



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
September 2, 2021

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 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.igm2.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 Valley	WRCOG
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Rick Denison, Yucca Valley	SBCTA
Hon. Julian Gold, Beverly Hills	WSCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Dan Kalmick, Huntington Beach	OCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach	District 20
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. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	President’s Appointment
Hon. Connor Traut, Buena Park	OCCOG



Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino	SBCCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill	GCCOG

Members Not Present

Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland	ICTC
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate	GCCOG
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair David Pollock called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Supervisor Luis Plancarte, Imperial County, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Pollock opened the Public Comment Period.

SCAG staff announced that 10 public comments were received prior to 5:00 p.m. deadline on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 and read them into the record as follows: Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League; Michael Wellborn, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks; Assemblymember Laura Friedman, California Assembly, 43rd District; Thomas E. Bowman, Bowman Change, Inc.; Hector Alessandro Negrete, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice; Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza, Warehouse Worker Resource Center; Demi Espinoza, National Parks Conservation Association; Manny Gonez, TreePeople; and Mike Young, California League of Conservation Voters, all in support of the SoCal Greenprint (Agenda Item 6) and one in opposition from Nick Cammarota of California Building Industry Association.

Melanie Schlotterback, Hills for Everyone, commented on Agenda Item No. 6, SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update, in support of SoCal Greenprint.

Barb Kipreos, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, commented on Agenda Item No. 6, SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update, in support of SoCal Greenprint.

Dan Silver, Executive Director of Endangered Habitats League, commented on Agenda Item No. 6, SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update, in support of SoCal Greenprint.

SCAG staff read into record four comments received after the 5:00 p.m. deadline on Wednesday,



June 30, 2021 from Will Wright, American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter; Geary Hund and Susan Phillips, Mojave Desert Land Trust and Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability; Sedy Barrows, Council of Mexican Federations; and the Our Water LA Core Team: Heal the Bay, LAANE, LA Waterkeeper, Nature for All, NRDC, Pacoima Beautiful, SCOPE, The Nature Conservancy, and TreePeople, all in support of the SoCal Greenprint (Agenda Item 6).

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Pollock stated that Item 4 would be taken before item 3.

Items have been reorganized to reflect the order of presentations.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting - April 1, 2021

Receive and File

2. 2020 Sustainable Communities Program - Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications - Proposed Project List

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

AYES: Allen, Baca, Brotman, Copeland, Davis, Denison, Gold, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Moran, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Rath, Robertson, Rollins, Silva, Traut, and Valdivia (21)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEM

4. Overview of Regional Transportation Conformity

Rongsheng Luo, Acting Manager of Conformity and Compliance Monitoring, reported that SCAG was responsible for the transportation conformity analysis of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for the six-county SCAG region. He further commented that the regional transportation conformity determination was also a complicated process that has many components which involves many agencies at the federal, state, regional, and local levels, has various requirements, and can cause serious consequences if not met. He provided an overview of the regional transportation conformity and included an explanation of:

- what needs to meet transportation conformity;
- how often regional transportation conformity is required;
- who makes the regional transportation conformity determination;
- what areas and what pollutants are subject to transportation conformity in SCAG region;
- what are the roles of federal, state, and regional/local agencies;
- what are the basic regional transportation conformity requirements; and
- what are the consequences of a regional transportation conformity failure.

ACTION ITEM

3. Release of Conformity Analysis of Draft Connect SoCal (2020 RTP/SCS) Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment No. 21-05 for Public Review and Comment

Mr. Luo reported that SCAG had developed the Draft Connect SoCal Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment No. 21-05 including the associated transportation conformity analysis as requested by County Transportation Commissions. He explained that the conformity analysis demonstrates that the draft amendments meet all federal transportation conformity requirements. He further indicated that staff was seeking a recommendation from the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) and approval of the Regional Council (RC) to release the conformity analysis as part of the draft amendments document for public review and comment. He stated that pending approval by the EEC, the Transportation Committee (TC), and the RC, the draft amendments report, which includes the associated transportation conformity analysis, will be released on July 1, 2021 for a thirty (30) day public review and comment period. Lastly, he reported that upon completion of the public review and comment, the Connect SoCal Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment No. 21-05 are scheduled to be presented to the TC and the transportation conformity analysis portion is scheduled to be presented to the EEC for recommended adoption by the RC in October 2021.

A MOTION was made (Ramirez) to recommend to the Regional Council (RC) to authorize the Executive Director to release the transportation conformity analysis of the Draft Connect SoCal

(2020 RTP/SCS) Amendment No. 1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment No. 21-05 for Public Review and Comment. Motion was SECONDED (Huff) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Baca, Brotman, Copeland, Davis, Denison, Gold, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Moran, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Rollins, Silva, and Traut (21)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. California Air Resources Board (CARB) 2022 Scoping Plan Update

Sarah Dominguez, Senior Regional Planner reported that in early June 2021, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) held a series of kickoff meetings to initiate the Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan. She stated the update to the Scoping Plan was due in Fall/Winter 2022 and will reflect California's goal to assess progress towards the Senate Bill (SB) 32 target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission to 40 percent below 1990 levels in 2030, and to achieve climate neutrality by 2045. She indicated CARB was seeking comments by July 9, 2021 and SCAG was considering submitting a brief letter by the deadline to request clarification or assessment of GHG reduction pathways that would lead to future policies or regulations, provide insights on the challenges and opportunities for advancing proposed pathways in the SCAG region, and seek alignment between the Scoping Plan and SCAG's regional policies for reducing GHG emission in Connect SoCal.

6. SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update

Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning, introduced this Agenda Item No. 6 and stated it was an important tool that they were developing for the region to help local jurisdictions, transportation partners, the development community and conservation organizations to advance conservation housing, transportation goals and strategies that the Regional Council approved in Connect SoCal. She indicated Jason Greenspan, Manager of Sustainability, would provide an update on the stakeholder outreach process, information on the rapid assessment pilots, and discuss the process for compiling and reviewing their existing data sets.

Mr. Greenspan stated that the SoCal Greenprint will be the first conservation-focused data tool for all of SCAG's six counties and was being built with a wide range of stakeholders who are shaping the

region's future. He indicated the Greenprint will convert existing data into interactive user-friendly maps, so decision makers can balance growth, while protecting biodiversity, and ultimately can serve as a discretionary tool and resource for SCAG member agencies and stakeholders to improve data driven decision making and sustainability. He stated that by working with stakeholders and advisors they were very intentional about developing a specific project goal to protect, restore and enhance natural lands, public greenspace, working lands, and water resources, in addition to the benefits they provide people and nature throughout the SCAG region. He explained that while the SoCal Greenprint will be freely available to anyone, there are five key user groups that have been identified like infrastructure agencies, conservation practitioners, community-based organizations, developers, and planners, that they have engaged in extensive targeted outreach to gain input from. He further indicated that since they rely heavily on feedback from stakeholders to guide the project and tool development, strategic outreach has been key to project outcomes. Additionally, he reported that to ensure that the Greenprint meets key user needs they conducted several engagements with a diverse array of over 60 participating organizations over multiple sectors, including public agencies in cities and counties. He stated they organized a steering committee that meets monthly to review the project's progress and provide feedback. He further indicated that what really helped their outreach process was the Nature Conservancy facilitating eight rapid assessment interviews with community-based organizations, transportation infrastructure agencies and the development community.

Although the Greenprint will not be available until later this year, he stated they have had some early successes to share from the project. Specifically, the SoCal Greenprint data contributed to the HELPR tool, which is an element of the regional data platform. He explained that this tool helps jurisdictions identify sites that can accommodate housing, consistent with the six-cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment, to help jurisdictions make informed decisions about certain environmental concerns, such as growth in very high-risk wildfire areas. He also highlighted the three stages of the Greenprint data review process which include compilation, external review and internal review. Lastly, he also explained how users will be able to view the data.

7. Second Quarterly Update on Climate Change Action Resolution Activities

Kimberly Clark, Program Manager provided the second quarterly update on the agency's progress in implementing the resolution on climate change crisis in Southern California which called on SCAG and other local and regional partners to join together to reduce GHG emissions, improve regional resilience, and reduce hazards from a changing climate. Her presentation outlined the work that SCAG had done over the last several months, which included but was not limited to:

- Developing 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;
- Initiating a regional climate planning network that will provide technical assistance for local

- climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives;
- Providing resource support and technical assistance for local jurisdictions to integrate climate planning in their local planning activities;
- Initiating a regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP) as described in the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR);
- Developing a work plan to advance the Accelerated Electrification strategy envisioned in Connect SoCal;
- Evaluating the economic and job creation benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation practices for inclusion in regional planning efforts; and
- Developing climate adaptation and mitigation analysis and strategies for the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

Lastly, she reported that SCAG will continue to develop programs and outreach strategies to support near-term adaptation to address regional significant vulnerabilities and long-term regional resilience planning.

8. 2020-21 CivicSpark Climate Fellows Capstone Presentation

For the 2020-21 CivicSpark service year, CivicSpark Senior Climate Fellows, Natalie Arreaga, Amanda Caswell, and Vannesa Reyes Salazar provided a brief overview of the projects they worked on.

Amanda Caswell provided a brief overview of the Civic the CivicSpark program, a statewide Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program administered by the State of California's Office of Planning and Research and the Local Government Commission. She indicated SCAG was a partner since 2014 and had hosted over 24 fellows. She also reported she had been working on the natural and farmland conservation initiatives, which focused on promoting conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats.

Vannesa Reyes Salazar who worked on Housing Supportive Infrastructure with a focus on tax increment financing, reported that the 2020 RTP/SCS Connect SoCal Housing Supportive Infrastructure Key Connection supports local jurisdictions in planning and implementing water and sewer capacity enhancements and parking strategies to reduce housing costs and increase housing. She stated that tax increment refinancing can help fund infrastructure costs. Lastly, she informed the Committee that SCAG's Smart Growth Infrastructure website had been updated with current information and best practices on tax increment financing tools.

Natalie Arreaga who worked on an extreme heat and public health analysis with a focus on vulnerable populations, reported that according to the projections from the Connect SoCal public health technical report, California was expected to have an increase in annual average temperatures of 5-10 degrees by the end of the century. Additionally, she stated that extreme heat

days per year were expected to more than double across the entire region after 2085. She provided a brief update on best practices in the SCAG region, which included adaptation strategies to address extreme heat and cities and counties adopting ordinances to mitigate and adapt to extreme heat. Lastly, she reported that all three of them worked on the Green Region Indicators, also known as GRI, which is a map that serves as a tool for jurisdictions within the SCAG region to measure and track sustainability progress in the region across the 12 categories and 29 sustainability indicators.

9. Ventura County Air Pollution Reduction Program

Dr. Laki Tisopulos, Executive Officer of Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), provided an update on the latest air quality issues and programs to address air pollution in Ventura County. He reported that their mission was to protect public health and agriculture from the adverse effects of air pollution and do this through a long-range comprehensive program. He indicated they work closely with the California Air Resources Board, which sets national ambient air quality standards, and the Environmental Protection Agency, which sets state ambient air quality standards. He provided a brief overview of the makeup of the VCAPCD Board and the facilities they regulate. He indicated that most of their actions are focused on combating ozone, as well as reducing emissions. As a result, he stated that the VCAPCD implemented a series of different programs to combat air pollution, which include but is not limited to:

- monitoring a network comprised of five monitoring stations to forecast air quality for public schools and agriculture burning;
- planning and rule development of the Air Quality Management Plan;
- permit processing - essentially, all equipment emitting/controlling air emissions must obtain an VCAPCD permit to operate, which requires best available control/retrofit technology and sets permit conditions to limit emissions;
- compliance and enforcement - basically, an enforcement team of inspectors inspect facilities and ensure that they are complying with their current limitations, and when warranted, they have the ability to issue a notice to comply and notice of violations; and
- provide businesses financial incentives/grants to modernize their fleet/equipment and reduce emissions.

He expressed that one of the programs they were extremely proud of as part of the incentive programs was the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Vessel Speed Reduction Program, a voluntary program where they share the shipping lines. He stated that by reducing the speed they are reducing the likelihood of injuring and killing whales, while also reducing emissions by almost 50%. He also briefly explained the Air Toxics program and the Community Air Protection Program.

He further reported that some of the key challenges they continue to face as they progress toward clean air are growth, climate change, pollution transport from neighboring districts, and ensuring

mobile source emissions continue to reduce. Lastly, he covered some of the priorities they will be focusing moving forward, which include but are not limited to:

- developing a quality management plan, which is their long range plan;
- investing significant resources and effort in improving operational efficiency, a multi-year effort;
- improving computer infrastructure;
- upgrading their monitoring network; and
- automating some of their operating systems.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pollock reported that both Regional Council Member Cheryl Viegas-Walker and him sit on the League of California Cities Board and had received a presentation from California's Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot addressing the drought. He stated Mr. Crowfoot had provided a presentation to the Executive Administration Committee and thought that it was important that they brief the EEC and Regional Council on the drought as well. Lastly, he reminded the EEC that they were dark in August and will be back on September 2.

STAFF REPORT

There were no comments from staff.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Ramirez, Ventura County, informed the Committee of the progress they made in Ventura County and Oxnard regarding the 100-megawatt battery storage facility, which was now open and was replacing a natural gas fire plant. She stated it was a real victory for the community, which had been burdened by pollution from these two power plants the last 15 years.

Chair Pollock acknowledged Richard Rollins who was on the EEC and also served on the board of the VCAPCD.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:30 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2021-22

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

Attachment: EEC Attendance July 2021 (Minutes of the Meeting - July 1, 2021)