



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
April 1, 2021

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) held its meeting telephonically and electronically given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s recent Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Chair)	District 46
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto (Vice Chair)	District 8
Hon. Cindy Allen, Long Beach	District 30
Hon. Victoria Baca, Moreno Vallery	WRCOG
Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland	ICTC
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake	WRCOG
Hon. Julian Gold, Beverly Hills	WSCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio	CVAG
Sup. Luis Plancarte	Imperial County
Hon. Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake	District 11
Sup. Carmen Ramirez	Ventura County
Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG



Hon. Rhonda Shader, Placentia	President’s Appointment
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG
Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino	SBCCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill	GCCOG

Members Not Present

Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate	GCCOG
Hon. Laura Hernandez, Port Hueneme	District 45
Hon. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	President’s Appointment

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair David Pollock called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair David Pollock and SCAG staff provided instructions for public comment. Chair Pollock opened the Public Comment Period.

SCAG staff announced that 11 public comments were received prior to the deadline for written public comments on Wednesday, February 3 at 5pm, and those comments have been transmitted to members. No public comments were received after the deadline.

Seeing there were no public comment speakers, Chair Pollock closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2021 FTIP Conformity Determination

Rongsheng Luo, Air Quality and Conformity Program Manager, provided a presentation, beginning with background on the FTIP. He reviewed past steps, including the Regional Council’s authorization of the Draft 2021 FTIP’s release for a 30-day comment and review period. He outlined comments received, noting all comments were technical in nature and did not affect conformity. He stated that summary of comments and SCAG staff’s responses are included in the packet, and he

confirmed that the proposed Final 2021 FTIP continues to demonstrate transportation conformity. He elaborated on the five conformity tests sustained. In conclusion, he stated staff's recommendation and outlined next steps.

Councilmember Rhonda Shader, Placentia, President's Appointment, thanked staff for their work and noted the importance of this document.

A MOTION was made (Shader) to Recommend that the Regional Council approve the transportation conformity determination for the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program; and direct staff to submit it to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval at its March 4, 2021 meeting. Motion was SECONDED (Valdivia) and passed by the following votes:

AYE/S: Allen, Baca, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Ehrenkranz, Gold, Horne, Huff, Kalmick, Litster, Mahmud, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Rollins, Shader, Springer and Valdivia (24)

NOE/S: None (0)

ABSTAIN/S: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting - January 7, 2021

Receive and File

3. Resolution for SCAG to Bridge the Digital Divide in Underserved Communities

4. Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) Program Summary and Status

A MOTION was made (Plancarte) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Huff) and passed by the following votes:

AYE/S: Allen, Baca, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Davis, Ehrenkranz, Gold, Horne, Huff, Litster, Mahmud, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Rollins, Shader, Springer and Valdivia (25)

NOE/S: None (0)

ABSTAIN/S: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. SoCal Greenprint Update

India Brookover, Associate Regional Planner, provided a presentation on SoCal Greenprint, covering progress made and background information. She began by describing the Greenprint as a tool to help users make better land use and transportation infrastructure decisions to support conversation investments based on the best available scientific data. She demonstrated how the tool will appear to users, and she stated that it will be freely available, requiring no special training. She noted that The Nature Conservancy and its subconsultant were selected given their experience developing similar platforms, including a comparable tool for the Bay Area.

Ms. Brookover continued by highlighting goals of the SoCal Greenprint, which were developed in conjunction with stakeholder outreach. She described the SoCal Greenprint's alignment with Connect SoCal, the recently adopted resolution on climate change and the Governor's 30x30 Executive Order. She further addressed stakeholder engagement, listing engaged stakeholders such as Audubon, Native American Land Conservancy and UCLA. With input from stakeholders, data was organized into six themes, such as agriculture and water. She continued by noting key users and synergy with SCAG's housing efforts. In conclusion, she presented the project timeline, reviewed accomplishments in the past year and projected next steps.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, commented on balancing growth with conservation, and she described relevant housing bills that impede local control.

Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, thanked staff for their work and commented on the work of The Nature Conservancy, specifically in terms of conservation easements which protect use. She continued by highlighted a wildlife corridor project in Ventura County, and concluded by noting the need for housing, while balancing this need with conservation.

Councilmember Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, asked for details on the online outreach campaign. Ms. Brookover described webinars and training sessions planned. Abby Ramsden of The Nature Conservancy elaborated on outreach strategies and plans.

Councilmember Julian Gold, Beverly Hills, WSCCOG, asked about metrics for success and whether there are measures for user experience or impact. Abby Ramsden, The Nature Conservancy, commented on the importance of balancing transparency with trackability. Ms. Ramsden spoke

about intentions of developing case studies which illustrate use and guide development.

Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, commented about the 30x30 goal and asked for current statistics on open space and areas to be prioritized for open space and water use. Ms. Brookover clarified that this goal is a Governor's initiative, and this is not a goal of the Greenprint itself, although the Greenprint can be used to find land to prioritize for conservation. Ms. Ramsden spoke about The Nature Conservancy's advocacy around the 30x30 goal, and she specified that the Greenprint shares relevant information relevant to the goal.

Councilmember Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, asked a follow-up question about the percentage of habitat land currently conserved. Ms. Brookover commented that this is being determined by the Governor's Office.

6. GO-Biz Market Development Strategy

Joseph Cryer, Associate Regional Planner, introduced Tyson Eckerle of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Mr. Cryer reviewed the five implementation strategies for Connect SoCal and highlighted the key connection of accelerated electrification. He elaborated on relevant ongoing projects which SCAG is spearheading, such as a regional roadmap for truck infrastructure, grants to bring electric and hydrogen buses to the region, a last-mile freight delivery program study and the annual sustainability awards.

Mr. Eckerle began his presentation on the Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Market Development Strategy by providing an overview on GO-Biz's overarching efforts. He then provided background on Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20 and policy directives which determined roles of various agencies. He continued by displaying Governor's Newsom's budget proposal, highlighting funding towards ZEVs and relevant initiatives. He explained that the ZEV Market Development Strategy was due on January 31 and updates will occur every three years. He discussed the organization of the strategy effort, based upon core principles such as equity and resilience. He then spoke about the pillars of the strategy, including vehicles, infrastructure, end users and workforce, and he followed by noting intended outcomes of the strategy.

Mr. Eckerle shared an overview of agencies included in the ZEV Market Development Strategy and their respective objectives. He then identified stakeholders and highlighted relevant objectives of each. He continued by outlining objectives of cities and counties, such as reducing car dependence, streamlining permitting and creating emissions free zones. He closed by speaking about objectives of metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), like including ZEV policies in Sustainable Community Strategies and Regional Transportation Plans and developing regional readiness plans. In closing, he underscored GO-Biz's website as a source for additional information.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, commented on difficulties for renters to install ZEV infrastructure, as installation is dependent on property owners. She asked about incentives for property owners of older buildings, where the cost of installing infrastructure may be significant. Mr. Eckerle acknowledged these difficulties and talked about a relevant tax credit program, the CALeVIP program. He elaborated on efforts to install charging plazas and hydrogen fueling stations, while noting that overnight charging options are more convenient and that work in this area is ongoing. Councilmember Mahmud recommended considering a property tax deduction tied to installation of ZEV infrastructure.

Councilmember Julian Gold, Beverly Hills, WSCCOG, commented on the importance of the topic and asked if transmission capacity has been considered by the administration. He noted concerns of potential overload and associated costs. Mr. Eckerle stated that this issue was being considered and that key agencies like the California Energy Commission and California Public Utilities Commission were analyzing both charger need and back-end grid. He spoke about vehicle-grid integration through managed charging, which can decrease the amount of energy consumed, and he also addressed hydrogen charging, touching upon the medium- and heavy-duty sectors.

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, asked about available resources for planning and conversions of municipal fleet to ZEVs. Mr. Eckerle shared ZEV-readiness plans and mentioned possible funding through the California Energy Commission. He also remarked on resources from the Department of General Services pertaining to vendor agreements. Joseph Cryer highlighted the Alternative Fuels Data Center as a resource, and he noted shared purchase agreements from the City of Los Angeles as an additional resource. Mr. Cryer also spoke about relevant policy initiatives planned by SCAG, and he offered to further discuss via email.

7. Food Waste Recycling Program (SB1383/AB1826)

Ms. Maria Rosales-Ramirez of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District presented a Virtual Tour of the Food Waste Recycling Program. She began her presentation with a video clip from the movie "Back to the Future," in which waste was used to fuel a vehicle, and she compared this to current efforts at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. She provided background on the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, including its mission and its operations, spanning material recycling to green energy production. She reiterated the ability of the Sanitation District to turn waste into resources. She provided statistics on local waste which ends up in landfills, noting that nine million tons of waste in the county is buried in landfills annually, and one-third of such waste is organic. She commented that food waste disposed in landfills can release methane into the environment. She reviewed state regulations which require organics to be diverted from landfills, highlight AB 1826 and SB 1383. AB 1826 requires composting or anaerobic digestion for establishments if more than two cubic yards per week is generated, and SB 1383 sets reduction requirements in landfilled organic waste.

She showcased the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF), which handles recycling, and the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant, where wastewater is treated. She spoke about anaerobic digesters in the Joint Water Pollution Control (JWPC) Plant and its connection to food waste recycling. She delineated steps of food waste recycling, from intake to output. She explained that, at Los Angeles Sanitation District, food waste recycling begins with collecting source-separated food and delivering it to the PHMRF. She explained that 30 tons per day of food waste is “slurried” at PHMRF, she displayed a video of the process, which she compared to a “food press.” She noted the ability of the PHMRF to separate plastic products, like bags and utensils, from the food waste. Food waste is then “slurry” and put into tanks prior to being pumped into tanker trucks and taken to JWPC, where anaerobic digestion occurs. She described the process of food waste and wastewater solids digestion, in which bacteria eat this content and release methane gas. The gas that is produced is used to generate power via jet engines. She stated that the plant produces 20 megawatts of energy, enough to power 20,000 homes. This energy powers the plant and is put onto the grid. Surplus biogas is used as vehicle fuel, and she explained the refining process prior to storage and distribution. Los Angeles County Sanitation District’s existing fueling station is now supplied by this surplus biogas, so trash collection trucks are fueled by the trash that is collected. In total, Los Angeles Sanitation District processes about 300 tons per day of slurry, and slurry is received from a variety of disposal companies and services. She explained the goal of doubling production, and she hypothesized future uses for the biogas, like injection into natural gas pipelines. She closed by announcing scheduled virtual tours to provide more technical information.

Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, asked for background on why waste sources are combined in household receptacles, and he suggested separation as a way to reduce waste. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez suggested that this is a question for jurisdictions, who determine what trash service is provided.

Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, thanked Ms. Rosales-Ramirez for her presentation and commented on a company in Oxnard, Gil’s Onions, which recycles 100 percent of their onion waste into electricity through an anaerobic process.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, commented on her work as a part of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Taskforce, and she spoke about SB 1383 penalty mandated. She complimented the program and asked if metals can also be separated from waste. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez explained that the machine can become stuck, and she talked about the importance of education in terms of separating waste sources.

Councilmember Sharon Springer, Burbank, SFVCOG, asked about leftover pulp from the process. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez stated that the residual pulp is landfilled.

Councilmember Elaine Litster, Simi Valley, VCOG, asked if specific portions of green waste can be processed similarly to food waste. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez responded that it can be done, but she noted concern about green waste dulling the blades of the system in place, as the machine is not designed to handle this material. She specified that the PHMRF does handle green waste, but in a different manner.

Chair David Pollock asked about food waste from homes, and whether it should be disposed of through the trash or through the garbage disposal system, which reaches the sewer system. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez postulated that it may be better to use the garbage disposal into the sewer system, as food waste in landfills could release methane for 30 years, while anaerobic digestion can occur in 14 days.

Chair Pollock thanked Ms. Maria Rosales-Ramirez for her presentation. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez thanked members and shared contact information for Los Angeles County Sanitation District staff.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pollock welcomed new EEC members Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, Regional Councilmember Laura Hernandez, Regional Councilmember Randall Putz, Regional Councilmember Cindy Allen, and Regional Councilmember Joe Kalmick, who provided brief introductions.

Chair Pollock announced that there will be a Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees in March, and there will not be an EEC meeting in March.

STAFF REPORT

There was no Staff Report provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:08 a.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Peter Waggoner
Energy and Environment Committee Clerk

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]
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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2020-21

MEMBERS	Representing	Jun (GA)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Allen, Cindy	Long Beach, District 30									1				1
Baca, Victoria	Moreno Valley, WRCOG								1	1				2
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC		0		0	0	0		1	1				2
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, AVCJPA		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, SGVCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Davila, Maria	South Gate, GCCOG		0		0	0	0		0	0				0
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Ehrenkranz, Jordan	Canyon Lake, WRCOG		0		0	0	1		0	1				2
Gold, Julian	Beverly Hills, WSCCOG								1	1				2
Hernandez, Laura	Port Hueneme, District 45									0				0
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG						1		1	1				3
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, District 20									1				1
Mahmud, Diana	So. Pasadena, SGVCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Moran, Cynthia	Chino Hills, SBCTA	D	1	D	1	0	1	D	1	1				5
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, CVAG	D	1	D	1	1	1	D	1	1				6
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County	D	1	D	1	1	1	D	1	1				6
Pollock, David (CHAIR)	Moorpark, VCOG	D	1	D	1	1	1	D	1	1				6
Putz, Randall	Big Bear Lake, District 11									1				1
Ramirez, Carmen	Oxnard, RC District 45		1		1	1	1			1				5
Raths, Greg	Mission Viejo, OCCOG		1		1	1	0		1	1				5
Robertson, Deborah (VICE CHAIR)	Rialto, RC District 8		1		1	1	0		1	1				5
Rollins, Richard	Port Hueneme, VCOG		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Shader, Rhonda	Placentia, President's Appointment		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Silva, Jesus	Fullerton, President's Appointment				0	1	1		1	0				3
Springer, Sharon	Burbank, SFVCOG		1		1	1	1		1	1				6
Valdivia, John	San Bernardino, SBCCOG		1		0	1	1		1	1				5
Wilson, Edward H.J.	Signal Hill, GCCOG		1		0	1	1		0	1				4

Attachment: EEC Attendance Sheet 2020-21 (Minutes of the Meeting - February 4, 2021)