



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
November 4, 2021

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting virtually (telephonically and electronically), given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A). 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. 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. 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. 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. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	President’s Appointment
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG
Hon. Connor Traut, Buena Park	OCCOG
Hon. John Valdivia, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill	GCCOG

Members Not Present

Hon. Victoria Baca, Moreno Valley	WRCOG
Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate	GCCOG
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair David Pollock called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Staff confirmed a quorum was present. Policy Committee Member, Sharon Springer, Burbank, SFVCOG, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Counsel Michael Houston read a statement for the record on the basis for holding this meeting pursuant to recent amendments to the Brown Act, noting the current recommended social distancing measures and existing declared state of emergency.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Pollock opened the Public Comment Period.

Staff informed Chair Pollock that SCAG had received 42 written comments before the 5:00 p.m. deadline and 3 comments after the 5:00 p.m. deadline.

Mr. Ian Achimore, from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority addressed the Committee regarding a grant opportunity from the state called Proposition 1, Round 2, Integrated Regional Water Management. He stated there were about \$200 million available for Southern California and were looking for projects that tackled climate change and water resources.

Chief Counsel Michael Houston informed the Chair there was a comment in the chat on Zoom asking if public comments for individual items would be taken. He clarified that SCAG allowed a general comment period at the beginning of an agenda, unless there was a public hearing, which was not the case for [the EEC] agenda. He then stated if there was any member of the public that wanted to speak on any item on the agenda or within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee they were being asked to speak at that time.

Andy Henderson addressed the members regarding Greenprint. He stated that continuing the pause on the matter was a potentially good move from their point of view. He asked that they consider whether the list of datasets could be taken down while the process of pausing and revisiting the Greenprint unfolded in the following weeks. He stated they did not want that data to continue being posted on SCAG's website in draft form due to its prejudicial nature. He asked that they consider that in their discussion.

Luis Portillo, from the Inland Empire Economic Partnership raised concerns regarding Greenprint, specifically the way it was developed and some of the problems that had arisen thus far. He expressed that the way it was being developed would undermine local governments abilities to make land use decisions within their own cities. He stated they thought that was a fundamental responsibility to local governments.

Richard Lambros, on behalf of the California Leadership Council, stated he had similar comments to what had been shared. He clarified the business community was not opposed to the Greenprint. He stated the concerns and objections they were hearing were where they were in the process. He stated they wanted to get the policy in place from the leaders so there was clear direction where this was going and how it would be used. He stated the Greenprint was on a timeline of their choosing and they could take the pause and get it right.

Chair Pollock confirmed the 10-minute comment period window had passed.

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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting - September 2, 2021

Receive and File

2. Third Quarterly Update on Climate Change Action Resolution Activities
 3. Californians for Community Planning Voter Initiative
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A MOTION was made (Robertson) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Huff) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Denison, Gold, Horne, Huff, Ingram, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Mahmud, Moran, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Silva, Springer and Traut (25)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

ACTION ITEMS

4. Connect SoCal CEQA Addendum No. 2 to Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #2019011061)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend that the Regional Council adopt draft Resolution to approve the Addendum #2 to the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

Karen Calderon, Associate Regional Planner, provided a brief presentation on Agenda Item No. 4, in which staff was seeking EECs approval of Addendum No. 2, to the Connect SoCal Environmental Impact Report. She stated no comments had been received and there had only been one revision between the draft version and the proposed final version she was presenting that day. The revision was an addition of a footnote on page 4 to clarify how the project modifications were defined in the project description.

A MOTION was made (Allen) to approve Item No. 4. Motion was SECONDED (J. Kalmick) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Denison, Gold, Horne, Huff, Ingram, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Mahmud, Moran, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Silva, Springer, Traut and Wilson (26)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

5. Transportation Conformity Determination of Proposed Final Connect SoCal Amendment #1 and 2021 FTIP Consistency Amendment #21-05

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend that the Regional Council adopt the transportation conformity determination of the Connect SoCal Amendment #1 and the 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Consistency Amendment #21-05 at its November 4, 2021, meeting; and thereafter direct staff to submit it to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for approval.

Rongsheng Luo, Program Manager II, provided a brief presentation on Item No. 5 in which staff was seeking recommendation from the EEC that the Regional Council adopt the transportation conformity determination of the Proposed Final Amendments at its meeting on November 4, 2021, and that following the adoption by the Regional Council the transportation conformity determination would be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration (FHWA/FTA) for their final approval.

A MOTION was made (Ramirez) to approve Item No. 5. Motion was SECONDED (Huff) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Beltran, Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Denison, Gold, Horne, Huff, Ingram, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Mahmud, Moran, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Silva, Springer, Traut and Wilson (26)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS**6. SoCal Greenprint Update**

Jason Greenspan, Manager of Sustainable and Resilient Development, provided a report summarizing and describing the SoCal Greenprint Project. He also provided a recap of the Regional Councils action in July, reviewed the regional policy framework, described the outreach process and the feedback received, discussed the data vetting process staff wanted to apply, the next steps and the updated staff recommendation.

Policy Committee Member Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, asked staff member Greenspan to enhance his discussion about publicly available information because she thought that was one of the issues they would hear about. Mr. Greenspan stated it had been their priority to make sure they provided links to datasets that were publicly available that were existing. He reiterated that when they say public information it would be accessible, existing, and open at that moment. Policy Committee Member Ramirez asked if this was not currently compiled in one place. Mr. Greenspan confirmed that was the case and the Greenprint would centralize that information into one tool.

Policy Committee Julian Gold, Beverly Hills, WSCCOG, stated that the PowerPoint Presentation slide that touched on outreach, suggested they had 4,200 requests for response but in the data that followed, their ends were very small. He asked if this suggested that out of 4,200 they sent out they only got a response from a handful. Mr. Greenspan stated that was correct. He stated they kept the survey open for at least two weeks and wanted to make sure they were being responsive to the direction from the Regional Council to get feedback. He stated this had been one of the ways they had done that in addition to the public hearing. Policy Committee Member Gold stated he appreciated the effort but that sort of response from a survey of that magnitude was not only insignificant but irrelevant because it was skewed by people with a very strong focus one way or the other. He suggested that if they paused again, they take some time to see if they could increase that number to get something that was truly representative of 4,200.

Policy Committee Elaine Litster, Simi Valley, VCOG, stated she agreed with Policy Committee Member Gold that there was concern regarding statistical significance. She stated 27% expressed concern over data content and asked what specific data caused concern. Mr. Greenspan stated they asked a specific question for feedback on datasets. He stated he thought it was a general expression of concern about datasets overall. Staff member Kimberly Clark, Program Manager of Resource Conservation Resilient Communities, stated they had some concerns regarding the data layers conveyed through the survey, recommendations on using other data layers, and concern about using NGO and non-profit derived data layers.

Policy Committee Member Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, stated she was pleased to see the data tool identifying landscape features important to residents and communities.

Policy Committee Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, recommended that the composition of the advisory task group be comprised of one representative from each of the five stakeholder groups that had been identified. She also recommended that group continue in existence such that a user of the Greenprint, that had significant concerns, would have the ability to contest the inclusion of datasets and review would be undertaken by the advisory task group.

Chair Pollock asked how much overlap there was between the Greenprint and the CalEnviroScreen. Ms. Clark stated they were using the CalEnviroScreen data. She stated they were in close contact and coordination with CalEPA. She stated once the newer version of CalEnviroScreen was available it would be used in the tool.

7. Regional Early Action Program (REAP) 2021 Program Development Framework

Sarah Jepson, Planning Director, provided an update on Item No. 7 and indicated the SCAG region's share of the REAP grant funds was \$246 million, which 10 percent would be available in January 2022. She further highlighted that to meet the core objectives as identified in the staff report, staff was considering three main programmatic areas that they would be bringing to stakeholders for discussion once they had clearer guidance from the State on program guidelines.

Vice Chair Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, wanted to know how they connected their educational aspect into REAP. She wanted to know how they engaged their schools as part of this process. Ms. Jepson stated they were looking at ways they could work a lot more closely with community-based organizations to do outreach for their programs. She stated they had stronger connections with parent organizations and groups working at schools to help them understand the ways in which planning could support some of their other priorities.

8. Environmental Justice/Communities of Concern Update

Ms. Jepson introduced the item and staff member Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, presented an overview and update on SCAGs Environmental Justice (EJ) efforts, which are intended to lay the foundation for future policy discussions on advancing the EAP goals through enhancement of SCAG's EJ policies, analysis and programs as part of the development of the 2024 Connect SoCal-SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, and other related efforts.

Policy Committee Member Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, commented on funding for mileage-based user fees and disadvantaged communities. She stated that if they placed mileage-based user fees it would really hurt the communities of color and disadvantaged communities. She stated they had to take this into consideration as they were considering the effects on disadvantaged communities.

9. Mobility Innovations & Pricing: An Initiative to Elevate Equity in Planning

Jaimee Lederman, Senior Regional Planner, provided an overview on SCAGs recent work on Mobility Innovations and Pricing initiatives. She covered the mobility innovations concepts and provided information on community based driven engagement and outreach. She also addressed the issue of understanding the travel of underrepresented communities.

Policy Committee Member Clark once again expressed her concerns on the effects this would have on the communities of color.

Chair Pollock stated that going forward with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) they were going to have to show how it compares to the gas tax, which was supposed to phase out as they phased in VMT. He stated this was going to be the key to making this acceptable to the public.

Policy Committee, Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill, GCCOG, stated he doubted there would be a tradeoff between taxes. He suggested they look into a tire or wheel tax as it would get to multi-transportation vehicles.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pollock provided an update on how SCAG's Policy Committees would be staffed and provided a direct link to the Executive Administration Committee. He stated EEC along with the other two standing policy committees would be receiving extra support from the Government Affairs team in conjunction with [the] Planning [Department]. He stated they had been assigned lead staff from both departments, Planning Director Sarah Jepson would be the planning lead and Rachel Wagner would serve as the committees dedicated staff member. He stated these changes had been made to streamline the agenda process, provide additional support and follow-up, and ensure expanded policy leadership for Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

STAFF REPORT

Rachel Wagner informed the members that registration was open for the 12th Annual Southern California Economic Summit. She stated the theme this year would be "From Inclusive Recovery to Inclusive Growth." She shared the event would be held virtually on Thursday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m. - to noon. Furthermore, she stated Elected Officials and City Managers would be receiving complimentary registration.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Policy Committee Member Ramirez stated she was associated with the Water Education for Latino Leaders and stated that if any elected official had a Latino constituency, they were Latino Leaders. She shared there was a free webinar coming up about jobs in the water industry.

Vice Chair Robertson asked that they could have a briefing to talk about the legislative path they would take to give their local jurisdiction the opportunity to manage and regulate tolling for congestion management on local roads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Pollock shared he would be ending the meeting on a sad note. He stated he had just learned that Victoria Baca, Mayor Pro Tem of Moreno Valley, passed away the day before. He stated she was a member of [EEC] and was the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Moreno Valley City Council, and left behind a daughter, three grandchildren and one great grandchild. He stated their thoughts and prayers were with her family and loved ones.



ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting in memory of Victoria Baca at 11:41 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		0	1								3
Baca, Victoria	Moreno Valley, WRCOG	1	1		0	0								2
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC	1	0		0	1								2
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, AVCJPA	1	1		1	1								4
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, SGVCOG	1	0		1	1								3
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG	1	1		1	1								4
Davila, Maria	South Gate, GCCOG	0	0		0	0								0
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG	1	1		1	0								3
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, SCBTA	1	1		0	1								3
Gold, Julian	Beverly Hills, WSCCOG	1	1	D	1	1								4
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1	1		1	1								4
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG	1	1	A	1	1								4
Ingram, Jonathan	Murrieta, WRCOG				1	1								2
Kalmick, Dan	Huntington Beach, OCCOG	1	1		1	1								4
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, District 20	1	1	R	1	1								4
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG	1	0		1	1								3
Mahmud, Diana	So. Pasadena, SGVCOG	1	0	K	1	1								3
Moran, Cynthia	Chino Hills, SBCTA	1	1		1	1								4
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, CVAG	1	1		1	1								4
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County	1	1		1	1								4
Pollock, David (CHAIR)	Moorpark, VCOG	1	1		1	1								4
Putz, Randall	Big Bear Lake, District 11	1	1		1	1								4
Ramirez, Carmen	Oxnard, RC District 45	1	1		1	1								4
Raths, Greg	Mission Viejo, OCCOG	1	1		1	1								4
Robertson, Deborah	Rialto, RC District 8	1	1		1	1								4
Rollins, Richard	Port Hueneme, VCOG	1	1		1	0								3
Silva, Jesus	Fullerton, President's Appointment	1	1		1	1								4
Springer, Sharon	Burbank, SFVCOG	1	0		1	1								3
Traut, Connor	Buena Park, OCCOG	1	1		1	1								4
Valdivia, John	San Bernardino, SBCCOG	0	1		1	0								2
Wilson, Edward H.J.	Signal Hill, GCCOG	1	1		0	1								2