



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

DATE: October 6, 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 June 2, July 7, and September 1.

June 2 EEC Meeting

The EEC received and filed the following reports:

- California Transportation Assessment Report (AB 285) Joint Comment Letter
- Go Human Kit of Parts Statewide Pilot Program: SCAG & Caltrans Active Transportation
- Resource Center
- Housing-Supportive Grant Application Technical Assistance
- Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

The following information items were provided to the EEC:

- Connect SoCal 2024 Local Data Exchange Launch
 - Staff presented a report consisting of information on the release of important pieces of data for local jurisdiction review during the Connect SoCal 2024 development which includes the preliminary growth forecast of households and employment through 2050 for the region at the jurisdiction and Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) levels and a concise planning survey.
 - Over the next six months, SCAG staff aims to meet with local jurisdictions to discuss the projections, other data layers, and guide the review process (feedback due 12/02/22).
- Water Resilience and Planning
 - The Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Southern California presented an overview of the role of water in regional resilience planning, shifts towards policies and practices enhancing local water infrastructure.
 - The report explored the water-energy-climate nexus, and also noted that more can be

- done with underutilized resources such as rainwater, grey water, stormwater, water reuse and water efficiency.
- The presentation also addressed using watershed science to maximize multiple benefits.
- 2020 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Call for Projects 1-4 Combined Update
 - Staff provided a report on the 2020 Sustainable Communities program (SCP) Call for Projects 1-4 which supports implementation of the Connect SoCal Plan 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).
 - The report included information on the four calls:
 - Call 1: Active Transportation & Safety
 - Call 2: Housing & Sustainable Development
 - Call 3: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations
 - Call 4: Civic Engagement, Equity & Environmental Justice.
 - Also, the report included an update on the 2020 Connect SoCal SCP
- CARB Draft Scoping Plan
 - Staff provided a report on the CARB Draft 2022 Scoping Plan, which was released by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on May 10, 2022.
 - The update to the Scoping Plan, due in Fall/Winter 2022, will reflect California's goal to assess progress towards the Senate Bill (SB) 32 target of reducing GHG emission to 40 percent below 1990 levels in 2030, and to achieve climate neutrality by 2045.
 - SCAG intends to submit a comment letter by the deadline to express support for those actions that align with Connect SoCal and highlight potential areas of concern.

July 7 EEC Meeting

The EEC received and filed the following reports:

- Initial Findings for Connect SoCal CEQA Addendum No. 3 to Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #2019011061)
- Two Transit Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) Substitution by Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)
- SCAG Climate Action Resolution Quarterly Update

The following action item was presented:

- Connect SoCal Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) Call 4 – Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice
 - The EEC approved a motion (16-0) to recommend that the Regional Council approve the Connect SoCal SCP Call 4 Guidelines and authorize staff to release the Call for Applications.

Additionally, the following information items were provided to the EEC:

- Water Policy and Local Conservation Actions
 - Staff from the Metropolitan Water District spoke on current drought conditions and regulations that had been adopted by the State of California in response to the current

- drought, as well as historic drought conditions and what Metropolitan and the state were doing in response.
- Staff from the Orange County Water District spoke about the groundwater replenishment system in Orange County that supplied 30% of the water that refilled their groundwater basin.
- Connect SoCal 2024 – Draft Vision, Goals, and Performance Measures
 - Staff provided an overview of Connect SoCal 2024 goals, plan performance measures, and timeline.
- The other three items on the agenda were not addressed due to a lack of time.

September 1 EEC Meeting

The EEC received and filed the following report:

- CEQA Initiation for the Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report

The following action items were presented:

- Transportation Conformity Determinations of Proposed Final 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Proposed Final 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment #2
 - SCAG received a total of 24 comments for the Draft FTIP and no comments were received for the draft 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment No. 2.
 - Comments on the 2023 FTIP were generally technical in nature and did not raise issues that affected the associated conformity analysis, thus no significant changes had been made to the proposed final FTIP and 2020 and the Connect SoCal Amendment #2.
 - SCAG staff determined that the proposed final 2023 FTIP and the proposed final 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment #2 continued to meet all federal transportation conformity requirements.
 - The EEC approved a motion (18-0) to recommend that the Regional Council approve the transportation conformity determinations of the proposed Final 2023 FTIP and the proposed Final 2020 Connect SoCal Amendment #2; and direct staff to submit to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approvals at their next meeting.
- SCAG Water Action Resolution
 - Members of the public provided comment regarding revisions to the resolution.
 - SCAG staff provided a presentation on the proposed Water Action Resolution, which affirmed a drought and water shortage emergency in the SCAG region and called 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.
 - The EEC approved a motion (17-0) to recommend that the resolution be modified and incorporate the elements as discussed, and reviewed at their next meeting.

Additionally, the following information items were provided to the EEC:

- Equity Analysis Update (formerly Environmental Justice Analysis) - Performance Measures
 - Staff provided a preview of their proposed updates to Connect SoCal 2024, Equity Analysis Performance Measures.

- Green Region Resource Areas Methodology for SCAG's Local Data Exchange (LDX)
 - Staff provided a presentation on SCAG's approach for fulfilling the SB375 requirement that the 2024 Connect SoCal Plan incorporate considerations for resource areas in the development of the sustainable communities strategy.

- Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) 12 Month Look Ahead
 - Staff provided a brief presentation on the look ahead on agenda items they were planning to bring forward to the EEC this year, which are subject to change.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A