



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

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**DATE:** February 1, 2024  
**TO:** Governing Board  
**FROM:** Joaquin T. Siques, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** SCAG Regional Council District Review

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Governing Board:

1. Find this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), the Common Sense exemption that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) supporting the current Regional Council district composition.

**BACKGROUND:**

As detailed on the attached letter from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) dated December 8, 2023, SCAG Bylaws require that in years ending in three and eight, the Regional Council (RC) review the composition of the SCAG RC Districts (Districts) based upon the most recent California Department of Finance (DOF) city population data.

Earlier this year, SCAG President Art Brown created a District Evaluation Committee (Committee) to make recommendations to the RC. The Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. At the meeting, SCAG staff provided a presentation on the bylaws' requirements, the 2018 District Evaluation process, 2023 population changes, and staff's recommendations. After discussion, the Committee approved the following staff recommendations subject to input from SCAGs subregional partners:

- District population target size and deviation (245,000-345,000 with +/- 50,000) remain unchanged;
- District boundaries remain unchanged;
- No Districts be added; and
- SCAG staff should seek input from subregional partners regarding any changes to the current composition of the Districts in their respective subregion and then return to the Committee with that input.

The Committee also discussed the need for a future discussion regarding a more thorough review of the District Evaluation process and directed staff to seek input from our subregional partners on areas that the Committee should consider when conducting that review. That process will occur in the future and SCAG staff will engage with the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority (AVCJPA) in the future to seek that input.

Agencies within the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority (AVCJPA) are represented in two Regional Council Districts. This occurs throughout the region due to the formation of Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) and agencies belonging to multiple JPAs. The Cities of La Canada-Flintridge, Pasadena and South Pasadena are represented in regional district 36, which is identified as part of a San Gabriel Council of Governments subregion. The Cities of Glendale and Burbank are represented in regional district 42, which is identified as the Arroyo Verdugo Cities subregion.

The AVCJPA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the Regional Council district composition and recommended support in favor of the current composition. When the time comes for a future discussion regarding a more thorough review of the District Evaluation process, AVCJPA staff will bring that item to the AVCJPA TAC for discussion.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The proposed action of submitting a letter supporting the current Regional Council district composition is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), the Common Sense exemption. This activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA only applies to programs or projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact with submitting a letter supporting the current Regional Council district composition.

Attachment:

2023 SCAG District Evaluation Process Letter