



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

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**DATE:** April 6, 2023  
**TO:** Governing Board  
**FROM:** Dan Brotman, Council Member, City of Glendale  
**SUBJECT:** SCAG Energy & Environment Committee Report for AVCJPA Meeting

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**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 January 5, 2023.

The EEC received and filed the following report on January 5:

- Approval of Guidelines and Authorization to Release the Sustainable Communities Program - Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice (SCP CEEEJ) Call for Applications
  - Following the Regional Council's adoption of the 2020 Connect SoCal, SCAG's Sustainable Communities Program released three funding Calls for Applications to provide resources and direct technical assistance to local agencies across the region to support implementation of Connect SoCal.
    - The Calls focused on active transportation and safety, housing and sustainable development, and smart cities and mobility innovations.
  - SCAG's SCP provides resources and direct technical assistance to jurisdictions to complete important local planning efforts to support implementation of Connect SoCal. The SCP allows SCAG to strengthen partnerships with local agencies that are responsible for land use and transportation decisions and provides local jurisdictions with multiple opportunities to seek funding to meet the needs of their communities, address recovery and resiliency strategies considering COVID-19 and support regional goals.
  - In response to the social justice uprisings during 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic that further exposed racial and social inequities, the SCAG Regional Council adopted a resolution affirming the agency's commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California.
- Energy and Environment Committee Outlook and Future Agenda Items
  - Staff developed a 12-month look ahead for the EEC, to realize the goals and discussions committed to in the Policy Development Framework ("Framework") for Connect SoCal 2024 and to develop consensus around the policy priorities that will become final recommendations in Connect SoCal 2024.

- The Framework organizes content into three programmatic areas:
  1. Connect SoCal: Items within this area will center on the plan development process for 2024 and discussion of key policy issues and emerging trends for the 2024 Sustainable Communities Strategy portion of Connect SoCal.
  2. Local Assistance Program: In this programmatic area, staff provided informational and action items related to programs that assist regional and local partners.
  3. Regional Updates: This programmatic area will focus on federal and state policies and programs, and research and analysis of regional issues that can inform better planning and decision-making around environmental issues.
- Final 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)
  - The South Coast Air Quality Management District's 2022 air quality management plan has been prepared to attain the federal 2015 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard in the South Coast Air Basin which includes Orange County and non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, as well as in the Coachella Valley.
  - The annual average cost of implementing the 2022 AQMP is estimated to be about \$2.85 billion with a job impact ranging from 17,000 to 29,000 jobs forgone in an economy with more than 10 million jobs.
  - However, the implementation of the 2022 AQMP is expected to yield greater public health benefits, such as:
    - About \$19.4 billion annually by 2037 by avoiding annual average of 1,500 premature deaths,
    - 8,700 fewer hospitalizations,
    - 1,450 fewer emergency room visits,
    - Nearly 163,000 fewer days of absences from work and school.
- CARB Final 2022 Scoping Plan
  - The California Air Resources Board (CARB) 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality (Scoping Plan) is an actionable statewide blueprint to achieve climate goals and is directed to achieve the maximum, technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emission reductions. It does not include detail about individual programs or regulation design and does not supplant or create new statutes or regulations.
  - The update to the Scoping Plan reflects California's goal to assess progress towards the Senate Bill (SB) 32 target of reducing greenhouse gas emission to at least 40 percent below 1990 levels in 2030, and to achieve climate neutrality by 2045.
  - Following the adoption of the Scoping Plan, state agencies and CARB will examine their regulations, programs and policies to assess alignment with the Scoping Plan and identify changes needed to be on track to reach the state's climate goals.

- SCAG's Draft Digital Action Plan
  - In February 2021, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2, which pledged SCAG to assist in bridging the digital divide in underserved and unserved communities.
    - The digital divide is defined as the growing gap between the members of society who have reliable access to broadband services and/or adequate devices for connecting to the internet, and those who do not.
  - The Digital Action Plan is divided into four major goals:
    1. Accessibility and Affordability – Every household in the region should have access to affordable high-speed broadband services and high-quality devices.
    2. Adoption – All residents should have the confidence and skills to participate in digital activities.
    3. Consensus – Build partnerships and reach consensus that high-quality and affordable broadband is an essential service to everyone and provides economic, environmental and safety benefits to the region.
    4. Planning – Develop broadband technical tools and studies which provide value to the region.
  
- SCAG Climate Action Resolution Quarterly Update - 2nd Annual Update
  - The Regional Council's adopted the Climate Change Action Resolution (Resolution 21-628-1) to promote climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience in support of the 197 jurisdictions in Southern CA and the 19 million residents who call the SCAG region home.
  - Over the last two years, SCAG has been working to:
    - Develop a regional resilience framework to help the region plan and prepare for a changing climate and other potential near- and long-term disruptions to Southern CA.
    - Initiate a regional climate planning network that will provide technical assistance for local climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives.
    - Provide resource support and technical assistance for local jurisdictions to integrate climate planning in their local planning activities.
    - Evaluate the economic and job creation benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation practices for inclusion in regional planning efforts.
    - Develop climate adaptation and mitigation analysis and strategies for the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Attachment:

February 2, 2023 SCAG Energy & Environment Committee Report



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**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 November 3, 2023.

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

- Regional SCAG Climate Action Resolution Quarterly Update
  - On January 7, 2021, the Regional Council (RC) adopted Resolution 21-628-1 affirming a climate change crisis in Southern California and called on SCAG and others to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve regional resilience, and reduce hazards from a changing climate (the "Resolution").
  - This provides an update on the agency's progress in implementing said Resolution.
  - Resolution 21-628-1 calls on SCAG to develop a resilience framework to help the region plan and prepare for a changing climate.
  - SCAG will also evaluate the economic and job creation benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation practices for inclusion in regional planning efforts.
  
- Status Update on Clean Air Act Highway Sanction Clocks in SCAG Region
  - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two disapprovals of air quality state implementation plan (SIP) which involve local rules of three local air districts within the SCAG region.
  - One of the two SIP disapprovals has been finalized and will trigger a highway sanction clock (prohibition on Federal funds for highway projects within a sanctioned area) in the

Western Mojave Desert area upon the effective date of the disapproval on October 31, 2022.

- Staff has been working closely with staff of the impacted air districts to monitor their efforts and seek to turn off highway sanction clocks as soon as possible before the highway sanction can be imposed.
  
- SCAG's Draft Digital Action Plan
  - In February 2021, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2, which pledged SCAG to assist in bridging the digital divide (the growing gap between members of society who have reliable access to broadband services and/or adequate devices for connecting to the internet, and those who do not) in underserved and unserved communities.
  - SCAG's Digital Action Plan lays out the action the agency will take to provide access to broadband services for residents and foster an equitable, prosperous, and resilient region.
  - The resolution directed staff to (1) develop a Digital Action Plan, (2) Collect and invest in broadband data for mapping and analysis, (3) conduct studies which propose solutions and/or strategies to assist in the deployment of broadband infrastructure, and (4) incorporate broadband planning into SCAG's programs, including the development of future Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies.
  
- Transmittal to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) of Final 2022 Air Quality Management Plan Appendix IV-C Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and Transportation Control Measures
  - Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) is being prepared to attain the federal 2015 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard in the South Coast Air Basin.
  - The 2022 AQMP incorporates new data, emissions inventories, ambient measurements, and air quality models.
  - SCAG's role in the 2022 AQMP development process includes providing the socio-economic growth forecast and regional transportation demand model output data to the South Coast AQMD for use in estimating and forecasting emission inventories and airshed modeling.
  
- Planning Context: Natural & Working Lands (Existing Conditions)
  - In preparation for the 2024 Connect SoCal Plan, SCAG staff arranged two presentations to provide context for the current state of conservation of natural and agricultural lands in the SCAG region in the face of drought, climate change, and development pressure.
  - In addition to protecting their environmental, health, and economic benefits, conservation of natural and farmlands is one of 2020 Connect SoCal's strategies for greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

- Local Information Services Team (LIST) Status Update for Connect SoCal 2024 Local Data Exchange (LDX) Process
  - On May 23, 2022, SCAG launched the Local Data Exchange (LDX) process - a local jurisdiction's opportunity to provide input related to the future growth of employment, household, and land use to help the development of Connect SoCal 2024.
  - The LDX process gathers updated land use, growth, and related information from local jurisdictions to link and align local planning with regional plan vision, goals, and objectives—namely, SCAG's climate, mobility, economy, and sustainability goals.
  - To develop a sound regional plan, staff produced a set of growth forecasts of households and employment and GIS maps for each of the region's 197 local jurisdictions to review.
  
- 2022 Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report Release
  - In July 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-623-2, affirming its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California and subsequently adopted the Racial Equity Early Action Plan (EAP) outlining goals, strategies, and actions to advance equity.
  - The EAP included a Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report (Baseline Conditions Report) that highlighted past transportation and housing policies and provided a preliminary baseline assessment of racial equity in the region.
    - Equity indicators were selected after considering Connect SoCal's vision to chart a path towards a more mobile, sustainable, and prosperous region, and grouped into categories: Economic Vitality, Healthy and Complete Communities, Mobility, and Environment.
  - The equity indicators were not intended to be exhaustive but to reflect a series of intersecting inequities that could/should lead to further study.
    - Findings from the 2021 Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report showed that people of color tended to be more burdened by various impacts compared to their white counterparts.
    - Similarly for mobility impacts, Black residents are two times more likely of not owning a car than white residents.
    - People of color also face greater exposure to air toxics for environmental pollution than white residents.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A