Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

ITEM# IX A 3

DATE: July 30, 2026

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Sheila Rossi, Governing Board Member / SCAG Delegate

SUBJECT: June 2026 SCAG Delegate Report

BACKGROUND

On June 4, 2026, I attended the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Community, Economic and Human Development Committee meeting as the AVCJPA representative. The two principal matters affecting AVCJPA communities were the formation of the 7th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Subcommittee and SCAG's proposed Senate Bill 79 mapping methodology.

7th Cycle RHNA Subcommittee. CEHD unanimously recommended formation of a 17-member subcommittee to develop the RHNA methodology, advise the Regional Council, and serve as the final hearing body for appeals. The proposed composition provides four seats to Los Angeles County, three each to Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, and two each to Imperial and Ventura counties. During member discussion, I raised the concern that Los Angeles County - with more than half of the region's population, 88 cities, and nine COG/JPA structures - receives only four of the 17 seats. My concern is with the structure, not the prospective members. This structure is a vast improvement over the previous cycle structure of one seat per county. However, a regional methodology must reflect the different circumstances of coastal, urban, suburban, industrial, mountain, historic, and small-city communities. SCAG representatives explained they were attempting to balance equity with committee manageability and quorum needs. Non-appointed members are welcome to attend meetings and provide feedback to the body. The subcommittee is scheduled to begin work in August 2026, with final allocations anticipated in October 2028.

County	Population	Committee Members	Council of Governments
Los Angeles County	9,808,667	4	6 COGS + LA + 2 JPA (9)
Orange County	3,165,820	3	1
Riverside County	2,478,600	3	2
San Bernardino County	2,197,104	2	1
Imperial County	179,000	2	1
Ventura County	840,000	2	1
Total	**18,669,191**	**17**	**15**

SB 79 methodology and implementation. SCAG presented its proposed methodology for the state-required map of transit-oriented development stops and zones. I commended staff for managing highly technical work under a compressed deadline, but raised concerns that cities received materially different information within a short period as HCD continued to clarify its interpretation. Cities considering the alternative-plan option still lacked formal written guidance on timing, implementation with unconfirmed maps, and treatment of local historic resources. I also noted that development can be delayed by repeated state-level changes made without sufficient attention to local implementation, not simply by local zoning rules.

Delegate position and outcome. Because the methodology and state direction were not sufficiently settled, I voted against recommending approval of the SB 79 approach. The motion passed 32-3, with Councilmembers Chelsea Byers, Debra Dorst-Porada, and me voting no. A separate Connect SoCal 2024 implementation update was deferred because of time constraints.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATION:

Supports AVCJPA regional coordination and advocacy on housing, land use, and equitable representation in regional decision-making.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Attachment: None.

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SUBJECT: July 2026 SCAG Delegate Report

BACKGROUND

On July 2, 2026, I attended both the SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development Committee and Regional Council meetings as the AVCJPA representative. The meetings included final action on the Senate Bill 79 mapping methodology, discussion of the committee's future work program, and examples of local housing implementation supported through REAP 2.0.

Written state guidance and accountability. Between the June and July meetings, SCAG revised its SB 79 methodology following additional HCD direction on planned transit projects, including stations with an adopted locally preferred alternative. During CEHD's future-agenda item, I requested a formal discussion of standards for written state-agency guidance affecting SB 79 and the upcoming RHNA methodology. I commended Elizabeth Carvajal and the SCAG team for their professional work, while emphasizing that informal or advisory input can leave SCAG and cities carrying the legal and implementation risk. I requested two specific follow-ups: documentation of the legal basis for the methodology and a policy of obtaining written HCD guidance before material RHNA decisions are finalized.

Regional Council action. During public comment, I repeated the request for a clear written record and noted that inconsistent mapping decisions among MPOs were already generating legal concerns. I urged SCAG to end reliance on informal guidance that can produce regional inconsistency and obscure accountability for state policy decisions. The Regional Council subsequently approved the SB 79 approach and methodology. I will continue advocating for formal written guidance at the outset of the 7th RHNA cycle to protect staff, member agencies, and local jurisdictions.

Housing implementation examples. CEHD also received presentations on two completed Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) projects. Culver City used a $505,000 award for the Fox Hills Specific Plan, which is intended to transform approximately 280 acres of underused office and commercial land into a walkable mixed-use district with capacity for at least 5,000 housing units. San Fernando used $1.125 million to implement its Housing Element through zoning and specific-plan amendments, objective design standards, an updated historic survey, streamlined applications, and a community stabilization manual. These projects illustrate the value of regional funding that helps cities convert housing plans into locally tailored implementation.

Additional Regional Council action. The Regional Council also authorized release of the Draft 2027 Federal Transportation Improvement Program and Connect SoCal 2024 Amendment 2 for public review through August 4, 2026.

Appointment to Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee

I was appointed to SCAG's Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee, which will help guide development of the region's next Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The appointment gives AVCJPA a direct voice in shaping the long-range policies and priorities that will guide transportation, housing, land use, and infrastructure planning across Southern California.

Community Hubs Needs Assessment Survey

SCAG is seeking input from elected officials and city staff through a Community Hubs Needs Assessment Survey. The survey will help inform development of SCAG's Community Hubs Toolkit for non-venue cities interested in hosting community celebrations and other activities connected to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I encourage AVCJPA member agencies to participate so the toolkit reflects local needs, operational realities, and the types of regional support cities would find most useful.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATION:

Supports AVCJPA regional coordination and advocacy on housing implementation, state accountability, and protection of member-agency interests.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Attachment: None.