sources but still have a remaining funding need. Projects must meet the REAP 2.0 program requirement for being transformative and must be able to start construction within 5 years of award.

   - **Permanent Funding Sources** – Funding to identify and establish local and regional permanent funding sources for affordable housing, including general obligation and other bond initiatives, tax increment financing programs, in-lieu fee and residential or commercial/affordable housing linkage fee programs, revolving loan funds and other finance strategies creating permanent funding.

## 2.3 Pilot Program: Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH)

**Eligible Applicants**

Eligible Applicants are broadly construed to include, but not be limited to a public agency; water or other utility districts/providers; Tribal Entities; or a large-scale developer. Eligible Applicants will be further defined following the Industry Forum planned for early 2023.

Summary

The RUSH Pilot Program is focused on investments in utility infrastructure planning and capital improvements that will support a jurisdiction meet the housing production goals defined in the 6$^{th}$ cycle RHNA and housing element. Projects should include a sizable number of Housing units and include units at Affordable income levels.

New infill housing often comes with costs tied to upgrading or replacing existing utilities infrastructure to support new demand, which can add millions of dollars in cost to residential projects and extend the housing production timeline. With the 6$^{th}$ cycle of the housing element process nearing completion in the SCAG region, SCAG's 191 cities and 6 counties have identified site inventories that provide a roadmap to Housing production in the region. However, broader district level planning for utilities is not currently aligned with the site inventories identified in housing elements. For this program, utilities refer to electric, water, stormwater, or sewer, but excludes gas or other fossil fuels. Broadband may be included if it is tied to one of the other utilities identified but cannot be the driving factor in a proposed project.

In early 2023, SCAG will host an Industry Forum centered on exploring sustainable and district level investments in utilities that align with implementing RHNA housing production goals and the site inventories in draft, adopted or compliant 6$^{th}$ Cycle housing elements. The outcome of that event and final report will inform the development and outcomes of the RUSH Pilot Program. The pilot program will provide additional details on eligible uses after the Industry Forum.

In general, it is anticipated that eligible uses could achieve the following.

- **Infrastructure Planning –** Creating plans and programs to support increased utility capacity of areas designated for residential development in a Housing Element. These programs should increase utility capacity and/or lower the cost of residential development. Potential projects could include developing an analysis to update developer utility fees to avoid concentration of infrastructure upgrade costs and creating a capital improvement plan or updating an existing one.

- **Capital Projects** - Supporting new or preserving affordable housing in infill areas through upgrading infrastructure for sewer, water, stormwater, and dry utilities systems. Potential projects could include direct water recycling projects for residential development, revolving loan funds, and wet or dry utility system upgrades to support affordable housing in high resource areas.

## 2.4 Pilot Program: Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP)

Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants are entities that are in control of underutilized, surplus, or excess land available for affordable housing, or entities with regulatory land use control. Eligible Applicants are broadly construed to include, but not be limited to a public agency, a transit agency or district; a city; a county; Tribal Entity; Public Housing Authority; academic institution; water or other utility districts/providers, or Housing Trust Fund or catalyst fund. A community-based organization and/or developer of Affordable Housing in partnership with an Eligible Applicant can be considered eligible.

Summary

The HIPP pilot program is focused on 1) scaling up development of surplus and/or excess publicly owned lands, or other underutilized privately owned land that can be redeveloped with affordable or mixed

income housing and ancillary neighborhood serving businesses and supporting infrastructure, and 2) supporting eligible applicants with regulatory land use control to develop and implement policies and initiatives within a corridor-wide or area-wide target area, focused on infill housing and based in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

**Scaling Up Development of Available Land**. The pilot program will provide consultant support and technical assistance including support through the pre-development phase including but not limited to site identification; feasibility and environmental assessments; project scoping and sponsor/developer selection; community engagement; master planning; and engineering. SCAG will develop a bench of consultants and conduct studies supporting participating entities identify, assess, and move available lands into development with an affordable housing component. Studies completed could include site feasibility and readiness assessments for development potential and environmental screening, competitiveness for state funding, capacity to attract partnerships and philanthropic investment, and other factors that could contribute to the successful development of available land. The site feasibility and readiness assessments will be based first on alignment with existing transit and utilities infrastructure, and secondarily on future planned investments. Projects targeted for these funds should provide opportunities to explore large scale development/redevelopment of a site or scattered sites as well as innovative models to streamline delivery of affordable and mixed income housing. Innovative models may include concepts such as new financing mechanisms, standard designs or even design/build competitions. This component of the HIPP pilot program is focused on a specific site or scattered sites for development, and where the applicant can demonstrate that it is possible for construction to being within 5 years of award.

Depending on interest in the Pilot Program, SCAG may allocate some funding for the development of templates for affordable housing transactions (such as standard Request For Proposals (RFP) and resultant legal documents) and feasibility studies surrounding alternative financing strategies for development of publicly owned land.

**Corridor-Wide or Area-Wide Infill Housing Policies and Initiatives.** Moving beyond site specific development, the HIPP pilot program provides flexibility for eligible applicants with regulatory land use control to develop and implement policies and initiatives within a corridor-wide or area-wide infill area, with a focus on housing and affordable housing based in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Proposed projects or policies should be consistent with the programs included in the local 6th Cycle Housing Element. Supported activities can include funding for technical assistance, staffing and consultants, community engagement, peer learning cohorts, data, and mapping. Eligible activities must lead to an adoptable/implementable deliverable that meets REAP 2.0 Program Goals:

- *General Plan Amendments, Specific Plans, Development Guidelines and Standards, and Rezoning for Housing Element Implementation and Compliance* – Corridor-wide or area-wide general plan amendments and code changes and zoning-based housing and affordable housing incentives focused on large scale overlay districts or other incentive programs, local density bonuses, reduced parking minimums and/or parking maximums, and as-a-right development approval.

- *Environmental Clearance and Permit-Streamlining Facilitating Affordable Housing* – Jurisdictional and agency-wide reductions in process and timing for residential/residential-mixed use approvals resulting in quantifiable cost and/or time savings. Preparation of required environmental review documents for corridor-wide or area-wide plans that facilitate housing development with an affordable component

that could foreseeably begin construction in five years, including but not limited to CEQA and NEPA, Coastal Commission approval, Department of Toxic Substances Control review or other clearances.

- *Increasing Affordable Supply and Preventing Displacement* **–** Corridor-wide and area-wide policy or projects increasing the supply, availability, and access to housing at below market rate rental and ownership prices. Projects focused on preventing jurisdiction-wide, corridor-wide, or area-wide displacement and loss of existing affordability. Funding can support the creation of inclusionary housing rental and homeownership programs, transfer of development rights and other approaches achieving a mix of housing types, and rental and sales price ranges that set aside housing at or below the area median income. Eligible uses also include enabling programs and strategies for preventing loss of existing affordable housing in the speculative real estate market, extending expiring affordability covenants, establishing community or tenant opportunity to purchase programs, and other programs achieving a quantifiable benefit for preserving existing affordability and preventing displacement.

- *Other Strategies Accelerating Housing and Affordability* – Large-scale transformative jurisdictional, corridor-wide, or area-wide projects not otherwise described above can be proposed but must meet all program requirements and have a strong nexus to housing supply, choice and affordability, or preventing displacement. Such projects will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

To support the pilot program, SCAG will conduct studies on alternative building designs and materials, and processes for reducing construction and operating costs. This will include studies addressing direct and indirect greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation goals for preserving existing and constructing new multi-family rental and ownership housing. The study of sustainable urban greening and cooling solutions for multi-family housing is anticipated to launch in early 2024. The study will identify potential locations for urban greening investments that would support housing development, accelerate housing production, promote stormwater capture, and lead to energy savings. SCAG will also complete a study to identify potential cost savings from urban cooling strategies in the context of the Energy Code's performance approach for assessing electricity needs and budgets of rental and ownership multi-family residential buildings.

## 2.5    Ineligible Uses

Applications for ineligible activities or projects that do not meet the funding criteria of these guidelines will not be accepted. Ineligible uses are uses inconsistent with the REAP 2.0 goals in Section 1.1, SCAG REAP 2.0 Program Framework Core Objectives in Section 1.2, and/or the program objectives in Section 3.1, and include but are not limited to:

a.  Uses that solely update or amendment local general plans, codes, ordinances, or programs for compliance with changes in statutory requirements,
b.  Roadway or highway capacity increases,
c.  Advocacy work (direct lobbying for specific bills or local propositions),
d.  Bonus payments of any kind,
e.  Ceremonial expenses,
f.  Commission fees,
g.  Real estate brokerage fees or expenses,
h.  Services, materials, or equipment obtained under any other state program,

i. Stewardship of legal defense funds,

j. General meetings that do not specifically discuss or advance implementation of awarded REAP 2.0 funds,

k. Using funds for mitigation activities already mandated by local or state governing bodies or agencies,

l. Ongoing expenses (e.g., routine maintenance or operations of transportation infrastructure associated with transit service expansion),

m. Costs associated with automobile or motorcycle parking (excluding EV charging infrastructure). Proposed Uses with a surface parking component are not eligible,

n. Costs associated with infrastructure related to fossil fuels, including connections to natural gas infrastructure,

o. Costs associated with ongoing provisions of internet service,

p. In lieu fees for local inclusionary Housing programs,

q. Updates to the RTP,

r. Organizational membership fees,

s. Street construction or repair to benefit vehicular traffic, and

t. Other items unrelated to the REAP 2.0 Program or application.

## 2.6    Funding Allocations

SCAG will issue the PATH program funding through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and two pilot programs. Depending on interest and qualified applications, funding can be shifted between the NOFA and the two pilot programs. Additional funding could be issued through the PATH program depending on the amounts encumbered through other SCAG administered REAP 2.0 programs, as each program is developed and implemented.

<div align="center">

FUNDING SUBALLOCATED

| | |
|---|---:|
| Notice of Funding Availability: Funding for Lasting Affordability | $45,000,000 |
| Pilot Program: Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) | $35,000,000 |
| Pilot Program: Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) | $8,000,000 |
| Total | $88,000,000 |

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Applicants shall be notified in writing whether the application was conditionally awarded funding or if the application was not awarded within 60 days of the application deadline. Funding awards must be approved by the SCAG Regional Council.

The Notice Of Funds Available (NOFA) will initially receive $45,000,000 in funding to support housing trusts and catalyst funds and affordable housing actions as described in Section 2.3.

The RUSH pilot program will initially receive $35,000,000 in funding. This pilot program will be further defined through an Industry Forum that will be held in early 2023 as described in Section 2.4. The program application will be released following the forum and will provide more detailed information.

The HIPP pilot program will initially receive $8,000,000 in funding to develop the partnerships, acquire data, and complete the studies and feasibility analysis, with some funding deployed by SCAG for templates or studies required to support selected projects and programs as described in Section 2.5.

In addition to the funding amounts provided in the chart, $23 million in REAP 2.0 funding is allocated to the region's subregional councils of government through the Subregional Partnership Program 2.0, which is designed to fund programs, policies and projects implementing 6th Cycle housing elements and affordable housing strategies.

## 2.7     Program Timeline

The program timeline has been developed to meet the timelines provided in the state REAP 2.0 Program Guidelines. All funds awarded must be encumbered by January 31, 2024 and expended by January 31, 2026. A final closeout report will be due to SCAG by April 1, 2026.

| Program Timeline | |
| --- | --- |
| Applications Released for NOFA and pilot programs | Winter – Spring 2023 |
| Awarded Funding Encumbered | January 31, 2024 |
| All Funding Fully Expended | January 31, 2026 |
| Final Report and Close Out | April 1, 2026 |

## 2.8     Application Schedules

The application schedule for the NOFA and both pilot programs will allow applicants to develop a funding application with consultation from SCAG staff in advance of the date to apply for funding.

| Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) – Funding for Last Affordability[4] | |
| --- | --- |
| Application Period and materials available: | January 2023 |
| Application Workshop: | January 2023 |
| Application Period, Consultation and Office Hours: | January – March 2023 |
| Application Due Date: <br> (Applications can be submitted prior to but will be considered after the application due date) | Mid-March 2023 <br> Opens at 8:00AM and closes at 11:59PM PDT |
| Evaluation Period: | March – April |
| Conditional Notice of Awards issued: | May 2023 |
| Regional Council Approval of Awards: | Late Spring 2023 |
| Initiate Funding Agreements: | Late Spring 2023 |

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[4] Dates are anticipated and dependent on State approval of SCAG's REAP2.0 guidelines and Regional Council approval of the applications.

| Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) Pilot Program | |
|---|---|
| Industry Forum Event | 1st Quarter 2023 |
| Application Due Date | Early Summer 2023 |
| Conditional Notice of Awards issued: | Late Summer 2023 |
| Initiate Funding Agreements: | Early Fall 2023 |

| Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) Pilot Program | |
|---|---|
| Application Released | 1st Quarter 2023 |
| Application Due Date | Late Spring 2023 |
| Conditional Notice of Awards issued: | Late Summer 2023 |
| Initiate Funding Agreements: | Early Fall 2023 |

## 2.9    Applicant Consultation Period

To meet the state REAP 2.0 requirement to award funding within 60 days of receiving a complete application, while also ensuring applicants have adequate time to consider and develop project proposals, SCAG will offer an application consultation period. During the consultation period applicants can submit draft applications to SCAG staff on a rolling basis for input and feedback on projects being proposed and the completeness of the application.

The consultation period will begin following approval from the State of SCAG's REAP 2.0 funding application and by the SCAG Regional Council of the individual program applications, which is anticipated to be January 2023. During the consultation period, SCAG will release the application materials and host an information session. The session will be recorded and made available on SCAG's REAP 2.0 program webpage. The information session is an opportunity to learn more about the program, ask questions, and receive feedback.

SCAG staff will also hold weekly office hours and will be available for one-on-one consultations with applicants. An applicant does not need to have a project to participate in office hours or meet for a one-on-one consultation. SCAG staff will make every effort to accommodate applicants. There is no limit to the number of meetings an applicant may request. SCAG staff will continue to host office hours and be available for consultations through the Friday prior to the close of the application period.

SCAG will develop and post answers online to all questions received. Attending the information session or office hours or scheduling a consultation is not required but strongly encouraged.

## 2.10    Application Submittal Date

REAP 2.0 funding requires that SCAG issue award letters within 60 days of receiving a complete application. To facilitate this timeline while allowing for flexibility and ongoing consultation, SCAG will consider

applications received on the day that follows the close of the application consultation period. Applications can be submitted at any time during the consultation period to be considered received on the application date.

Anticipated Application Periods and Dates

|  | Application Period | Application Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| • NOFA | January – March | Mid-March 2023 |
| • HIPP Pilot Program | January – March 2023 | Mid-March 2023 |
| • RUSH Pilot Program | Late Spring 2023 | Early Summer 2023 |

## 2.11    Application Requirements

Each application will include specific information and requirements, but in general the following lists the requirements to apply will include:

- Applicant must be an Eligible Applicant (see Sections 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)
- Proposed use(s) must be an eligible use(s) and meet all requirements in Section 3.0
- Application for funding must be filled out completely and submitted using the template application to be provided
- The following supporting documents must accompany the application:
  1. Scope(s) of work including budgets and schedules for all proposed funding uses
  2. Outcomes and proposed metrics (examples will be provided)
  3. Authorization to apply
  4. Letter of support

## 2.12    For Additional Information and Questions

For additional information or answers to questions please email the contact person listed below. Support from SCAG is available to complete the funding application.

Contact:    Jacob Noonan
REAP 2.0 Housing Program Manager
housing@scag.ca.gov

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## 3.0 PATH Program Objectives and Evaluation Criteria

The PATH program has the following program objectives.

### 3.1 PATH Program Objectives

Funding applications will be evaluated on how the activities proposed meet all program objectives:

1. Transformative Planning and Implementation Activities (refer to definition in Section 1.2) leading to a Significant Beneficial Impact (defined below) to:
   - Accelerate Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability;
   - Affirmatively Further Fair Housing;
   - Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled;

2. Include Equitable Targeted Outreach;

3. Leverage Partnerships, Policy Match, and Cost Effectiveness, and

4. Prioritize Disadvantaged Communities

5. Contributes to Regionally Transformative Change

### 3.2 PATH Program Evaluation Criteria Summary

The PATH program provides a summary overview of the evaluation criteria. The forthcoming standalone funding applications will include detailed evaluation guidance, including the quantitative data and qualitative narrative factors that will be used to assess submitted projects. Efforts will be made to ensure that proposals selected reflect the geographic diversity of the Southern California region and within rural, suburban, and urban infill areas.

The state defines "**Infill**", for the purposes of the REAP 2.0 Program, to mean areas where all the following apply: (1) the area consists of unused or underutilized lands (2) within existing development patterns (3) that is or will be accessible to destinations and daily services by transit, walking, or bicycling and located in either:

a. An urban center, urban corridor, or area with transit-supportive densities, **or**

b. An established community that meets all the following criteria:
   I. The area consists or previously consisted of qualified urban uses
   ii. The area is predominantly surrounded (approximately 75 percent of the perimeter) by parcels that are developed or previously developed with qualified urban uses. In counting this, perimeters bordering navigable bodies of water and improved parks shall not be included, and
   iii. No parcel within or adjoining the area is classified as agricultural or natural and working lands.

SCAG in in the process of detailing how the state REAP 2.0 infill definition can be applied in the Southern California region to ensure geographical diversity and support disadvantaged communities and communities that have historically be underserved. Once reviewed and confirmed by the state further description for how infill is defined will be included in all program applications.

To be considered eligible, an application must include responses for how the uses proposed meet all the following criteria and REAP 2.0 program requirements.

### 3.2.1 Lead to a Transformative Significant Beneficial Impact

The application must include a summary of how the proposed use advances all REAP 2.0 and SCAG's program goals and objectives, meets the definition of a Transformative Planning and Implementation Activity (refer to Section 2.0), and provides a **Significant Beneficial Impact**, meaning demonstrates the potential to meet the REAP 2.0, Connect SoCal, and PATH program objectives by establishing and supporting the infrastructure for accelerating Housing supply, choice, and affordability, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and reducing VMT by transforming current corridor-wide or area-wide Housing policies, site planning, financial models, and/or predevelopment and development processes and patterns in a significant and quantifiable manner. SCAG is interested in innovative models that can be replicated across the region and the state.

Metrics should be included when demonstrating Significant Beneficial Impact. Applicants may consider rates of change (e.g., percent increase over a baseline), the magnitude of impact relative to variables or targets, the proportion of need achieved, and the impact relative to past trends, policies, and practices. Variables or targets may include but are not limited to benefitting households by income group; meeting and exceeding the housing production goals of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment; the number of Housing units anticipated and achieved (new construction, preservation/ conservation, and rehabilitation); density; infrastructure; infrastructure capacity and accessibility; community amenities; investments; Vehicle Miles Traveled reduction goals; regional and local equity policies; and GHG reduction goals.

The application should describe how each project proposed provides a significant beneficial impact that leads to a substantial change in land use patterns, equity, and travel behaviors. This is to be done by describing how the project will address the following criteria and including appropriate metrics. (See Appendix 4 of the state REAP 2.0 program guidelines for examples)

#### 3.2.1 (a) *Accelerate Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability*

The application must describe how each proposed project will accelerate Infill[5] development near jobs and other key destinations to support increasing Housing choices and affordability that effectively reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions. One way this can be done is to focus development in Priority Growth Areas, as discussed in Chapter 3 beginning on Page 66 of the Connect SoCal – [provide link to document]. [link to map].

The application should also describe how the proposed project will prioritize development that increases Housing choice and affordability at Infill sites and describe the Housing affordability components in the project that serve Low- and Moderate-income Households. *For Affordable Housing development programs* – which may involve allowable predevelopment costs (e.g., studies, land acquisition, entitlements), and bridge and gap large expenditures and capital investments – to be an eligible use the program must accelerate the supply of long-term Affordable Housing for Lower and Moderate- income Households and commit to development within a reasonable time frame (e.g., within 5 years of the expenditure deadline).

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[5] SCAG is in the process of detailing how the state REAP 2.0 infill definition can be applied in the Southern California region, once reviewed and approved by the state it will be included in all program applications.

The following should be discussed in the application:

i.    The proposal's impact on Housing supply, choice, and affordability

ii.   The proposal is located or implemented within an Infill area.

a.  Located in a Priority Growth Area and meeting the definition of infill or
b.  Located in an area meeting the definition of infill

iii.  The proposal can be measured by, but is not limited to:

a.  Number of Housing units (total, type, affordable, and per acre),
b.  Capital investments to support Housing development,
c.  Mix of Housing unit types or sizes,
d.  Increasing land use intensities,
e.  Count of sites developable for future Housing, and/or
f.  Number of new Housing units supported or provided by the Proposed Use or policy

### 3.2.1 (b)    *Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH)*

The application must describe how each proposed project combats discrimination, overcomes patterns of segregation, and fosters equitable and inclusive communities. Each proposed project must include meaningful actions, that taken together, address significant disparities in Housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, and transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity. Each proposed project must support regional and local efforts that work towards ensuring all people have full and equal access to opportunities enabling them to lead healthy lives.

Actions to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing may include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing and enhancing strategies that create Housing mobility by improving access and/or removing barriers to Housing, or improving regional utilities supporting Housing in areas of opportunity;

- Encouraging development of new Affordable Housing in high resource areas by promoting Housing, regional utilities supporting Housing, and affordability in areas of high and higher opportunity and outside of areas of concentrated poverty;

- Improving place-based strategies to encourage community revitalization. This includes preservation of existing Affordable Housing that involves approaches focused on conserving and improving assets in areas of lower-opportunity and concentrated poverty, such as: targeting investments in neighborhood revitalization, preserving, or rehabilitating existing Affordable Housing, improving infrastructure, schools, employment, parks, transportation, and other community amenities; and

- Protecting existing residents from displacement and preserving Housing choices and affordability in areas of low- and moderate-opportunity and areas of concentrated poverty.

The application must describe how the applicant considered AFFH principles and equity in the proposed project. Any proposed project that may have a negative impact on AFFH objectives must have appropriate mitigation efforts. Applicants shall take no action that is materially inconsistent with AFFH. Applicants shall

target funding to benefit Disadvantaged and Historically Underserved Communities (see definition section in the state REAP 2.0 program guidelines). A city or county's 6$^{th}$ cycle Housing Element can be a good resource for identifying State-approved AFFH policies and programs.

The following must be discussed in the application:

    i. The project will be located or implemented within:

        a. Higher Resource communities or Areas (See state REAP 2.0 guidelines, Attachment 2: Definitions), or

        b. Disadvantaged and Historically Underserved Communities

    ii. The project can be measured by, but is not limited to:

        a. Number of proposed Affordable Housing units,

        b. Number of existing housing units continued to be made available and affordable,

        c. Zoning, Streamlined Housing Production (including permit streamlining), fees, incentives, and other approaches to increase housing choices and affordability,

        d. Increase accessible number of units above state law,

        e. For Higher Resource Communities or Areas:

            I. Increase in rate of Housing Choice Voucher usage in high opportunity census tracts,

            II. New lower- and moderate-income targeted Housing created through new development or through acquisition and preservation of existing Housing.

        f. For Disadvantaged and Historically Underserved Communities:

            I. New or enhanced public services and community assets such as parks, social service programs, active transportation, infrastructure, and other community amenities,

            II. Increased access to public services, and

            III. Housing-supportive infrastructure service in areas of concentrated poverty or similar areas

        g. Other metrics found in the Department's AFFH Guidance Memo

### 3.2.1 (c)      *Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled*

The REAP 2.0 Program provides for investments to support Housing planning and production in Infill areas that reduce VMT towards helping the state meet multiple goals. The application must include a description of how the proposed project promotes development and aligns Housing production in Infill locations consistent with the state's climate targets and goals discussed in the California Climate Change Scoping Plan. Proposed projects shall focus on the VMT-reducing elements of Connect SoCal, as applicable, to achieve and maintain the region's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by supporting or implementing Housing and Affordable Housing action-oriented plans, policies, and investment strategies broadly described as: "land use planning, policies, and investment strategies that encourage Infill development that facilitates Housing supply, choice, and affordability and is serviced by existing and planned expansions of a multimodal transportation system."

Applicants are encouraged to pursue new Housing development that is or can be integrated with or connected to transportation shifting travel away from driving though pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and other alternative transportation programs.

Applicants should discuss the following in the application (See the state REAP 2.0 program guidelines, Attachment 4, Applying Units of Measurement for supplemental materials that describe land use and transportation planning, policies, and investment strategies):

a. The proposal is located or implemented within Infill areas.

    a. Located in a Priority Growth Area and meeting the definition of infill or

    b. Located in an area meeting the definition of infill

ii. The proposal is expected to lead to shifting travel behavior and to direct or indirect VMT reductions:

    a. Is or will be accessible to destinations and daily services by transit, walking, or bicycling, or

    b. Is in proximity to existing or planned transportation improvements

iii. The proposal, dependent upon what funding source(s) are utilized, can be measured by, but is not limited to:

    a. Estimate for VMT reduced Per Capita,

    b. Number of distinct land uses within and around the site,

    c. Number of internal and surrounding connections to the active transportation and transit networks,

    d. Mix of Housing unit types or sizes, and limited number of off-street parking

### 3.2.2  Include Equitable Targeted Outreach

The application should describe in the application any prior outreach completed and include a commitment to continuing outreach and engagement, especially with Disadvantaged and Historically Underserved community members while the project is underway and through the funding expenditure date, which is July 30, 2026. Outreach methods must consider language access and other potential barriers to providing input. Outreach may include coordination with other Eligible Applicants (including Tribal Entities) within the same subregion or in other subregions. Eligible Applicants may wish to consider the potential for joint activities and coordination on outreach activities.

### 3.2.3  Leverage Partnerships, Policy Match, and Cost Effectiveness

The application should describe in the application how the proposed project will leverage other resources to maximize impact from REAP 2.0 funding investments. The criterion is designed to be flexible, to provide multiple ways for an Eligible Applicant to create leverage through partnerships and momentum. Leverage can be achieved through many forms, and not all communities have the ability to put forward a financial match. Therefore, the local match can include any or all the following:

- Local Policy Commitment – Applications should describe how the local policy environment facilitates or supports the funding uses proposed and will lead to accelerating in-fill development that facilitates housing supply, choice, and affordability, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and reducing VMT.
- Local or Other Funding (local agency match) – No minimum is required, but one way to demonstrate leverage is through a local investment.
- Partnerships (partner match) – Evidence of supporting partnerships in the focus area.

Additionally, the application should describe how the applicant has incorporated cost effective means in the project scope and budget to best utilize the REAP 2.0 grant funds to achieve the desired outcomes.

### 3.2.4    Prioritize Disadvantaged Communities

In alignment with the REAP 2.0 funding guidelines, areas that have been traditionally disadvantaged, underserved, underrepresented, and under resourced will receive a priority in the evaluation for funding. In accordance with the REAP 2.0 Guidelines, the following areas have been included as they are inclusive of communities that are disadvantaged and have been historically underserved.  These disadvantaged communities include:

- SB535 Disadvantaged Communities (CalEnviroScreen 4.0)
- SCAG Communities of Concern (Communities of Concern designated for SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS) Environmental Justice (EJ) Technical Report))
- TCAC/HCD Opportunity Areas (High segregation and poverty, low resource, and moderate resource communities; affordable housing production in high resource and highest resource communities will also be prioritized).
- AB 1550 Communities (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016); areas of high Housing cost burdens; areas with high vulnerability of displacement; areas related to Tribal Entities; and other areas experiencing disproportionate impacts of California's **Housing and climate crisis.)**

The specific inclusion and prioritization of disadvantaged communities will allow SCAG to demonstrate how the Programs to Achieve Transformational Housing (PATH) will have a significant geographic or region-wide benefit for Disadvantaged and Historically Underserved Communities.

### 3.2.5    Contributes to Regional Transformative Change

The funding evaluation will include a consideration for how the proposal approaches regional diversity and transformation, with an emphasis on innovation to advance and expand the foundational conditions necessary to scale Housing supply, choice, and affordability to meet the 6th Cycle RHNA, realize the Housing Supportive Infrastructure *Key Connection* in SCAG's 2020 adopted Connect SoCal, and meeting the community needs for Housing across the Southern California region.

Applicants should discuss the following in the application:

i.    How the proposal incorporates innovative approaches to advance and expand the foundational conditions necessary to scale Housing supply, choice, and affordability.

ii.    How the proposal advances regional diversity and is transformational within the local and regional area, and similar environments.

## 4.0    Program Administration

Funding will be made available for projects and activities after SCAG receives funding for its full REAP application from HCD, which will most likely occur in Quarter 1 of 2023.

### 4.1    Commitment Letter and Terms of Agreement

An Applicant that has received a conditional award letter must submit a Letter of Commitment and Terms of Agreement Form that has been signed by its decision-making body or authorized signatory prior to

execution of the Standard Agreement or MOU. The letter will serve as the commitment to follow the state reporting requirements, manage the received funds within the established timeline, comply with the State and SCAG accounting principles and requirements, and SCAG's Subrecipient Monitoring Policies and Procedures. SCAG will provide the form template with the conditional notice of award as well as SCAG's required policies.

## 4.2    Implementing Entities

Awarded applicants are expected to serve as the implementing agency of the projects and activities applied for. Based on the proposal funded this may include all the following: procuring consultants, maintaining records, submitting timely reports, invoices, and close out documents, among all other duties. Implementing agencies must be entities eligible to enter into intergovernmental agreements and must demonstrate capacity to implement government grant administration tasks in a timely manner, including applications, contract execution and monitoring, funds management and transfer, and accounting and reporting, including any competitive sub-contracting if applicable. The implementing agency cannot have any unresolved audit findings from prior government contracts and cannot be party to pending land use, housing, or environmental litigation which could impact the proposed activities.

The implementing agency will be responsible for developing the scope of work for the project or activity leading the procurement process for obtaining consultants and/or resources. The implementing agency will manage and administer the project, which includes tasks such as monitoring activity progress, reviewing tasks and deliverables, and reviewing and processing invoices.

In limited situations, if the implementing agency presents a demonstrated need that it cannot administer the procurement for grant-funded work, SCAG may take on procuring the consultant on behalf of the implementing agency. In this instance, SCAG will work with the implementing agency to complete necessary procurement and contracting. SCAG staff will manage the contract and pay for all costs incurred. However, the implementing agency is responsible for the overall project. SCAG may bundle similar projects together in a common contract.

## 4.3    Administrative fee

Up to five percent (5%) of the funding allocation may be charged as administrative activities. Tasks such as reviewing and processing project invoices, processing contract amendments, and preparing reports and metrics of project progress and completion are considered administrative activities. Activities such as developing scopes of work and requests for proposals (RFP), reviewing tasks and deliverables, and outreach with jurisdictions related to the project are considered programmatic and can be charged as a program activity. For projects and activities administered by SCAG, SCAG reserves the right to use the 5% administrative fee for costs related to project administration.

## 4.4    Expenditure Period

To meet the state program deadline and receive reimbursement, all invoices must be submitted to SCAG no later than January 30, 2026. SCAG cannot guarantee invoices received after this date will be reimbursed.

## 4.5    Reimbursement

All awarded applicants must submit invoices to SCAG monthly and submit a status report quarterly to receive reimbursement. Invoices must follow the requirements set forth in the contract and SCAG's regular invoicing procedures and must comply with applicable state and/or federal requirements. SCAG may

consider advance payments or alternative arrangements to reimbursement and payment methods based on demonstrated need. These arrangements will be included in the agreements between SCAG and the awarded applicant. After the agreement is signed, the awarded applicant may submit invoices to SCAG for reimbursement for eligible activities as specified in the signed agreement. Expenditure reimbursement requires prior authorization of the eligible projects and activities, and SCAG may be subject to repayment of REAP funds to HCD if it is found in breach of its agreement with HCD, which can occur if REAP funds are used for ineligible activities. If SCAG must repay REAP 2.0 funds to the state, SCAG will require reimbursement from the awarded applicant.

SCAG will only reimburse for costs as specified in the signed agreement(s) with the Eligible Applicant or consultant selected to perform the work. No costs will be reimbursed prior to the agreement is executed.

## 4.6    Reporting Requirements

Consistent with SCAG's Overall Work Program reporting procedures and Subrecipient Monitoring Policies and Procedures, the awarded Applicant will be required to provide progress reports and itemized invoices to track progress. Progress will be measured according to the tasks, deliverables, costs, and timeline. Additionally, the REAP 2.0 program requires applicants to file an annual report measuring project outcomes and desired impacts through June 30, 2026. Metrics for the annual report will be developed in the application's evaluation criteria. (See Appendix 4 of the state REAP 2.0 program guidelines for examples)

Summary of Outreach to Date

As part of developing the *Draft* PATH Program, SCAG has hosted a series of one-on-one meetings, listening sessions and presentations to solicit stakeholder input on core objectives and prioritization of projects and existing efforts across the region. Leading to the release of the *Draft* PATH Program, SCAG engaged stakeholders on the program development, along with working descriptions for eligible applicants, project categories, eligible uses, application schedule and process, and evaluation criteria. The approach to engagement included various meeting types and stakeholder groups to ensure broad outreach and feedback. This included meetings with Housing Trust Funds, Tribal Governments, Community-Based Organizations, Housing Practitioners, subregional partners, and public listening sessions.

Outreach for the PATH program is still currently under way, the following provides a high-level overview of the outreach completed to-date.

*CBO and Housing Developer Listening Sessions (June 2022) -* In the month of June, SCAG held two listening sessions to share more about REAP 2.0 and the housing grant program. During these listening sessions, SCAG provided an overview of REAP 2.0, the goals and objectives, and the framework for the housing grant program.  Attendees provided their input and feedback on programs and activities the funding should go towards. The following CBOs attended the Listening Sessions: People for Housing; OC Yimby; Kennedy Commission; Inland SoCal Unite; Imperial Valley LGBT Resource Center. The following attended the Developer Listening Session: City Ventures; Irvine Community Land Trust.

During these meetings the following key themes emerged:
1. Partnerships
2. Funding for Infrastructure through CLTs
3. High resource area requirements and affordability requirements
4. Funding to address systemic changes in housing, rather than one-time developments.

*Housing Trust Funds (July 2022)* - SCAG met with housing trust funds to identify their needs and how these needs align with REAP 2.0 program objectives. SCAG met with the following organizations: Orange County Housing Finance Trust (OCHFT); Lift to Rise; Housing Trust Fund Ventura County; Irvine Community Land Trust and Orange County Housing Finance Trust; and San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust.

During these meetings the following key themes emerged:
1. Project Ideas: Housing Trust Funds discussed various project ideas including establishing revolving loan funds, predevelopment dollars and gap financing, land banking, preservation, and surplus land.
2. Accessing Funds and Eligibility – Providing flexibility in SCAG's REAP program to ensure strongest potential for gap financing.
3. Distribution of Funds and Timelines: Distributing the funds in a timely manner to meet HCD expenditure deadlines and requesting clarity on what would qualify as expended funds.

*Tribal Engagement (June -August 2022)* - The first phase of SCAG's tribal engagement included meeting with key Tribal Representatives to understand overall needs and organizations for SCAG to further engage with.  As part of this early outreach, SCAG met 1-on-1 with the following: Brian McDonald, Tribal Government Regional Planning Board; Eric Ustation, Director of Local Intergovernmental Affairs at San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Regional Council Member Andrew Masiel Sr., Pechanga Band of Indian; and Brian Golding, Director of Economic Development Administration of the Quechan Indian Tribe.

Summary of Outreach to Date

In addition, SCAG made a presentation at the June Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) meeting to present on the REAP 2.0 process and timeline. This meeting was held on June 27, 2022 and included 24 representatives of tribal governments.

SCAG is also scheduled to meet with Tribal Leaders through a designated workshop on September 29, to review REAP 2.0

During these initial meetings the following key themes emerged:

1. Needs vary across Tribal Governments - As SCAG engages with Tribal Governments, it is important to have an understanding that needs, resources and policies vary across governments.
2. Reporting Requirements - Reporting and red-tape processes present a challenge for tribal entities to participate and would also need to ensure that funding is substantial enough for them to want to participate. There is also a distrust of government regarding sharing financial information.
3. Scoring Methodologies - For these competitive grant funding applications, it was noted that tribal applications tend to not score well when competing with more urbanized, higher population areas.
4. Building on Existing Programs - Connecting REAP funds to existing programs would be of interest such as Housing Trust Funds. SCAG confirmed the funding could support existing housing trust funds or those looking to establish one
5. Technical Assistance and Grant Writing - Smaller tribes could benefit from technical assistance or grant writing assistance.

*CBO 1-on-1 Meetings (August 2022) -* SCAG staff met with organizations working in the affordable housing sector for a brief one-on-one session. At the meetings REAP 2.0 program information was shared and organizations provided input on the development of the PATH program. SCAG held ten (10) 1-on-1 meetings with the following organizations across the SCAG region: Jamboree Housing; United Way OC; Abundant Housing LA; Neighborhood Housing Services LA County*;* LA Forward*;* Thrive Santa Ana*;* Housing Opportunities Made Easier (HOME); Grounded Solutions Network*;* Little Tokyo Service Center; and House Farm Workers!

During these meetings the following key themes emerged:

1. Equity in REAP 2.0 - Reduce competitive nature of grant; have broad development categories;
2. Housing Needs - Access to broad housing types including middle income; increased funding for affordable housing; anti-displacement and tenant protections; permanent supportive housing; farmworker housing; and housing needs for non-traditional renters.
3. CBO Support and Barriers - Funding for community education and organizing to help increase CBO capacity; Help CBOs promote infill development and education with member cities; uplift SCAG engagement with CBOs including trainings and courses.

*Planning Director and Housing Working Groups (September – October 2022) –* Throughout September and October, SCAG staff presented an update and overview of PATH program development to Planning Director and Housing Working Group meetings across the region. SCAG staff covered eligibility requirements, program objectives, and timeline for release of funds. The goal of these meetings was to inform attendees on the program development status and upcoming opportunities to provide feedback

Summary of Outreach to Date

and written comment. SCAG staff attended the following meetings: WRCOG Planning Directors; OC Planning Directors Lunch and Learn; OCCOG Planning Directors TAC; OCCOG Board Meeting; WSCCOG Housing Working Group; VCOG Planning Directors; SBCCOG Planning Directors; ICTC TAC; and SGVCOG Planning Directors.

While these meetings were intended to be brief updates, the following common questions and comments emerged:

1. Eligible Applicants – Clarity on intended eligible applicants per project category, suggested water districts be eligible to apply.
2. Evaluation - Define how SCAG will define transformative, and how it will evaluate disadvantage communities and projects across the region.

*Housing Practitioner Updates (September 2022)* - SCAG partnered with local nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to host virtual and in-person workshops that targeted the participation of housing practitioners. The workshops covered five counties of the SCAG region, and include the participation of community-based organizations, housing developers, advocacy groups, and non-profits. To date, we have hosted the following meetings:

- o Virtual Webinar, in partnership with SCANPH
- o The Great Housing Convening Meeting in partnership with Inland SoCal Housing Collective
- o Inland So Cal Housing Collective Steering Committee Meeting
- o Affordable Housing Workshop in partnership with California Community Foundation
- o  SCAG also has the following engagement opportunities scheduled:
- o Housing Workshop in partnership with Kennedy Commission
- o Housing Workshop in partnership with House Farm Workers

*PATH Draft Program Listening Sessions (September 21 and October 5, 2022) -* SCAG will hosted two virtual information sessions for attendees to learn about the proposed Draft PATH program including: working descriptions for eligible applicants, project categories and eligible uses, application schedule and process, and evaluation criteria. Following the presentation, SCAG facilitated a Q&A discussion to address any immediate questions and feedback. Concluding the presentation, SCAG encouraged participants to review the draft program and submit written comments. The virtual webinars were also recorded and posted on the SCAG REAP 2021 website for distribution.

**Upcoming Outreach**

SCAG will continue to seek input on the REAP 2.0 PATH program. SCAG is asking the public to review the Draft Program and submit feedback including any changes proposed. Additionally, throughout the month of October and November, SCAG will continue to conduct outreach on the PATH program, though a coordinated REAP 2.0 Program-Wide Outreach Effort.  As the PATH Program advances, updates will be shared at the REAP 2.0 Program-wide outreach activities, and the public will have additional opportunities to provide input.

SCAG will seek input on the Draft PATH Program and plan to collect public comments during an open public comment period. More information on the Draft PATH Program and methods to provide public comment will be posted on the SCAG REAP 2021 webpage: https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021

# 2021 Regional Early Action Program (REAP 2.0)

*Draft* Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing

October 6, 2022

Informational Update on Program Development

**SCAG**

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

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## Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH)

### Agenda

1      *Overview* of REAP 2.0

2      *Draft* PATH Program

3      *Proposed* Evaluation Criteria

4      *Tentative* Timeline

5      **Ways to Provide Input**

**SCAG**

## Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2021 Grant

- AB140, FY21-22 state budget
- $600 million statewide
- $246 million SCAG's formula share
- Available early 2023
- Encumbered by June 2024
- Expended by June 2026

**REAP 2.0 GRANT PROGRAM**

## SCAG REAP 2.0 Framework - Approved July 7, 2022

### CORE OBJECTIVES

- Transformative planning realizing Connect SoCal
- Leverage/augment activities implemented quickly and in line with community-driven, pandemic recovery
- Build regional capacity to deliver 6th cycle RHNA goals
- Establish that projects are shovel ready & shovel worthy
- Promote infill in Priority Growth Areas
- Demonstrate consistency with Racial Equity Early Action Plan
- Represent best practices in VMT reduction

# SCAG REAP 2.0 Program Framework - Overview

**$246 million = SCAG's region's formula share**

**Obligated by June 2024**   **Expended by June 2026**

"Transformative Planning and Implementation Activities"

- Accelerating infill development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability
- Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
- Reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled

**Early Action Initiatives**
- Subregional Partnership Program 2.0 (Housing Element Support)
- Sustainable Communities Program (SCP)
- Local Information Services / Regional Data Platform

**CTC Partnership Program**
- Support for increasing transit options leading to infill housing and reducing VMT
- Housing infrastructure supporting plans, programs, and pilot projects

**Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH)**
- Funding for Lasting Affordability
- Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH)
- Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP)

## *For Context:*
## Subregional Partnership 2.0 – Approved September 2022

**Implementing 6th Cycle Housing Elements**
- **Land use planning** and related studies and/or programs
- **Outreach** supporting the programs
- **Technical Assistance** including staffing and consultants
- **Housing Policy/Project Grant Program** eligible activities

**Housing strategies for increasing supply and lasting affordability**
- **Housing Trusts**
- **Catalyst Funds**
- **Permanent Funding Sources**

# Programs to Accelerate Transformative Housing (PATH) Program Structure

| NOFA – Funding for Lasting Affordability |
|---|
• Funding for Innovative Housing Finance
• Trust Funds, Catalyst Funds

| Pilot: Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) |
|---|
• Non-Transportation Utilities Infrastructure Improvements

| Pilot: Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) |
|---|
• Scaling Up Development of Available Land
• Large Corridor-Wide or Area-Wide Infill Housing Policies and Initiatives

# Proposed Funding

| *Draft* PATH Program | |
|---|---|
| NOFA: Funding for Last Affordability | $45,000,000 |
| Pilot Program: Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) | $35,000,000 |
| Pilot Program: Housing Infill on Public and Private Land (HIPP) | $8,000,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **$88,000,000** |

| *Subregional Partnership (SRP) 2.0 Program* | |
|---|---|
| *Total* | **$23,000,000** |

## NOFA – Funding for Lasting Affordability

**Eligible Applicants**

- Housing Authorities
- Trust Funds
- Catalyst Funds

*In partnership:*
CBOs & Housing Developers

- Supporting Existing Trusts
- Establishing New Trusts
- Creating New Finance Products
- Predevelopment, Bridge, Gap Financing
- Land Acquisition/Banking

## Pilot Program – Regional Utilities Supporting Homes (RUSH)

**Eligible Applicants***

- Public Agencies
- Utility Districts
- Tribal Entities
- Large Scale Developers

* will be further defined through the industry forum

- Industry Forum Informing:
  - Regional Infrastructure Planning
  - Utility Infrastructure Projects
  - Large-Scale Development Utility Planning

# Pilot Program – Housing Infill on Public and Private Land (HIPP)

## Eligible Applicants

- Entities with Land Control
- Entities with Regulatory Land Use Control

- Transformational Development of Available Lands:
  - Scaling Up, Driving Innovation
  - Feasibility/Visioning/Pre-Dev

- Corridor and Area-Wide Strategies:
  - Scaling Supply, Choice, Affordability
  - Preservation and Anti-Displacement
  - Alternative Models/Homeownership

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# Proposed Evaluation Criteria

| Lead to a Transformative Significant Beneficial Impact | Equitable Targeted Outreach | Leverage Partnerships, Policy Match, and Cost Effectiveness | Disadvantaged Communities | Contributes to Regionally Transformative Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|

# Evaluation Criterion 1

**Lead to a Transformative Significant Beneficial Impact**

Project provides a significant beneficial impact that leads to a substantial change in land use patterns, equity, and travel behaviors.

• Accelerate Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability

• Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

• Reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled

# Evaluation Criterion 2

**Equitable Targeted Outreach**

• Commitment to engagement, especially Disadvantaged and Historically Underserved

• Outreach can be coordinated with other entities, including tribal nations

• May consider joint activities

# Evaluation Criterion 3

**Leverage Partnerships, Policy Match, and Cost Effectiveness**

Leverage other resources to maximize impact of REAP 2.0 investments.

Criterion flexible:

- Local Policy Commitment
- Partnerships
- Local or Other Funding

# Evaluation Criterion 4

**Disadvantaged Communities**

Prioritize disadvantaged, underserved, underrepresented, and under resourced:

- SB535 Disadvantaged Communities (CalEnviroScreen 4.0)
- SCAG Communities of Concern
- TCAC/HCD Opportunity Areas
- AB 1550 Communities

# Evaluation Criterion 5

**Contributes to Regionally Transformative Change**

Regional Transformative Changes for Housing Infrastructure:

- Within areas of Policy, Finance, Utilities, Neighborhood Improvements
- Support proposals throughout counties and region
- Compare projects in similar built environments

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# Major Milestones

**REAP 2.0 Program Framework**
Developed
**May – June**

**Housing Policy/Project Grant Program**
Community Outreach & Engagement / Program Development
**June - September**

**Virtual Information Session #1**
**September 21, 2022**

**Draft PATH Program** presented to Community Economic & Human Development Committee (**CEHD**) for review
**October 6, 2022**

**REAP 2.0 Funding Application & PATH Program considered by EAC**
**November 30, 2022**

- NOFA Released
- Pilot Program Applications Available
**Early 2023**

**July 7, 2022**
Framework Approved by the Regional Council

**Mid-September**
**Public Comment**
Draft Guidelines Publicly Available

**October 5, 2022**
**Virtual Information Session #2**

**November 3, 2022**
**PATH Program** *considered by CEHD for approval*

**December 31, 2022**
**REAP 2.0 Funding Application**
SCAG submits to HCD by this date

**Summer 2023**
**Conditional Awards**
Anticipated release

## *Working Draft* Timeline

| Funding Area | Application Period | Application Submittal Date |
|---|---|---|
| **NOFA – Financing for Lasting Affordability** | January – March 2023 | Mid-March 2023 |
| **Pilot Program – Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP)** | 1st Quarter 2023 | Late Spring 2023 |
| **Pilot Program – Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH)** | 2nd Quarter 2023 | Summer 2023 |

Dates anticipated dependent on Regional Council and State approval

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## Community Engagement

❑ *Ongoing, Region-wide, and Inclusive*

❑ *Public Comment Period Closes 5:00p.m. October 17, 2022*

❑ *Virtual Information Sessions*

- Session 1: Wednesday, September 21 10:00am-12:00pm
- Session 2: Wednesday, October 5th 9:00am-11:00am

*Recorded and available: https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021*

# We would like to hear from you!

☐ *Submit Written Comments*
Email written comments to
Jacob Noonan
REAP 2.0 Housing Program Manager
noonan@scag.ca.gov
(213) 236-1472

## REAP 2.0 Webpage
*https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021*

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SCAG

# THANK YOU

For more information, visit:

https://scag.ca.gov/reap2021

Jacob Noonan, Housing Program Manager
Email: noonan@scag.ca.gov

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**October 6, 2022**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **To:** | Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) | **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL** |
| **From:** | Lyle Janicek, Associate Planner (213) 236-1966, janicek@scag.ca.gov | *Kome Ajise* |
| **Subject:** | Neighborhood Mobility Areas | |

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**
Information Only - No Action Required

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**
*Lyle Janicek, Senior Regional Planner, will brief the Committee on Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMAS). NMAs lead to reduced vehicle miles traveled and shorter trips by focusing on improving, restoring, and enhancing safe and convenient connections to schools, hospitals, shopping, services, parks, greenways and other local destinations. NMAs were a key strategy in Connect SoCal 2020 and had its roots in the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. NMAs are derived from concepts attributed to "15 Minute Cities" which will be discussed in the presentation. Developing, mapping and refining a locally informed, regional approach to neighborhood mobility can help define the forecasted development pattern in Connect SoCal 2024, while improving mobility and air quality outcomes. The presentation will include information on the background, methodology, and process of developing the draft 2024 Neighborhood Mobility Areas.*

**BACKGROUND:**
When developing a forecasted regional development pattern for Connect SoCal's 2024 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), SCAG curates a set of locally informed priority development areas (PDAs) which identify areas throughout the region that support shorter trips, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and encourage connections with existing and future infrastructure for housing, active transportation, and transit.

Neighborhood Mobility Areas (NMAs) are one of these PDAs, and focus on improving, restoring, and enhancing access to essential urban services within a 15-minute walk or bike trip. These destinations include schools, hospitals, shopping, services, parks, greenways and other destinations. Developing, mapping, and refining a locally informed regional approach to neighborhood mobility can help improve Connect SoCal 2024 mobility and air quality outcomes.

NMAs have been identified throughout the region using four technical measures: 1) Intersection Density, 2) Low-Speed Streets, 3) Land Use Entropy (land use mixing), and 4) Accessibility to amenities within 1-mile using street network distances. This combination of measures indicates that a neighborhood has unique inherent traits such as mixed land uses and physical connectivity that, when combined, lend themselves to shorter daily trips and less reliance on single occupancy vehicles. A strength of considering NMAs as a priority development area to elevate place-based characteristics which may feature but are not reliant on future transit service.

In order to compare the four different measures, each Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) was assigned a z-score, which is a numerical measurement that describes a value's relationship to the mean of a group of values. The four NMA technical measures were assigned certain "scores" at the TAZ level in order to identify the best performing areas. A value of 0 is the regional "average" – positive values are above average, negative values are below average. Based on the results from this analysis, the top 25 percent performing TAZs were identified as NMAs to reflect the "top one-fourth" of the region for neighborhood mobility. After the application of this methodology, staff has determined that 80 percent of jurisdictions throughout the SCAG region had at least some area within an NMA, indicating that NMAs capture more than just traditional urban core areas. Prior to releasing the draft dataset layer for jurisdictional review, SCAG staff vetted the NMA layer through the Technical Working Group for review and feedback.

As such, the draft NMA layer reflects a robust, data-driven measure of neighborhood mobility within the SCAG region. However, we recognize that there are limits to a purely technical delineation of neighborhood mobility and that NMAs require further geographical and conceptual refinement for Connect SoCal 2024. During the Local Data Exchange process, which runs from February to December 2022, local jurisdictions are invited to review the NMA layer by modifying and identifying the draft NMAs to best reflect (a) the measures and areas important in their community and (b) to link NMA boundaries to any local mobility policies or strategies.

Feedback on NMAs will be due back to SCAG as part of the Local Data Exchange by December 2, 2022. NMAs are anticipated to be a major data and mapping component of Connect SoCal's placemaking strategies which will also include transit service, development potential, and other factors.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No Fiscal Impact.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Neighborhood Mobility Areas - CEHD Presentation - Oct 2022

# Neighborhood Mobility Areas

**October 6th, 2022**
Lyle Janicek, AICP
Senior Regional Planner

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

SCAG

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# Background

- Priority Development Areas (PDAs)
  - Locally informed
  - Informs the regional forecasted development pattern
  - Strategies to reduce GHG and VMT
- PDAs include:
  - High Quality Transit Areas
  - Transit Priority Areas
  - Job Centers

2

# 15 Minute City



ASSUMPTIONS:
DENSITY - 8 DU/GROSS ACRE
POPULATION - 2.6/UNIT

5 MILES
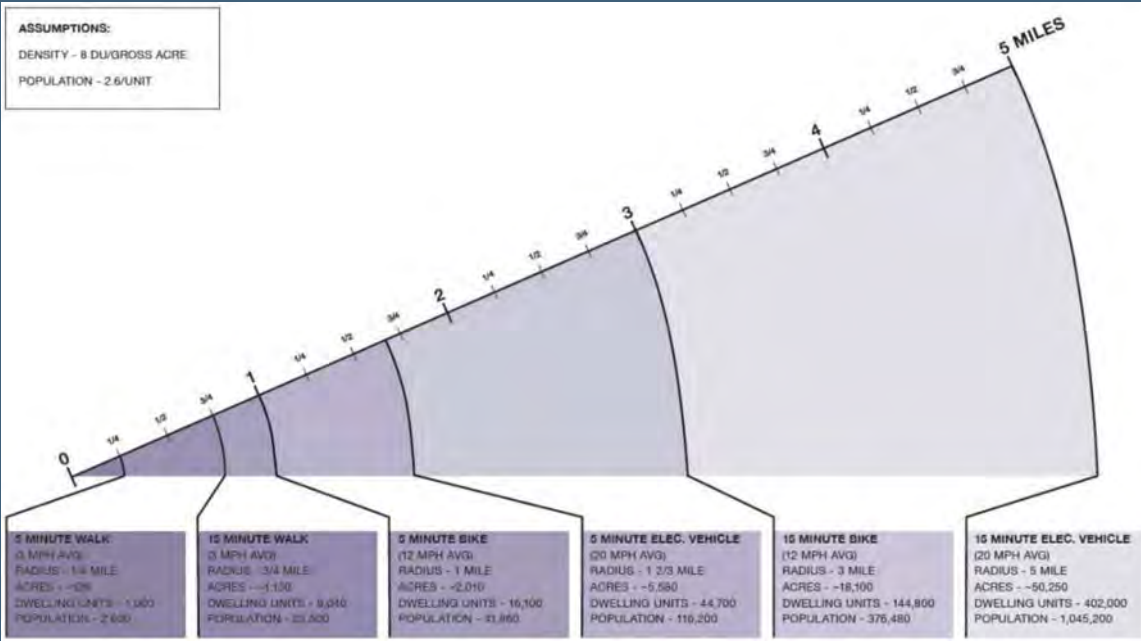
- Everyone living in a city should have access to essential urban services within a 15 minute walk or bike.

- 15 Minute Cities include:
  - West Hollywood
  - Long Beach
  - Culver City
  - Portland
  - Paris

# 15 Minute City & Neighborhood Mobility Areas

Currently, there is no standardized methodology to determine how to calculate/locate 15 minute cities at the SCAG regional level.

## However

Neighborhood Mobility Areas is a spatially based analysis which includes several key components of 15 Minute City

# Components of NMAs

- Low Speed Streets
  - *length of low-speed streets (m) / land area (sqmi)*

- High Pedestrian Network Density
  - *average network density in terms of facility miles of pedestrian-oriented links per square mile*

- Land Use Entropy (Land Use Mixing)
  - *land use entropy value between zero and one (one representing the most diverse use of land and a value of zero representing no land use mix)*

- Accessibility to Everyday Destinations
  - *Accessibility to "everyday destinations" = sum value of exponential distance decay to apparel, education, grocery stores, and restaurants*

5

# NMA Methodology

- **Scores were developed for all four measures at TAZ level**

- **Sum of 4 scores created composite NMA score**

- **Top 25% of composite scores identified as NMAs**



Example of a Neighborhood Mobility Area

street lighting for better visibility and safety

ramps to assist wheelchairs/strollers

bulb-outs to make intersections safer

high-visibility crosswalks

trees and landscaping to provide shade/improve walkability

Image courtesy of National Association of City Transportation Officials

6

# Draft Neighborhood Mobility Area Allocation

| County | Jurisdictions with NMAs | Total Jurisdictions | % Jurisdictions with NMAs |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Imperial | 5 | 8 | 63% |
| Los Angeles | 74 | 89 | 83% |
| Orange* | 33 | 35 | 94% |
| Riverside | 19 | 29 | 66% |
| San Bernardino | 17 | 25 | 68% |
| Ventura | 10 | 11 | 91% |
| **SCAG** | **158** | **197** | **80%** |

*Orange County is the only county without large amounts of non-urbanized land

Draft Neighborhood Mobility Areas    County Boundaries    City Boundaries
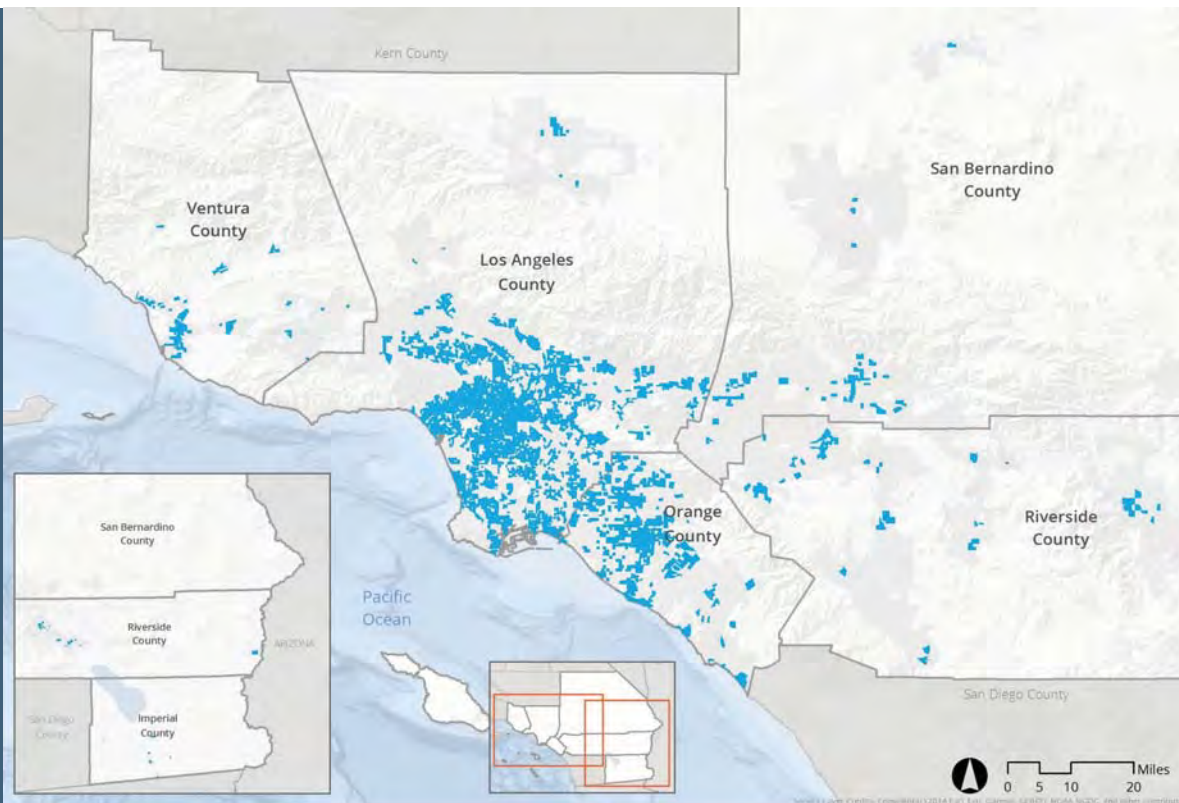
Source: SCAG, 2022

# Examples of NMAs

| Perris<br>Riverside County | Calexico<br>Imperial County | Sierra Madre<br>Los Angeles County |

Draft Neighborhood Mobility Areas  County Boundaries
City Boundaries

# NMAs Next Steps

- Local Review (May – December 2022)
- Feedback and Refinement (December 2022 – April 2023)
- Integration into the placemaking strategies of Connect SoCal 2024

# THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

**https://scag.ca.gov/connect-socal**

Lyle Janicek
Senior Regional Planner
Janicek@scag.ca.gov
(213) 236-1966

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
**October 6, 2022**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **To:** | Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) | **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL** |
| **From:** | Alisha James, Community Engagement Specialist<br>(213) 236-1884, james@scag.ca.gov | *Kome Ajise* |
| **Subject:** | REAP Call for Collaboration Program Update | |

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**
Information Only –No Action Required

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**
This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**
*In July 2020, the Regional Council voted to approve $1 million of the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant funding to establish the Call for Collaboration program to support new partnership models and engage a wider range of stakeholders in advancing the region's housing goals. SCAG partnered with the California Community Foundation (CCF), joined by the Irvine Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative for this program. The program was designed to fund community-based organizations and non-profit led activities that result in action-oriented planning policies and programs demonstrating a nexus to accelerating housing production. This collaboration fosters diverse community-driven approaches and strategic coalitions to shape and execute a vision for more housing in every community while addressing historic racial inequities.*

*The Call for Collaboration program directly supports the policy direction and Goal 3 "Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning" of SCAG's Racial Equity Action Plan. Staff is providing a program status update to the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee.*

**BACKGROUND:**
In partnership with the CCF, SCAG launched the Call for Collaboration program, which funds the development of community-based policies and plans that help cities and counties reach 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) goals. The program aims to increase community involvement in local planning and housing initiatives by promoting community-driven, equitable growth strategies.

SCAG dedicated $1 million of the REAP state grant to combine with matching funds from CCF, the Irvine Foundation, and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to fund several grants for non-profit organizations through two opportunities:

- Partnership Programs: Awards of up to $125,000 to support the expansion and/or implementation of existing plans, initiatives, and/or partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.

- Spark Grants: Smaller, capacity-building grants of around $50,000 to seed new models of collaboration and engagement to support community-driven approaches and partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.

The grant program was oversubscribed by four (4) times, and fifteen (15) awards were made totaling $1.25 million. These awards were given to a range of non-profit and community-based organizations covering five of SCAG's six counties. Awardees kicked off their 18-month grant-funded work in April 2021 and are expected to complete work by December 31, 2022.

A wide range of activities are funded with these planning grants. These include programs and plans designed to promote pro-housing policies, streamline the housing approval process, develop community support for new housing, and remove barriers to new housing development. All activities support deeper community engagement in planning activities and programs that accelerate housing production throughout the SCAG region.

Among the wide range of project types, some themes include:
- Housing element development and implementation
- Increasing housing capacity near future Metro rail lines
- Addressing barriers to housing development on church-owned land
- Building support for development of community land trusts
- Expansion of ADUs policies and programs, and
- Identifying new financing sources for affordable housing development.

Grantees are receiving training and technical assistance from a team of housing, planning, and legal experts that advise them on the development of their plans, provide unique data analysis, advice on legal contracts and other documents (like by-laws, etc.), or other organizational support as needed.

The presentation to the CEHD committee will be moderated by Alisha James, Community Engagement Specialist at SCAG, and will feature project updates from program grantees. Ms. James will present an overview of the program and its successes.

**SPEAKER BIOS:**

*Gabrielle Vignone, Executive Director, House Farm Workers*
Gabrielle Vignone has over 13 years of comprehensive experience in the housing industry. Vignone is actively leading the nonprofit in its longstanding advocacy for safe, decent, and affordable housing for Ventura County farmworkers. An important aspect of her role is to ensure the housing needs of farmworkers and their families are addressed in the Housing Element Programs currently being updated by all Ventura County cities and the County. Specifically, Vignone is coordinating advocacy for a Farmworker Housing Study to assess the size and makeup of Ventura County's farmworker population, their housing needs, and barriers to the construction of farmworker housing. Another key role is to support Housing Trust Fund Ventura County with the creation of a countywide dedicated source of funding for affordable housing. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English as well as an Associates Degree in Legal Studies.

*Melanie Steele, Program Director, Inland SoCal Housing* Collective
Melanie Steele began her regional work at Inland SoCal Housing Collective (ISCHC) in Jan 2022. As the only staff member, Melanie leads out the pillar activities and strategies, fundraising and reporting and incorporation process for the collective.  Prior to ISCHC, she spent nine years at Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire as the Director of Homeownership and Neighborhood Strategies/Interim CEO. Her time there was spent overseeing the housing and counseling team, down payment assistance programs, neighborhood initiatives, and data and reporting for the organization. Melanie has spent years doing grass roots engagement, organizing and programing for afterschool tutoring, soccer camps, and youth art. She developed and planned youth leadership conferences, taught English and work alongside women artisans in Morocco for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She has her BSW from Azusa Pacific University and a Masters in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
Work associated with this item is included in the FY 21-22 Overall Work Program (21-300.4872.01: Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grants Program (AB 101)).

# Call for Collaboration Program

October 6, 2022

SCAG

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

## Program Goals & Objectives

☑ **Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)** goals

☑ **SCAG's Racial Equity Plan**

Increase community involvement and collaboration in local planning and housing initiatives

Promote community-driven, equitable growth strategies that increase housing opportunities for people of color and lower-income households.

First of its kind partnership with philanthropic organization.

2

# Program Overview

15 awardees. Approximately $1.3M

April 2021 – December 2022

Project Types

- Housing element development and implementation
- Increasing housing capacity near future rail lines
- Addressing barriers to housing development on church-owned land
- Building support for development of community land trusts
- Expansion of ADUs policies and programs, and
- Identifying new financing sources for affordable housing development.

# Accomplishments

Increased community engagement in housing element development process

Increased network of community-advocates

Increased number of pro-housing advocates

# Key Takeaways

| | |
|---|---|
| Increased Community Engagement | Increased Awareness of SCAG's work |
| Alignment of CBO work with SCAG goals | Need for Continuation of Work |

Model for other programs and initiatives
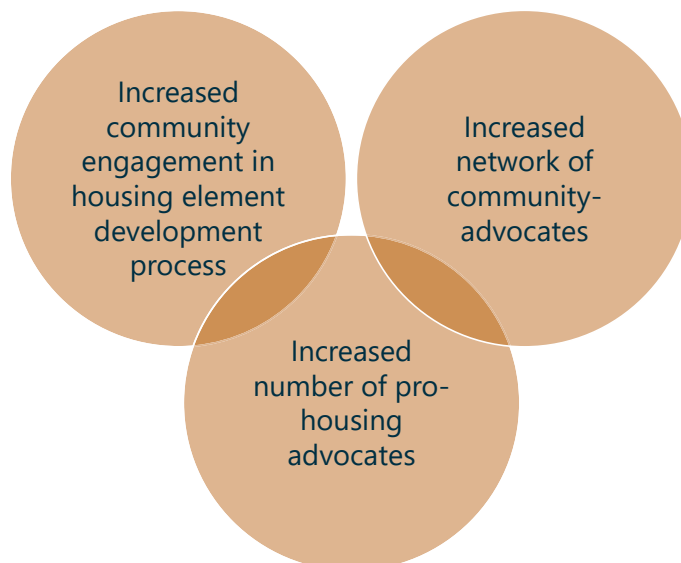
# INLAND SOCAL HOUSING COLLECTIVE

*Melanie Steele| Program Manager*

# Inland SoCal Housing Collective

Creating solutions for safe, decent and affordable housing for renters, homebuyers, homeowners, and those experiencing homelessness through education, advocacy and access to resources in the Inland SoCal region.
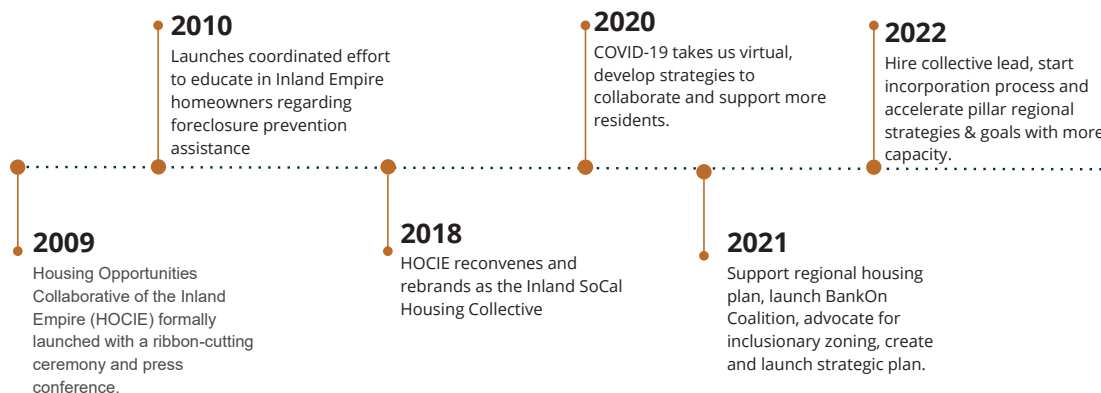
## Our History

**2010**
Launches coordinated effort to educate in Inland Empire homeowners regarding foreclosure prevention assistance

**2009**
Housing Opportunities Collaborative of the Inland Empire (HOCIE) formally launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference.

**2018**
HOCIE reconvenes and rebrands as the Inland SoCal Housing Collective

**2020**
COVID-19 takes us virtual, develop strategies to collaborate and support more residents.

**2021**
Support regional housing plan, launch BankOn Coalition, advocate for inclusionary zoning, create and launch strategic plan.

**2022**
Hire collective lead, start incorporation process and accelerate pillar regional strategies & goals with more capacity.

# Our Pillars



**1 — Educate & Advocate Public Policy**
Educate community leaders and residents on local, state and federal housing policies and advocate for affordable regional housing creation and preservation.

**2 — Wealth Building & Preservation**
Provide valuable education and access to resources for financial health and empowerment, and economic development.

**3 — Expansion of Housing Solutions**
Identify, advocate, and support innovative & affordable housing solutions for residents experiencing homelessness and those seeking affordable, safe and decent dwellings.

**4 — Increase Regional Involvement**
Support & catalyze existing place based work within our region. Collaborate and identify ways to strengthen regional housing voice.

# Goals



**1-** Establish and build long term infrastructure and plans for sustainable growth for the ISCH Collective

**2-** Develop a policy agenda including a pro-housing framework with priorities to guide policy advocacy work and education

**3-** Convene 2 annual forums regionally, inviting elected officials and city staff to learn about the housing policies and the benefits of having housing opportunities for all incomes.

**4-** Create a communication process for every time a jurisdiction has an affordable housing related public hearing so that public and ISCHC members are aware, and can support the project

**5-** Create robust quarterly regional convenings of for all housing initiatives to share best practices and grow regional strength for collaboration

# Formation of 501c3 – GOAL 1

**Steering Committee Member---> Board Members**

**3-5 Year Action Plan -----> Strategic plan and budgeting**

**Pillar Groups-----> Committee Work ----> Funding Opt.**

# Education and Advocate for Public Policy Pillar- GOAL 2

### Policy Agenda and Position Statements

*We promote the creation and preservation of low to moderate income affordable housing*

*We support the local production strategies to meet RHNA goals*

*We support the creation of transitional and permanent supportive housing that seeks to address our rising homeless numbers in both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.*

*We believe homeownership is a tool to build familial wealth and stabilize communities and opportunities should be created to purchase a home across the all-incomes levels*

*We support innovative approaches to homeownership for low-income*

*We support efforts that foster equity & inclusion and eliminate barriers for disinvested communities*

*We support housing tools such as community land trusts, down payment assistance and first time/first generation home buyer loan products, to achieve the goal of homeownership.*

*Read more at www.ischcollective.org*

**Outcomes:**
- Streamline process for support letters for housing
- Creation of a robust monthly collective meetings that promote and educate around the collective's position statement
- Formation of taskforce working groups from the IE that focus on the implementation of new housing legislation

# Education and Advocate for Public Policy Pillar – GOAL 3

**Regional Virtual and Local In-person Prohousing Designation TA webinars**

*What is the Prohousing Designation Program?*
*Incentives to cities and counties in the form of additional points or other preference in the scoring of competitive housing, community development, and infrastructure programs.*

## Speed Dating- Project HomeKey Networking Event

*In preparation of the release of Project HomeKey, the ISCHC convened local govt, Continuum of Care providers and local developers to meet and establish contacts for natural partners and possible applications coming this spring in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.*

**Outcomes:**
- Local housing initiatives interested in hosting in-person TA
- Local government meeting developers and COC providers
- Cross county collaboration and sharing

# Education and Advocate for Public Policy- GOAL 4

**Communication Process for Jurisdictions Regarding Affordable Housing**
- **Identified pilot cities** to create communication process
- **Created tool kit templates** to empower residents to talk about housing topics
- Launching communication process in one city with hopes of **replicating in other cities**

**What we learned?**
Each city has unique dynamics, infrastructure and influences that make it challenging to replicate.

# Education and Advocate for Public Policy – GOAL 5

**Quarterly Convenings- "The Great Housing Convening"**

- **San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have 4-5 housing initiatives** that contain anywhere from 5-30 participating organizational or government members all focusing on the creation of affordable housing
- **The Great Housing Convening** is focused regional sharing of best practices, strategizing, educating and networking to learn and amplify the work of the Inland Empire

**Outcomes:**
- Geographic driven feedback on housing programs
- Sharing best practices and contacts
- Regional research and strategizing

# Next Steps

- Finalizing incorporation process

- Building out pillar strategizes

- Amplifying regional housing initiatives and work

- Attract local, state, and federal funding for the creation of affordable housing

# Importance Of Our Work

**Benefits**
- Promote the thought leadership of the Inland Empire
- Advocate for policy and program guidelines that include and consider the prospective of the Inland Empire.
- Represent a region that has been historically neglected, taken advantage of and underfunded.
- Facilitate collaboration and regional sharing.
- Educate local officials, govt., CBOs, developers and residents.
- Amplify IE housing initiatives, resources, pipeline of housing projects and bring TA to our region.

# How has this program supported the ISCHC's goals and objectives?

- Provided capacity and allowed the housing thought leadership of over 150 members in the Inland Empire to mobilize regional and statewide.
- Allowed the goal timelines to be accelerate and ultimately leverage the collective's biggest assets of volunteer time. Our Steering committee gives over 600 hours annually to strategize, and problem solve.
- Built IE readiness to develop, organize, educate and advocate for safe, decent, affordable and innovative housing.

# Contact Information

- **Melanie@ischcollective.org**

- **Visit our website www.ischcollective.org**
  - **Sign up for newsletter**
  - **Learn more about Pillar objectives and meeting times**
  - **Connect with housing initiatives**
  - **Youtube channel for past webinars**

# HOUSE FARM WORKERS

*Gabrielle Vignone* | *Executive Director*

# House Farm Workers!

*Who is HFW!* We support safe, decent and affordable housing for all farm workers and their families through advocacy and education in Ventura County since 2004.

We do not build farm worker housing. We make it possible for others to do so by building a conducive political and regulatory environment. This means alerting the general public and our elected representatives about the need for safe, decent and affordable housing for Ventura County farm workers and their families and supporting solutions.

How? City Committee meetings, Task Forces, Youth Advocate Meetings, CSUCI Immersion & service learning projects, bus tours, educational films, the Ellen Brokaw scholarships and addition of programs to local Housing Element action plans.



## House Farm Workers!

### Ventura County Agriculture

Ventura has 98,549 acres of irrigated cropland and 2,135 farms. They grow more than 100 different crops, with a gross value of $2.1 billion a year.

**Top Crops**

Strawberries $712 million

Nursery Stock $214 million

Lemons $254 million

Raspberries $169 million

### The Ventura County Farm Worker

Average Annual Wage $31,737

Estimated # of Farm Workers 41,600

A countywide farmworker housing survey and study in 2023-24 will provide much needed data.

### Ventura County Housing

Annual income needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment $81,480

Who is spending more than 30% income on housing? 52% of Ventura County residents

Sources: Ventura County's Crop and Livestock Report (2021), Employment Development Department, SCAG Pre Certified Local Housing Data (July, 2021), SCANPH"s Local Housing Wage Report (July, 2021), USDA's 2017 Census of Agriculture

www.housefarmworkers.org    /housefarmworkers    info@housefarmworkers.org

# Adding programs to the 2021-29 Housing Elements

### *House Farm Workers!* pushed for the following programs

- **Countywide Farmworker Housing Study:** The City will (1) work with the County of Ventura, advocacy groups, and agricultural organizations to plan, seeking funding through grants or other sources for the implementation of a countywide survey of farmworkers, employers, and housing providers to further define housing conditions, needs and barriers to farmworker housing and (2) utilize the survey results to develop targeted programs and strategies to address the identified housing needs of farmworkers and to support agricultural businesses with a stable and healthy workforce.

- **Funding for the Housing Trust Fund Ventura County and permanent source of funding for affordable housing**: The City/County shall continue to support the efforts of the Housing Trust Fund Ventura County, a local nonprofit organization that provides short-term, acquisition and pre-development funding to developers of affordable housing. In addition, the City/County will coordinate with local agencies and community stakeholders on the creation of a countywide dedicated source of funding for affordable housing.

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# The 2021-2029 Housing Element Update Process

## 2019- Now

Getting a program into a Housing Element is a time/labor-intensive process that requires:

- Reviewing 100 + pages of former & current draft HEs.
- Participation in community workshops.
- Discussion at city group meetings.
- Inviting city and county leaders to task force meetings.
- Presentations to advocacy partners.
- Submittal of letters to cities and county.
- Attendance at public hearings of the Planning Commission and City Council on the draft, and then the final.

*House Farm Workers*! is lucky to have
a great Board, City Chairs, Volunteers,
City Committees, and a Consultant to fulfill
these tasks.

Strategic Advisor, Jennifer Coile
joined *HFW!* in 2020

## The *HFW!* 2019-2022 Update Process
## - what worked

Dedicated city committees

Having a knowledgeable strategic advisor

Building on successful relationships with elected/appointed officials

City Committees meeting monthly & to prepare for public hearings

Tracking sheets showing the dates of public meetings

Tracking the dates of community engagement events and activities

Emailing drafts of comments amongst committee members

Coordination of presenters, within COVID rules

Practicing reading comments within the three minute time limit

## The Process
## - what wasn't so great

- **COVID** – Changes in comment procedures at city meetings and HCD's October 15, 2021 deadline for final HE was not extended

- *State Legislature* -AFFH guidance not released until April 27, 2021 – plus 30 new bills approved in the fall of 2020 AND another 30 in 2021 is a lot for volunteers to keep up with

- *When HFW! comments on HEs were ignored- city did not acknowledge the comment, HCD did not catch that they didn't*

- *HCD not responding to questions- emails sent in July 2021 to* HousingElements@hcd.ca.gov  with no response

## Progress to Date

*"HFW!* focused on six of the ten cities plus the County of Ventura to include the program of conducting a countywide farmworker housing study in their HE's action plan.

The County and five of the ten cities did so (Fillmore's draft HE has just been released). In the other four cities (Ojai, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks), we submitted written comments to request the program, but did not do in-person testimony at public hearings." **–Jennifer Coile**

State law says the HEs should contain all public comments received AND the response to the comments.



HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE
A Plan for Housing County of Ventura Residents for the
Next Eight Years (2021-2029)

## *HFW!* Requests for Programs in 6ᵗʰ Cycle Housing Elements

| City/County | Farmworker Housing Study | Support Housing Trust Fund VC & Create countywide dedicated source of affordable housing funding |
|---|---|---|
| Camarillo | Yes | No |
| Moorpark | Yes | Yes |
| Oxnard | Yes | Yes-HTF, No-new source |
| Santa Paula | Yes | Indirectly – Support HTFs but not specifically HTFVC |
| Ventura (city) | Yes | Yes, but not with HFW! wording |
| Ventura County | Yes | Yes |

"The County not only committed to participating in the study but early on volunteered to coordinate the study.

They contacted the ten cities requesting 2022-23 funding with suggested amounts and are coordinating the collection of those funds to cover the costs of the study that begins this fall." -JC

## Each city has its own vibe

All *HFW!* comment letters requesting programs additions to Housing Elements included:

**Countywide Farmworker Housing Study &**

**Funding for the Housing Trust Fund Ventura County and permanent source of funding for affordable housing**:

Each city group had additional ideas as well. Our Fillmore letter is very different from our Santa Paula letter.

## Advocates and Allies

- *House Farm Workers!* board members, committee members and staff attend other advocate groups who also worked/ are working diligently to get programs into housing elements, such as **Homes For All, VPHAN Governmental Advocacy Action Group, Ventura Social Services Task Force, Santa Clara Valley Together, YIMBY Ventura County, and Ventura County Housing Coalition**.

- *HFW!* joined with allies to support the highest possible number of units for households with the lowest income levels.

**Collaboration is important!**

# Additional Housing Element Suggestions created while working with community partners

- *Housing Sites:* Comments about housing sites listed in the HE were also submitted in accordance with the local knowledge and development expertise of Committee members.

- *Inclusionary Housing:* HFW! paid careful attention to inclusionary housing programs within Draft HEs and supported update of the programs or policies to include rental in addition to ownership units. (currently writing a suggested policy to Oxnard)

- *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and Programs (AFFH):* HFW! requested targeted education and outreach to landlords in the HE AFFH programs. It is important to check if there are unused Housing Choice vouchers, if so, why, and what to do about it.

Information copied from Jennifer Coile's Advocacy for Farm Worker Housing in 6th Cycle Housing Elements

# Additional Housing Element Suggestions created while working with community partners

- *Delaying payment of impact fees for affordable housing projects:* An affordable housing developer volunteer of *HFW!* noted that if a City delays the deadline for payment of impact fees for 15 years, the fee amount can be counted as a local match. This contributes to project feasibility, especially with the scarcity of local match dollars after the elimination of the California redevelopment program. *HFW!* suggested this as a policy in several HEs and it was accepted.

- *City Staffing:* In several instances, *HFW!* recommended expanding City staff to ensure adequate staffing dedicated to implementing and monitoring HE programs.

Information copied from Jennifer Coile's Advocacy for Farm Worker Housing in 6th Cycle Housing Elements
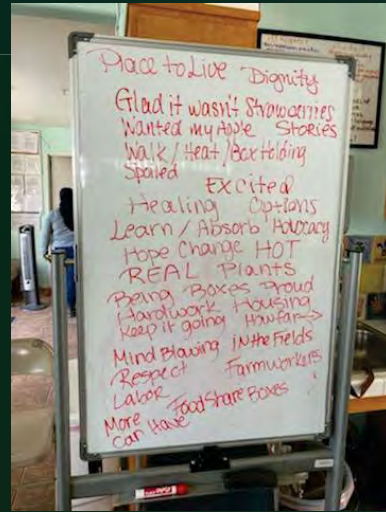
# The Fun Stuff

## Expressing your housing thoughts


**I Support Farmworker Housing Signs**



Our yearly joint Farmworker Immersion Project, where CSUCI students and faculty get to experience a day in the life of a farmworker, starts with an educational orientation on farmworker wages vs. current housing costs and ends with a reflection and call to action.

# The Fun Stuff
## Expressing your housing thoughts



During our monthly youth meetings at One Step A La Vez in Fillmore, we had presentations by:

**Jennifer Coile**
**Gabrielle Vignone**
**Linda Braunschweiger**
**Artist William Caceres**
**Carl Morehouse**



That led to the youth painting their emotions about housing in Fillmore and the creation and  delivery of a letter to the Fillmore City Council requesting: the 2 programs *HFW!* endorsed, along with additional commerce geared towards providing their age group shopping and employment, and additional low income housing.

## Tips and Tricks from Jennifer Coile

- *Give written recommendations* **at ALL stages to** Planning Commission and City Council Meetings and to HCD.

- *Provide verbal testimony* **at meetings** that tells a factual story and/or bring a person who is unable to find affordable housing or experiencing other housing problems, to highlight the need and reasons for your recommendations.

- *Recommend specific language* to be adopted.

- *Format input into a table* with columns could include: topic, page number of document, quote from document, proposed rewording, comment/explanation for requested revision.

Information copied from Jennifer Coile's **Advocacy for Farm Worker Housing in 6th Cycle Housing Elements**

## Currently



**HOUSE FARM WORKERS!**
Presents

The DRAFT Guide:
**ADVOCACY FOR FARM WORKER HOUSING IN 6TH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENTS**
**By Jennifer Coile, Strategic Advisor**

Viewable at:
https://housefarmworkers.org/advocacy-for-farm-worker-housing-in-6th-cycle-housing-elements/

*HFW!* of Ventura County began advocacy in 2019 in the update process for 2021-2029 Housing Elements (HE) in 6 cities and the County. This document is their thoughts on collaboration, information about the mechanics of involvement, and a close-up look at their engagement in HEs, plus support resources.

Please provide comments and questions by November 15, 2022
To
info@housefarmworkers.org

**Fillmore's draft HE** has a 30-day public review period

September 16 -October 17

Advocacy opportunity :

**Attend a City Council meeting /**

**Join our Fillmore & Piru Task Force**

Info@housefarmworkers.org

Handouts, videos and other resources are available on our resource page @: https://housefarmworkers.org/resources/

Interested in becoming a presenter at our monthly Youth group or City groups?

Want to join a City Committee?

Want to get on the interest list for our upcoming Bus Tour?

Want *HFW!* to give this presentation or presentations on what a HE is to your staff, school or community group?

Interested in providing feedback on our draft Advocacy for Farm Worker Housing in 6th Cycle Housing Elements guide?

**Email me**

# THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

**scag.ca.gov/housing**