



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
January 7, 2021

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

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 special 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**

<b>Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Chair)</b>	<b>District 46</b>
<b>Hon. Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>District 45</b>
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. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Toni Momberger, Redlands	SBCTA
Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio	CVAG
Sup. Linda Parks	Ventura County
Sup. Luis Plancarte	Imperial County
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City	District 41
Hon. Rhonda Shader, Placentia	President’s Appointment
Hon. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	President’s Appointment
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG
Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino	SBCCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill	GCCOG

**OUR MISSION**

*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

**OUR VISION**

*Southern California’s Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

**OUR CORE VALUES**

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*

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**Members Not Present**

Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland	ICTC
Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate	GCCOG
Hon. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa	OCCOG
Hon. Jeannine Pearce, Long Beach	District 30
Hon. Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana	OCTA
Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto	District 8
Hon. Bonnie Wright, Hemet	WRCOG

**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. Chair Pollock 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 no public comments were received.

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

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair David Pollock stated that SCAG staff had requested that Agenda Item No. 4, SoCal Climate Adaptation Planning Guide, be reprioritized and heard before Agenda Item No. 3, Climate Change Action Resolution.

**CONSENT CALENDAR****Approval Items**

1. Minutes of the Meeting - October 1, 2020

**Receive and File**

2. Public Release of Transportation Conformity Analysis for Draft 2021 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
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SCAG staff Grieg Asher announced that there was a correction to the attendance sheet for Agenda Item No. 1, Minutes of the Meeting - October 1, 2020.

A MOTION was made (Sahli-Wells) to approve the Consent Calendar with the attendance sheet as modified for Agenda Item No. 1. Motion was SECONDED (Copeland) and passed by the following votes:

**AYE/S:** Brotman, Clark, Copeland, Davis, Horne, Huff, Litster, Mahmud, Momberger, Moran, Ortiz, Parks, Plancarte, Pollock, Rollins, Sahli-Wells, Shader, Silva and Springer (19)

**NOE/S:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN/S:** None (0)

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### 4. SoCal Climate Adaptation Planning Guide

Kimberley Clark, Program Manager, introduced the project team and began a presentation on the SoCal Climate Adaptation Planning Guide. Ms. Clark stated that the SoCal Climate Adaptation Framework kicked off in February 2019 and is funded through Senate Bill (SB) 1. SCAG established the Adaptation Planning Guide to assist jurisdictions with adaptation planning efforts. The framework includes tools and resources; outreach and communications strategies; planning guidance and model policy language; transportation and land use scenarios and modeling; and finance and funding guidance.

Ms. Clark welcomed David Von Stroh of Cambridge Systematics. Mr. Von Stroh provided an overview of climate change impacts in the SCAG region as addressed in the framework, such as extreme heat, inland flooding and wildfires. Mr. Von Stroh introduced Reema Shakra of ESA, who outlined four phases of Climate Adaptation Planning. The four phases were defined as: 1) Explore, Define and Initiate; 2) Assess Vulnerability; 3) Define Adaptation Framework and Strategies; and 4) Implement, Monitor, Evaluate and Adjust.

Mr. Von Stroh stressed the widespread impact of climate change factors, and Ms. Shakra described case studies of threats to specific resources, including Dana Glacier, Ventura County agriculture, Joshua Tree National Park and Capistrano Beach. Mr. Von Stroh then showed maps of heat health events (HHEs) in the Los Angeles area projected over time, and he discussed the 2020 wildfire season, the largest recorded in the state's modern history.

Ms. Shakra reviewed regulatory requirements regarding Safety Elements to address climate adaptation, including SB 379, SB 1035 and SB 1000. She stated that the guidebook was created with these requirements in mind, and she outlined relevant tools for each of the four phases of Climate Adaptation Planning. She elaborated on some of these tools, including a spreadsheet listing adaptation strategies and actions. Mr. Von Stroh discussed a sampling of adaptation strategies for specific hazard types, and Ms. Shakra outlined examples of model policies, organized by elements and hazard type. Ms. Shakra introduced Jeff Caton of ESA, who presented on project checklists, which are templates for incorporating climate change adaptations in local project-review processes. Mr. Caton stated that a project checklist can act to assess a project's vulnerability, access potential consequences and measure a project's adaptive capacity.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, asked how the information presented will be disseminated by SCAG. Kimberly Clark stated that the Climate Adaptation Planning Guide has been posted to SCAG's website as a PDF. Ms. Clark confirmed that a link is included in the staff report. Councilmember Mahmud also asked if the project team was aware of examples of landscape ordinances for new construction that have specific tree canopy requirements proximate to the structure to provide shading. David Von Stroh and Reema Shakra acknowledged the question but did not immediately know of examples.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, asked if addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), in addition to mitigation measures to adapt to climate change, were integrated in the guide. Mr. Von Stroh stated that this project was intended to focus on identifying hazards and addressing these hazards, but he noted projects throughout the region to address interrelated issues, including equity. Kimberly Clark stated that there will be an agenda item later in today's meeting that will provide more information to address this question. Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells commented on downsides of looking at mitigation measures narrowly and encouraged maximizing SCAG's resources.

Councilmember Margaret Clark, Rosemead, SGVCOG, commented in support of mandatory tree canopy planting requirements. She asked about an image displayed during the presentation; Ms. Reema Shakra stated that this picture was intended to illustrate the adaptation strategy of elevating structures to limit flood risk. Ms. Shakra continued by noting that there are adaptation strategies included in the guide to reduce the urban heat island effect.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, commented on a project by Ventura County to plant two million trees and address extreme heat. Supervisor Parks commented on maps presented to show impact of hazards and asked if there was an index to put together impacts. Kimberly Clark stated that overlapping areas of hazards are being considered as part of the project. Supervisor Parks commented on a webpage being developed to assist with tree selection based on a variety of

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factors. David Von Stroh acknowledged the comment.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, commented on the Tree People of Los Angeles and a project in the San Fernando Valley that demonstrated a reduced heat island effect. She also commented on the negative impact of palm trees during fire season.

Councilmember Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme, VCOG, asked about warming trends displayed on the maps presented and their data sources. David Von Stroh stated that data was drawn from the California Heat Assessment Tool. Reema Shakra stated that there may be different projections based on effectiveness of emission reductions in the future.

Councilmember Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills, SBCTA, commented on a program in the City of Anaheim that includes an energy efficiency assessment and no-charge tree planting.

### 3. Climate Change Action Resolution

Sarah Jepson, Planning Director, provided background on the Climate Change Action Resolution. She stated the recommended action and reminded members that the EEC asked staff to prepare this item during last month's meeting. She stated that the draft resolution builds off work already done in Connect SoCal and the PEIR, and it also outlines new activities that SCAG can pursue to strengthen regional resilience.

Ms. Jepson introduced Kimberly Clark, Program Manager, to present on the impacts of climate change and contents of the drafted Climate Change Action Resolution. Ms. Clark stated that, based on discussion with stakeholders, it can be helpful to look at past and present climate conditions before looking at future vulnerabilities. She began by charting warming temperatures in California and temperature trends at the regional level. She then discussed the increasing severity of drought in California and the vulnerability of chaparral lands to drought, subsequently increasing the risk for wildfires. In connection with low precipitation, Ms. Clark compared wildfire burn areas over time, stating that 3.5 million acres in the state have burned from 2011-2020, compared to 1.6 million acres from 2001-2010. She discussed health and economic impacts of wildfires in 2020. She continued by enumerating the population impact of sea level rise and extreme heat health events in 2016 and the projected impact in 2030.

Ms. Clark expressed Connect SoCal's plan goal of adapting to a changing climate and supporting an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network, thus reducing population in very high-risk wildfire areas and homes in two-foot sea level rise areas. Ms. Clark then reviewed the SoCal Climate Adaptation Planning Guide, which summarizes climate change impacts specific to the SCAG region and provides tools that can be incorporated into local plans and policies. Ms. Clark shared language of the Climate Change Action Resolution which outline relevant actions SCAG should take.

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These actions included developing a regional resilience framework; providing resource support and technical assistance; developing a regional advance mitigation program (RAMP); including climate mitigation and exploring opportunities to expand adaptation in the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS); and developing and promoting programs and outreach strategies. In closing, Ms. Clark stated that, as part of the resolution, SCAG's Planning Director shall report to the EEC on a quarterly basis on the progress of these efforts.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, commented in support of adding additional language on extreme heat, drought and trees.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, commented in support of including an economic analysis to demonstrate current and projected costs of climate change. She also commented on the positive economic impacts and opportunities for job creation in addressing climate change.

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, commented in support of comments by Supervisor Parks and Regional Councilmember Sahli-Wells. He asked if mitigation should include energy generation and buildings rather than a focus on transportation. Kimberly Clark acknowledged the comment. Sarah Jepson noted that the resolution was drafted with a focus on areas of the agency's greatest impact, such as emission reduction from transportation activity as included in the RTP/SCS. Councilmember Brotman commented in support of including land use planning and energy codes in mitigation considerations.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, commented in support of considering vulnerable communities in the resolution, given the disproportionate impact of climate change on such populations.

Supervisor Linda Parks commented in support of specifying "disproportionately affected" in the resolution's discussion of communities. She reiterated comments on land use considerations in mitigation measures and spoke to sea level rise as a hazard.

Chair David Pollock asked staff if they would like to modify the staff report considering comments made today and bring the item back to the EEC at the next meeting, or if they would like to proceed today. Sarah Jepson acknowledged comments made by members and responded that either approach could be taken depending on members' preference. She mentioned that an inclusive economic recovery strategy is being prepared by staff, and staff can clarify that climate mitigation and adaptation will be a part of that effort. She restated that additions could be made today or the request can be brought back to the EEC at the next meeting, depending on how members would like to move forward.

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Chair Pollock commented that he believes staff can move forward if comments have been noted, but he will leave the decision to committee members.

SCAG staff clarified that this is an action item.

Councilmember Edward Wilson, Signal Hill, GCCOG, commented that, if the timing works for this item to be brought back at the next meeting, he would prefer to bring the item back rather than rush through. Sarah Jepson confirmed that there is not an issue with timing, and she stated that staff will plan to bring the item back at the next meeting of the EEC, scheduled for January 2021.

Councilmember Elaine Litster, Simi Valley, VCOG, commented in support of incorporating comments based on mitigation actions in terms of sustainability. She articulated her preference to bring the item back at the next meeting. She commented on increased Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and sustainability in terms of electric viability.

Councilmember Daniel Brotman, Glendale, AVCJPA, commented in support of bringing the item back with wording changes and looking again at the item then. He emphasized his support of expanding language on mitigation to include housing-related issues.

Councilmember Jesus Silva, Fullerton, President's Appointment, commented in support of bringing the item back at the next meeting.

Supervisor Linda Parks offered to make a motion to bring the item back with comments incorporated.

Acting Chief Counsel Justine Block clarified that a motion is not necessary; this can be considered as direction to staff to consider comments made and bring the resolution back to the EEC in January 2021 for consideration and action.

Chair David Pollock reiterated that a motion is not necessary, and he asked staff if sufficient direction has been provided by members. Kimberly Clark confirmed that sufficient direction had been provided, and she thanked members for their comments.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells thanked staff for their work on the resolution and acknowledged that she is leaving office prior to the next EEC meeting.

## 5. Climate Action Planning and Renewable Natural Gas

Chair David Pollock introduced Joe Avila, Senior Policy Director for SoCalGas. Chair Pollock noted the important role of gas companies in mitigating climate change by sequestering methane

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emissions.

Mr. Avila thanked members for the invitation to present, and he began his presentation by providing background on his professional experience. He shared a PowerPoint on Local Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Elements for Decarbonization and Resilience and outlined goals for the discussion. He denoted basic components of a vertically integrated utility, covering generation, transmission and distribution. He displayed a chart of power production by resource type. He explained advantages and disadvantages of each resource type, including nuclear, hydro, wind, biogas, biomass, thermal and solar.

In discussing recent blackouts and brownouts, he shared a summary of 9-month load average compared to 3-month (July, August and September) load average in 2020, delineated by resource type. He mentioned that solar loses efficiency when temperature is over 77 degrees, so load is reduced in summer. He demonstrated that renewable load diminishes as a percentage of total load during the summer months observed, while natural gas and imported gas compose a greater percentage of total load during these same months. He demonstrated hourly demand and load summary on September 6, 2020, the hottest day ever recorded in Los Angeles County. He reiterated that solar's optimum performance occurs between 10:00am to 3:00pm, and while solar's load will grow in the future, renewables will still require complimentary resources during off-peak hours. He stated that the fuels of tomorrow must be clean, affordable, diverse and resilient. He spoke about advancements in foreign counties in using hydrogen as a decarbonized fuel.

Mr. Avila continued by looking at SoCalGas's role in California's renewable future. He reviewed California's emissions by sector, stating that 41 percent of emissions are generated by transportation. He remarked that California's consumption is lower than it was 20 years ago, and California's emissions compose about one percent of global emissions. He spoke about the importance of affordability and reliability in service. He elaborated upon green molecule strategies such as electrolysis, the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity. He laid out tools to enhance reliability, such as fuel cell microgrids, natural gas backup generators and natural gas fleets. In closing, he outlined SoCalGas's customer value proposition.

Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, asked about rate per kilowatt hour (kWh). Mr. Avila stated that he believes the rate is about \$0.25 per kWh. Vice Chair Ramirez remarked on the importance of keeping "true cost" of service in mind, including costs from settlements and incidents.

Councilmember Edward Wilson, Signal Hill, GCCOG, asked how the industry is changing to allow for greater energy storage and how this will affect transmission. He provided an example of on-site generation, which could reduce the cost of transmission. Mr. Avila reviewed the hourly generation by resource, and he acknowledged that utilities are looking to store renewable energy generated during peak hours for use during times with higher demand. He discussed batteries, their lifespan

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and the challenge of disposal. He also touched on modern technology like pumped storage plants and salt caverns to store excess renewables.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, spoke about installation versus removal costs and the high costs of disassembling infrastructure. Supervisor Parks provided an example of high-pressure gas lines underneath an elementary school within her jurisdiction, and she asked if there are funds that the gas company has to mitigate safety concerns. Mr. Avila stated that the company's operations and maintenance dollars go to maintaining the system.

Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, asked about plans for including hydrogen in the distribution system. Mr. Avila stated that SoCalGas is considering hydrogen blending, while keeping safety and cost-effectiveness as priorities. Councilmember Mahmud asked if Mr. Avila knew the percentage of load served by hydrogen in Europe and Japan, where it is currently being used. Mr. Avila stated that Japan is designing assets that could handle 35 percent blending, while Europe is anticipating 20 percent blending.

#### 6. SunLine Transit Advancing Alternative Fuel Buses and Infrastructure

Lauren Skiver, CEO/General Manager of SunLine Transit Agency, spoke about practical applications of alternative fuel technology and current regulations. She began her presentation with a background on SunLine and its operations. She discussed the redesign of the transit network and adaptations, such as consolidated fixed routes, rideshare, and commuter links, in response to COVID-19 and current needs.

She reviewed SunLine's history as an early zero emissions adopter. Currently, part of the fleet uses compressed natural gas (CNG), but the fleet is transitioning away from CNG, in response to rules passed by the California Air Resources Board. She discussed SunLine's investment in hydrogen and the agency's standing as the largest transit network producer of hydrogen in North America. She discussed a board policy passed in 1993 to purchase and use only vehicles fueled by alternative fuels with the lowest possible emissions.

She provided further details on the fleet, which included fuel cell vehicles, and grant opportunities for local transit agencies to fund zero emissions fleets. She shared an overview on SunLine's hydrogen fueling station and lessons learned from its implementation. She spoke about future plans to create a solar micro-grid on SunLine's facilities and outlined phase of future projects, noting the goal of selling production to the open market to become revenue-independent. She stated that SunLine is building a trade school, the West Coast Center of Excellence in Zero Emission Technology and Renewable Energy, at their facility, and she spoke about the importance of workforce development. She continued by outlining advisory board members and objectives, which inform future plans for technology training. She announced that SunLine has created a user group, the Zero

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Emission Bus Resource Alliance (ZEBRA), composed of transit agencies across the country. She closed by offering tours and resources to those interested in learning more about SunLine's efforts in workforce development and technological advances.

Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Indio, CVAG, complimented SunLine's efforts and commented on the agency's ability to generate hydrogen despite having a small facility.

#### 7. Overview of 2022 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan and Near-term Air Quality Planning Challenges

This item was continued to a future meeting.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair David Pollock recognized Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells and Vice Chair Carmen Ramirez, given recent electoral changes, and commended them for their service to SCAG.

Chair Pollock reminded members of the 11th Annual Southern California Economic Summit scheduled for December 1, 2020.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Grieg Asher, SCAG staff, stated that there will not be an EEC meeting in December, and the next meeting will occur in January 2021.

#### **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 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Waggoner  
Energy and Environment Committee Clerk

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[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
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC		0		0	0	0							0
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, AVCJPA		1		1	1	1							4
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, SGVCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG		1		0	1	1							3
Davila, Maria	South Gate, GCCOG		0		0	0	0							0
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Ehrenkranz, Jordan	Canyon Lake, WRCOG		0		0	0	1							1
Genis, Sandra	Costa Mesa, OCCOG		1		0	1	0							2
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG						1							1
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Mahmud, Diana	So. Pasadena, SGVCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Momberger, Toni	Redlands, SBCTA		1		1	1	1							4
Moran, Cynthia	Chino Hills, SBCTA		1		1	0	1							3
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, CVAG		1		1	1	1							4
Parks, Linda	Ventura County		1		1	1	1							4
Pearce, Jeannine	Long Beach, District 30		1		1	1	0							3
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County		1		1	1	1							4
Pollock, David (CHAIR)	Moorpark, VCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Pulido, Miguel	Santa Ana, OCTA		0		0	0	0							0
Ramirez, Carmen (Vice Chair)	Oxnard, RC District 45		1		1	1	1							4
Raths, Greg	Mission Viejo, OCCOG		1		1	1	0							3
Robertson, Deborah	Rialto, RC District 8		1		1	1	0							3
Rollins, Richard	Port Hueneme, VCOG		1		0	1	1							3
Sahli-Wells, Meghan	Culver City, RC District 41		1		1	1	1							4
Shader, Rhonda	Placentia, President's Appointment		1		0	1	1							3
Silva, Jesus	Fullerton, President's Appointment				0	1	1							2
Springer, Sharon	Burbank, SFVCOG		1		1	1	1							4
Valdivia, John	San Bernardino, SBCCOG		1		0	1	1							3
Wilson, Edward H.J.	Signal Hill, GCCOG		1		0	1	1							3
Wright, Bonnie	Hemet, WRCOG		0		0	0	0							0

Attachment: EEC Attendance Sheet 2020-21 (Minutes of the Meeting - November 5, 2020)