



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

DATE: December 2, 2021
TO: Governing Board
FROM: Dan Brotman, Council Member, City of Glendale
SUBJECT: SCAG Energy & Environment Committee Report for AVCJPA Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is being provided as information only.

BACKGROUND:

Since the last meeting of the AVCJPA, SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee (EEC) met on October 7 & November 4.

The EEC took action on the following items on October 7:

- Recommend that the Regional Council adopt draft Resolution to approve the Addendum #2 to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.
- Recommend that the Regional Council adopt the transportation conformity determination of the Connect SoCal Amendment #1 and the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Consistency Amendment #21-05 at its November 4, 2021, meeting; and thereafter direct staff to submit it to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval.

The following information items were provided to the EEC on October 7:

- SoCal Greenprint Update
 - SCAG is in the process of developing the SoCal Greenprint tool as an optional, flexible, and open regional conservation-focused data and mapping tool for the six counties in the SCAG region.
 - It provides information to support integrated planning to advance Connect SoCal's housing, transportation and conservation goals; its development is also a program-wide mitigation measure in the Connect SoCal PEIR.
 - On July 1, 2021, the Regional Council voted to pause implementation of the SoCal Greenprint for at least 30 days and to hold a public hearing for further discussion, so staff could engage in additional outreach with stakeholders to understand their concerns with implementing the tool.
 - Staff is recommending the pause be lifted to allow for the completion of the Greenprint tool to support integrated planning and project delivery that advances Connect SoCal's housing, transportation and conservation goals, while also meeting the program-wide mitigation measure requirements in the Connect SoCal PEIR.

- Regional Early Action Program (REAP) 2021 Program Development Framework
 - Staff indicated the SCAG region's share of the REAP grant funds was \$246 million (10% available in January 2022).
 - To meet the core objectives, staff was considering three main programmatic areas that they would be bringing to stakeholders for discussion once they had clearer guidance from the State on program guidelines.
- Environmental Justice/Communities of Concern Update
 - Staff presented an overview and update on SCAG's Environmental Justice efforts, which are intended to lay the foundation for future policy discussions on advancing the EAP goals through enhancement of SCAG's EJ policies, analysis and programs as part of the development of the 2024 Connect SoCal-SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, and other related efforts.
- Mobility Innovations & Pricing: An Initiative to Elevate Equity in Planning
 - Staff provided an overview on SCAG's recent work on this effort.
 - They covered the mobility innovations concepts and provided information on community based driven engagement and outreach.
 - They also addressed the issue of understanding the travel of underrepresented communities.

There were no action items at the November 4 EEC meeting, but the Committee did receive the following information items:

- U.S. Green Business Council Los Angeles: Wildfire Defense Education and Tours
 - Staff from the U.S. Green Building Council Los Angeles chapter presented an overview of USGBC-LA's Wildfire Defense Education and Tours program which aims to bring together Southern California residents, the real estate industry, and the green building community together to take effective actions to save lives and property while mitigating fire risk.
 - The program is designed to empower property owners, designers, and managers to proactively reduce wildfire hazards to minimize the loss of property and life, which helps to realize Connect SoCal's goal for the region to adapt to a changing climate and is in line with the Regional Council's unanimously adopted Climate Action Resolution No. 21-628-1.
- Orange County Equity Map and Social Progress Index
 - Staff from AdvanceOC provided a presentation on the Orange County Equity Map and Social Progress Index.
 - AdvanceOC created the Orange County Equity Map in July 2020 using the Social Progress Index (SPI) which was developed through a public-private partnership between AdvanceOC, the County of Orange, and the Health Care Agency.
 - This index, used world-wide, was developed to enable users to identify root causes, understand social determinants, investigate disparities, and help create equity focused strategies and solutions.
 - Using 50 indicators, SPI can measure, track, and map inequities with neighborhood precision.

- The Orange County Equity Map, created from SPI, displays data for all 580 neighborhood census tracts within the county and provides the county's Average Component score.
- Southern California Goods Movement Communities Freight Impact Assessment
 - Staff provided an overview of the Southern California Goods Movement Communities Freight Impact Assessment study, which is expected to start November 2021.
 - This project is funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant, and will combine analysis and outreach to understand the positive and negative impacts of goods movement as well as the experience of these impacts on communities.
 - The study will focus on public health, workforce development, and communications and outreach best practices.
 - Key products include a toolkit for impacted communities with recommendations on goods movement impact mitigation and recommendations to connect communities to the economic opportunities of goods movement, as well as an updated innovative communications strategy that guides SCAG's goods movement related outreach.
- Water Supply & Drought Update
 - The Local Government Commission provided a presentation on water supply issues in California and discussed best practices and potential solutions.
 - The presentation also highlighted drought, land-use, public health and equity related issues as they pertain to water in the SCAG region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A