



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

DATE: June 2, 2022
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 March 3 and April 7.

The EEC received and filed the following report on March 3:

- Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024
 - This will be prepared by SCAG over the next two years, with adoption anticipated in April 2024.
 - SCAG will build from the strategies and policies established in Connect SoCal 2020, such as the Core Vision and Key Connections, but will continue to monitor and reexamine trends and emerging issues in order to put forth a plan that addresses the region's evolving needs, challenges and opportunities.
 - The EEC Committee received a draft Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024 which outlined the approach for policy development with the existing Policy Committees and three new subcommittees.

The following information items were provided to the EEC on March 3:

- Southern California Edison (SCE) Charge Ready New Construction Rebate (NCR)
 - SCE staff discussed the new construction rebate, which is a new program targeting multifamily residential developers to install EV chargers.
- SoCal Gas Commitment to Net Zero
 - SoCal Gas provided a high-level presentation on their approach to climate objectives and potential contribution to the regional planning exercises and mobility sector.
 - They were the largest gas utility in the nation serving 22 million customers regionally located in southern California, with service stretched from Central California down to the Mexican border.
 - They transported natural gas through their pipeline infrastructure and looked forward to increasing volumes of renewable natural gas with lower carbon intensity as well as exploring hydrogen as a decarbonization tool for the future.

- They have five focus areas of sustainability: (1) Accelerate the Energy Transition, (2) Protect Climate and Improve Air Quality in Communities, (3) Increase Clean Energy Access and Affordability, (4) Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Culture, and (5) Achieve World Class Safety.
- California Air Resources Board (CARB): Sustainable Communities & Climate Policy Update
 - CARB staff provided a presentation about the state's Sustainable Communities policy framework.
 - The presentation included a broad overview of the SB 375 program, why it was important, what it was expected to achieve, how it has been going, and what can be done to help.
- Connect SoCal's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) 101
 - Staff provided an overview of Connect SoCal's PEIR, what it is, why they do it, and the CEQA requirement.

At the April 7 meeting, the EEC approved the following item:

- Transportation Control Measure (TCM) Substitution by Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)
 - The OCTA is requesting a TCM substitution to replace three toll road expansion TCM projects in the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor, the Eastern Transportation Corridor, and the Foothill Transportation Corridor-North respectively within the Orange County.
 - SCAG staff has determined that the proposed TCM substitution meets all Federal Clean Air Act TCM substitution requirements.

The EEC also received and filed the following item:

- SCAG Climate Action Resolution Quarterly Update

Additionally, the following information items were provided to the EEC during the April 7 meeting:

- Draft 2022 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)
 - Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA), the AQMP is being prepared to attain the federal 2015 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard in the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley.
 - This plan was jointly prepared by AQMD, the lead agency, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and SCAG.
 - The 2022 AQMP will include an important component relative to regional transportation planning and federal transportation conformity requirements, the motor vehicle emissions budgets, which set an upper limit which on-road transportation activities are permitted to emit.
 - The new emission budgets established as part of the 2022 AQMP process and approved in the final plan will become the functioning emission budgets for transportation conformity for future RTP/SCS, Federal Improvement Program (FTIP), and their amendments post the effectiveness date of the new emission budgets.

- The 2022 AQMP is required to be submitted to the EPA by August 3, 2022.
- Equity Analysis Approach (formerly Environmental Justice Analysis)
 - This report provides a preview of SCAG’s approach for Connect SoCal 2024’s Equity Analysis (formerly Environmental Justice Analysis).
 - The proposed approach is grounded in best practices and aims to meaningfully evaluate inequities in the region and strategies for addressing the resulting issues.
 - The analysis has also evaluated impacts on other vulnerable populations like older adults, young children, households without vehicles, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and more.
 - Staff recommends that a more robust equity analysis be developed for Connect SoCal 2024; this evolved approach includes:
 - Revisiting populations and communities
 - Defining prioritized equity populations and areas
 - Incorporating equity into analysis
 - SCAG staff reported that they have conducted extensive internal outreach with subject matter experts and will continue to seek input from external stakeholders to ensure the proposed methodology is inclusive of EJ and equity concerns and accurately reflective of SCAG’s initiatives.
- Racial Equity Early Action Plan – FY22 Progress Report
 - In May 2021, the Regional Council adopted the Racial Equity Action Plan (EAP), and since then, SCAG staff have made significant progress on implementing actions included within the plan.
 - This report provided an update to the EEC on progress, with the following new updates:
 - Restorative Justice Subcommittee
 - As part of the proposed Connect SoCal Policy Development Framework, SCAG will be convening a set of special subcommittees to consider emerging issues, one of which will focus on Restorative Justice.
 - This subcommittee will identify opportunities to advance racial equity through the policies and strategies in Connect SoCal and guide how planning and investments over the next 30 years can address and rectify the effects of racially discriminatory policies in SCAG’s Environmental Justice communities.
 - Economic Empowerment Program
 - A new Economic Empowerment Program was possible through recent restructuring within SCAG’s Planning Division.
 - SCAG is in the process of recruiting and hiring staff for the new team, which will oversee several EAP action items to build capacity to incorporate equity into local planning.
 - This will include the implementation of Sustainable Communities Program Call 4 efforts (projects focused on Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice), as well as the Public Health Fellows program.
 - Inclusive Economic Growth Implementation Program
 - The Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (IERS), developed through

rigorous public outreach, was implemented utilizing \$3.5 million in state grant funding to implement IERS core recommendations.

- Deliverables will include: a targeted analysis of the economic impacts of racial inequities in income; the creation of a job-quality index; reports and recommendations on best practices for more inclusive procurement and contracting; recommendations for best practices on project labor agreements, construction, and development; and sub-regional reports on sectors with family-supporting jobs combined with addressing the human capital needs for households to access those jobs (such as childcare, transportation, training).

- Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024
 - The EEC was provided with a draft, which outlined the approach for policy development with the existing Policy Committees and three new subcommittees.
 - Throughout 2022, staff will be continuing with research to better understand the trends and existing conditions in the region.
 - This phase also includes steps to understand the existing conditions and planning occurring at the local jurisdiction level through the Local Data Exchange process and engagement with County Transportation Commissions on the Project List later this year.
 - Over the course of the next year and in the first half of 2023, SCAG staff will be seeking
 - direction from policy makers, through the relevant Policy Committees, on the priorities and strategies for Connect SoCal 2024 to augment and help better align plans and investments across the region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A