



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

DATE: May 25, 2023
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 April 6, 2023.

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

- Connect SoCal 2024: Locally Reviewed Growth Forecast Demographic and Economic Evaluation
 - With the help of an expert panel and consultants, staff developed a methodology and forecasted high, medium, and low regional growth ranges in Fall 2021. Staff then conducted a comprehensive outreach effort to all 197 local jurisdictions called the Local Data Exchange (LDX). SCAG asked local jurisdictions to review and provide feedback on the preliminary household and employment growth forecasts as well as several other Connect SoCal data layers by December 2, 2022.
 - The locally-reviewed forecast projects 2.3 percent higher household growth, 1.8 percent higher population growth, and 1.0 percent higher employment growth than the preliminary forecast. This indicates that upon integrating the growth outlook of the region's local plans, Southern California is likely to grow more than was projected based on principally demographic and economic drivers as assessed in late 2021.

- While population growth is expected to continue, albeit more slowly, there are two major reasons that the growth rate in households is expected to exceed the population growth rate. First, the population is ageing even more quickly than anticipated, increasing the number of small households. Second, evidence is emerging that continued strength in housing production, despite low population growth, is beginning to address the previously existing housing shortage.
- Status Update for Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment 3 and 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Consistency Amendment #23-03
 - SCAG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the six (6) county region of Southern California and the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) per state law. As such, it is responsible for developing and maintaining the FTIP and Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS or Connect SoCal) in cooperation with the State (i.e., Caltrans), CTCs, and public transit operators. Both the FTIP and RTP/SCS are developed through a “bottom-up” approach.
 - On January 5, 2023, SCAG’s Regional Council authorized the release of the Draft Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment 3 and 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment #23-03 for public review and comments.
 - After review of feedback, SCAG staff concluded that the revisions would be minor and technical in nature, and do not alter the draft amendments' findings or conclusions, including the associated transportation conformity analysis and determination. However, as a precautionary measure, SCAG staff posted the revisions on SCAG’s website (anticipated) in mid-April for another 15-day public review.
 - Following the 15-day public review, SCAG staff will seek RC approval of the proposed final Connect SoCal 2020 Amendment 3 and 2023 FTIP Consistency Amendment #23-03 in May/June 2023
- Climate Action Resolution Quarterly Update
 - Since the adoption of Resolution 21-628-1 on January 7, 2021, SCAG has pursued a number of activities to reduce hazards from climate change and strengthen the resilience of the SCAG region. These actions emphasize adaptation to emerging climate-related hazards, conservation of natural lands and essential resources, mitigation of GHG emissions to reduce the impacts to the region from a changing climate, and the need to strengthen partnerships amongst local governments.
 - On January 7, 2021, the Regional Council (RC) adopted the Climate Change Action Resolution (Resolution 21-628-1) affirming a climate change crisis in

Southern California and called on SCAG and other local and regional partners to join together to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve regional resilience, and reduce hazards from a changing climate (the "Resolution"). The RC's action aims to promote climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience in support of the 197 jurisdictions in Southern California 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 California;
 - 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;
 - Initiate a Regional Advanced Mitigation Program (RAMP) as described in the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR);
 - Develop a work plan to advance the Accelerated Electrification strategy envisioned in Connect SoCal;
 - Evaluate the economic and job creation benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation practices for inclusion in regional planning efforts; and
 - Develop climate adaptation and mitigation analysis and strategies for the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).
- The Subcommittee recommended the following considerations for the development of Connect SoCal 2024:
 - Define Resilience: The capacity of the SCAG region's built, social, economic and natural systems to anticipate and effectively respond to changing conditions, acute shocks, and chronic stressors by creating multiple opportunities for a sustainable, thriving and equitable future;
 - Prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities subject to climate hazards: Help the people, places, and infrastructure that are most at risk for climate change impacts, recognizing that disadvantaged communities are often overburdened;
 - Build strong partnerships: Coordinate across multiple sectors, scales, and stakeholders to ensure all people have access to the fundamental physical, health, and social benefits of our natural and built systems;
 - Apply ecosystem-based approaches: Incorporate ecosystem resilience, protection of ecosystem services, and sustainable resource management; and,

- Maximize mutual benefits: Support resilience and conservation initiatives across built, social, economic, and natural systems, such as disaster preparedness, to ensure synergies across systems and reduce/avoid impacts of maladaptation.
- Clean Transportation Technology Policy
 - With the advancement and proliferation of clean transportation technologies, coupled with the urgency of addressing climate change, the vision of a zeroemission transportation system is a core component of regional and state policy. SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS or Connect SoCal 2020) identified a holistic and coordinated approach for de-carbonizing or electrifying passenger vehicles, transit, and goods movement vehicles, further formalizing SCAG's vision for a zeroemission transportation system.
 - The Emerging Technologies Committee recommended that the Regional Council adopt Resolution No. 23-654-5 to formalize SCAG's Clean Transportation Technology Policy with the long-term aim of supporting the development, commercialization and deployment of a zero-emission transportation system and its supporting elements to:
 - Improve air quality;
 - Lower the health risks to all residents in the region;
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet federal, state, and regional targets; and,
 - Promote economic development, resilience, and equity.
 - The Resolution also affirms SCAG's commitment to Technology Neutrality, allowing operators to choose and invest in the most appropriate technology for their specific needs, while also encouraging further innovation in this area.
- SCAG Water Action Resolution Implementation Update
 - The Committee discussed recent trends in water use; in particular urban water use in California. They also discussed the opportunities to build on the successes through urban efficiency and water reuse and storm water capture. Lastly, they discussed the cost of the various strategies and some of the co-benefits.
- Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337): Status Update on Stakeholder Outreach and Highlights of Preliminary Approaches to Major Components
 - Staff provided an update on this item. She shared stakeholder outreach approach and the preliminary approaches to major components of the PEIR.
- Equity Analysis Update - Priority Equity Communities

- Staff provided an update on Connect SoCal 2024 Equity Analysis which met the Federal requirements for environmental justice, with their priority equity communities.