



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

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Energy & Environment

Linda Parks, Ventura County

Transportation

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REGULAR MEETING

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 1, 2019
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SCAG MAIN OFFICE
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Policy A Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 236-1800

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Tess Rey-Chaput at (213) 236-1908 or via email at REY@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes for the EEC - Energy and Environment Committee are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 236-1908. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

EEC - Energy and Environment Committee *Members – August 2019*

1. **Sup. Linda Parks**
EEC Chair, Ventura County
2. **Hon. David Pollock**
EEC Vice Chair, Moorpark, RC District 46
3. **Hon. Ana Beltran**
Westmorland, ICTC
4. **Hon. Margaret Clark**
Rosemead, RC District 32
5. **Hon. Robert Copeland**
Signal Hill, GCCOG
6. **Hon. Maria Davila**
South Gate, GCCOG
7. **Hon. Ned Davis**
Westlake Village, LVMCOG
8. **Hon. Paula Devine**
Glendale, AVCJPA
9. **Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz**
Canyon Lake, WRCOG
10. **Hon. Mike Gardner**
Riverside, WRCOG
11. **Hon. Sandra Genis**
Costa Mesa, OCCOG
12. **Hon. Shari Horne**
Laguna Woods, OCCOG
13. **Hon. Diana Mahmud**
South Pasadena, SGVCOG
14. **Hon. Judy Mitchell**
Rolling Hills Estates, RC District 40
15. **Hon. Toni Momberger**
Redlands, SBCTA

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



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

- 16. Hon. Cynthia Moran**
Chino Hills, SBCTA
- 17. Hon. Greg Morena**
Santa Monica, WSCCOG
- 18. Hon. Judy Nelson**
Glendora, SGVCOG
- 19. Hon. Oscar Ortiz**
Indio, CVAG
- 20. Hon. Jim Osborne**
Lawndale, SBCCOG
- 21. Sup. Luis Plancarte**
Imperial County
- 22. Hon. Carmen Ramirez**
Oxnard, RC District 45
- 23. Hon. Greg Raths**
Mission Viejo, OCCOG
- 24. Hon. Deborah Robertson**
Rialto, RC District 8
- 25. Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells**
Culver City, RC District 41
- 26. Hon. Rhonda Shader**
Placentia, Pres. Appt., Member at Large
- 27. Hon. Emma Sharif**
Compton, RC District 26
- 28. Hon. Sharon Springer**
Burbank, SFVCOG
- 29. Hon. John Valdivia**
San Bernardino, SBCTA
- 30. Hon. Edward Wilson**
Signal Hill, GCCOG
- 31. Hon. Bonnie Wright**
Hemet, WRCOG

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Policy A Meeting Room
Los Angeles, California 90017
Thursday, August 1, 2019
11:00 AM

The Energy and Environment Committee may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *(The Honorable Linda Parks, Chair)*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on items on the agenda, or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Committee, must fill out and present a Public Comment Card to the Assistant prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. The Chair has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of speakers and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting - June 6, 2019 Page 7

Receive and File

- 2. Green Region Initiative - Sustainability Map Update Page 14

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 3. Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework 20 mins. Page 20
(Jonathan Overman, Cambridge Systematics)
- 4. Caltrans District Vulnerability Assessments 20 mins. Page 28
(Reza Navai, Assistant Division of Transportation Planning Chief, Caltrans)
- 5. Connect SoCal PEIR Update 10 mins. Page 48
(Roland Ok, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG)

CHAIR'S REPORT

(The Honorable Linda Parks, Chair)

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

STAFF REPORT

(Grieg Asher, SCAG Staff)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017
August 1, 2019

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

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 FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) met at SCAG, 900 Wilshire Blvd., 17th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Table with 2 columns: Member Name and County/Region. Includes: Sup. Linda Parks (Chair) - Ventura County, Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Vice Chair) - VCOG, Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead - District 32, Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill - GCCOG, Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village - LVMCOG, Hon. Paula Devine, Glendale - AVCJPA, Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz, Canyon Lake - WRCOG, Hon. Mike Gardner, Riverside - WRCOG, Hon. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa - OCCOG, Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods - OCCOG, Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena - SGVCOG, Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio - CVAG, Hon. James Osborne, Lawndale - SBCCOG, Hon. Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard - District 45, Hon. Emma Sharif, Compton - GCCOG, Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank - SFVCOG, Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill - GCCOG.

Members Not Present

Table with 2 columns: Member Name and County/Region. Includes: Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland - ICTC, Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate - GCCOG, Hon. Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates - District 40, Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills - SBCTA, Hon. Greg Morena, Santa Monica - WSCCOG.

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Hon. Judy Nelson, Glendora	SGVCOG
Sup. Luis Plancarte, Imperial County	Imperial County
Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto	District 8
Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City	WCCOG
Hon. Rhonda Shader, Placentia	President's Appointment
Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino	SBCCOG
VACANT, BIASC	

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Linda Parks, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02AM, and invited The Honorable Ned Davis, Westlake Village, LVMCOG, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Parks opened the public comment period.

Mr. Leeor Alpern, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SQAQMD) shared with the committee regarding services and programs available. SCAQMD has launched an application on both the IOS and Android mobile platforms that provide hourly updates on local air quality standards, clean fuel stations, electric charging, and hydrogen and natural gas. The 31st Annual Clean Air Awards is scheduled for October 4, 2019 at the LA Grand Hotel and shared that SCAQMD is offering \$500 rebates on furnace replacement.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no reprioritization of the agenda.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the SCAG 2019 Local Demonstration Initiative

Chair Parks introduced the item and invited SCAG staff Hannah Brunelle to provide an update on the SCAG 2019 Local Demonstration Initiative, this project will implement temporary demonstration projects in six cities across the SCAG Region in Imperial, Los Angeles and Ventura counties. These projects are exempt from CEQA and will not have a significant impact on the environment.

A MOTION was made (Gardner) to recommend the Regional Council approve Resolution No. 19-612-1 approving the filing of the Notice of Exemption for the SCAG 2019 Local Demonstration Initiative, and recommend the Regional Council approve Resolution No. 19-612-5 to accept the

Active Transportation Funds for the project. Motion was SECONDED (Genis) and passed by the following votes:

AYE/S: Parks, Pollock, Clark, Copeland, Davis, Devine, Ehrenkranz, Gardner, Genis, Horne, Ortiz, Osborne, Sharif, Springer (14)

NOE/S: None (0)

ABSTAIN/S: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Item

2. Minutes of the Meeting - April 4, 2019

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

AYE/S: Parks, Pollock, Clark, Davis, Devine, Ehrenkranz, Gardner, Genis, Horne, Ortiz, Osborne, Sharif, Springer (13)

NOE/S: None (0)

ABSTAIN/S: Copeland (1)

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. Local Input Survey Results

SCAG staff Roland Ok presented an illustrative presentation of the Local Input Survey Results including the objective of the survey, a review of the survey questions asked, and a summary of the key findings. The Local Input Survey was prepared in preparation for the development of the Connect SoCal/2020 RTP-SCS. The summary provided was based upon a tabulation of the multiple choice questions asked in the survey versus open-ended questions. If the committee is interested staff can provide a status on the trends identified in the open questions at a future meeting.

4. SCAG Environmental Plan

Jason Greenspan, SCAG Manager of Sustainability provided the committee with an update on

SCAG's Environmental Plan (Plan). The Plan is a collection of operational policies and strategies initiated to reduce the agency's GHG emissions, waste and its overall environmental footprint. When adopted in December 2016 SCAG was seeking certification as a green business under the Los Angeles Green Business Program (LAGBP). Additional information regarding the LAGBP is available [here](#). The 2016 Environment Plan provides context concerning the discussions recently occurring at this committee regarding eliminating the use of plastic water bottles at SCAG meetings. Discussion ensued regarding several issues for consideration to be included in the next update of the Plan. Councilmember Wilson reiterated his previous inquiry about the use of alternate fuel vehicles for SCAG staff who receive a SCAG auto allowance. Justine Block, Deputy Legal Counsel responded that when this was brought up previously, staff forwarded this comment to the SCAG General Counsel and this item was incorporated during contract negotiations with the new Executive Director.

5. Safety Leadership Symposium and Workshop Series

SCAG staff Hina Chanchlani provided a presentation on the Safety Leadership Symposium and Workshop Series held during the General Assembly. The aim for the Safety Leadership Symposium and Workshop Series was to educate and encourage collaboration among local elected officials to support collision-reducing policies, strategies and projects. Approximately 137 attendees participated in the series with 22 pledges received related to these efforts. This program will be included as part of the 2020 ConnectSoCal Plan scheduled for release fall 2019.

6. The Future of the Workplace: Regional Summary and Travel Impacts

Chair Parks invited Jingjing Zang, Cambridge Systematics to present on the Future of the Workplace. As part of its Future Communities Initiative SCAG has undertaken studies to better understand teleworking behavior within the SCAG region and emerging trends. Ms. Zang's presentation considered several factors and reviewed emerging trends determined as part of the analysis including: co-working space, gig (freelance) economy and workplace automation and the impact these future workplace trends will have on the economy and technological changes altering work trips.

7. Connect SoCal Technical Methodology Submittal to California Air Resources Board

SCAG staff Rongsheng Luo provided an update to the committee on the Connect SoCal Technical Methodology submitted to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) last month. As the MPO for the southern California Region, SCAG is required by California State statute to submit a technical methodology to ARB that SCAG intends to use to estimate GHG emissions from SCAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The deadline for submittal of the technical methodology to ARB was prior to SCAG initiating the SB 375 public hearing for the SCS which was met.

8. SCAG Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan Update

SCAG staff, Stephen Fox provided an illustrative update to the committee on SCAG's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategic Plan. The TDM Strategic Plan was developed during summer 2018 and will be a guiding document for SCAG's future TDM planning and coordination activities, and will inform the development of Connect SoCal with an aim of reducing the demand on the current facilities. New technology-enabled mobility options will be incorporated into the next TDM Strategic Plan, determine the current state of TDM, identify best practices and opportunities to improve and expand TDM, understand impacts, develop regional goals and objectives that align with state and federal mandates including congestion reduction, air quality and sustainability and develop performance measures to evaluate effectiveness.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Parks took this opportunity to welcome the new Energy and Environmental Committee member the Honorable Robert Copeland, Signal Hill.

STAFF REPORT

Members were informed that SCAG will be dark for the month of July.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S

Supervisor Parks expressed interest in discussing Vehicle Miles Travel (VMT) versus Level of Service (LOS). She also expressed interest in having a discussion on Natural Gas/Bio-mass and its effect on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The Honorable Diane Mahmud expressed interest in learning more about planned power outages and preparation in high fire hazard zone areas.

The Honorable Carmen Ramirez informed she was interest in learning more about the Census and its impact on the Region.

The Honorable Diane Mahmud commented that she would like to have a report on regulations and compliance regarding organic waste.

The Honorable Oscar Ortiz remarked he'd like to hear more about development of a dedicated "greenspace" for drop off of organic waste.



The Honorable Sandra Genis would like to discuss the reduction of waste stream.

The Honorable David Pollock would like to explore the Intersection between RHNA allocations and SCAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy.

ANNOUNCEMENT/S

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Parks adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 12:02PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2019 from 10:00AM - 12:00PM

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

//

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Hahn, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Board

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

2019-20

MEMBERS	Date Appointed if after 5/1/19	Representing	COUNTY	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
Beltran, Ana		Westmoreland, ICTC	Imperial		0											0
Clark, Margaret		Rosemead, RC District 32	Los Angeles		1											1
Copeland, Robert	Jun-19	Signal Hill, GCCOG	Los Angeles		1											1
Davila, Maria		South Gate, GCCOG	Los Angeles		0											0
Davis, Ned		Westlake Village, LVMCOG	Los Angeles		1											1
Devine, Paula		Glendale, AVCJPA	Los Angeles		1											1
Ehrenkranz, Jordan		Canyon Lake, WRCOG	Riverside		1											1
Gardner, Mike		Riverside, WRCOG	Riverside		1											1
Genis, Sandra		Costa Mesa, OCCOG	Orange		1											1
Horne, Shari		Laguna Woods, OCCOG	Orange		1											1
Mahmud, Diana		So. Pasadena, SGVCOG	Los Angeles		1											1
Mitchell, Judy		Rolling Hills Estates, RC District 40	Los Angeles		0											0
Momberger, Toni	Aug-19	Redlands, SBCTA	San Bernardino													
Moran, Cynthia		Chino Hills, SBCTA	San Bernardino		0											0
Morena, Greg	May-19	Santa Monica, WCCOG	Los Angeles		0											0
Nelson, Judy		Glendora, SGVCOG	Los Angeles		0											0
Ortiz, Oscar		Indio, CVAG	Riverside		1											1
Osborne, Jim		Lawndale, SBCCOG	Los Angeles		1											1
Parks, Linda (CHAIR)		Ventura County	Ventura		1											1
Plancarte, Luis		Imperial County	Imperial		0											0
Pollock, David (Vice Chair)		Moorpark, VCOG	Ventura		1											1
Ramirez, Carmen		Oxnard, RC District 45	Ventura		1											1
Raths, Greg		Mission Viejo, OCCOG	Orange		0											0
Robertson, Deborah		Rialto, RC District 8	San Bernardino		0											0
Sahli-Wells, Meghan		Culver City, RC District 41	Los Angeles		0											0
Shader, Rhonda	Jun-19	Placentia, President's Appointment			0											0
Sharif, Emma		Compton, RC District 26	Los Angeles		1											1
Springer, Sharon		Burbank, SFVCOG	Los Angeles		1											1
Valdivia, John		San Bernardino, SBCCOG	San Bernardino		0											0
Wilson, Edward H.J.		Signal Hill, GCCOG	Los Angeles		1											1
VACANT		BIASC	Orange													0

Attachment: 6-6 EEC Attendance Sheet (Minutes of the Meeting - June 6, 2019)

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Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017
August 1, 2019

To: Community
Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)
From: Grieg Asher, Program Manager I, Sustainability, (213) 236-1869, asher@scag.ca.gov
Subject: Green Region Initiative - Sustainability Map Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:

For Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CEHD, EEC AND TC:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The CivicSpark program is a statewide Governor’s Initiative AmeriCorps program administered by the State of California’s Office of Planning and Research and the Local Government Commission (LGC). SCAG is a regional partner and beneficiary of the CivicSpark program and has hosted CivicSpark Fellows working in the Sustainability Department for the past five (5) years. SCAG’s 2018-19 CivicSpark Fellows—April Crain, Guadalupe Franco, and Elisa Barrios—have prepared an update on the SCAG Green Region Initiative (GRI) map. The goal of GRI is to illustrate the status and progress of the region across 28 sustainability indicators.

BACKGROUND:

To enhance the development of the existing Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators project, SCAG partnered with the Local Government Commission (LGC) to host three CivicSpark Fellows. The project provides a visual resource of sustainability progress across the 191 cities and six counties within the SCAG region in both policy and performance. The policies and performance mapped for this project help identify existing best practices across 28 sustainability indicators.

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The CivicSpark program is a statewide Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program administered by the State of California's Office of Planning and Research and the LGC. The program places 90 Fellows in local governments around the state to help build local capacity around climate, housing, water and resiliency issues. SCAG is a regional partner and beneficiary of the CivicSpark program and has hosted CivicSpark Fellows in the Sustainability Department for the past five years.

This year's CivicSpark Fellows have continued work on the GRI Sustainability Indicators project, which charts and maps progress across 28 sustainability topics in every city and county in the SCAG region. The final deliverables of the 2018-19 CivicSpark program year are 11 updated maps, which create a polished and enhanced GRI v 3.6, individual GIS shapefiles to be accessed via SCAG's Open Data Portal, as well as simplified regional sustainability statistics through utilization of the GRI data. Overall, the GRI provides a resource for SCAG staff, local governments, and the public to explore best practices in the region, facilitate collaboration, and advance sustainability and resiliency planning in Southern California.

This project supports the 2020 RTP/SCS land use strategy to support local sustainability planning, highlighting best practices around the region and serving as a resource for other cities to replicate existing projects and tailor them to suit their unique needs.

SCAG's partnership with CivicSpark will continue through the next 2019-20 program year. The CivicSpark Fellows will continue collecting data on sustainability progress across the SCAG region. The Fellows will also conduct outreach from stakeholders on the map's functionality, purpose, and the indicators as a whole. They will then use this feedback to further refine and update the map. Finally, the Fellows will help organize webinars and meetings to provide technical assistance for local governments on sustainability best practices in the region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The CivicSpark program is funded jointly by the LGC, and SCAG in its FY 19-20 Overall Work Program (065.137.10).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - CivicSpark

CivicSpark 2018-19 Climate Fellows

Elisa Barrios, April Crain, and Lupe Franco



Agenda

- SCAG and Civicspark
- Green Region Initiative
- Regional Climate Adaptation Framework
- Go Human
- CivicSpark Projects
- Next Steps



Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation - CivicSpark (Green Region Initiative - Sustainability Map Update)

CivicSpark and SCAG

- To enhance the development of the existing Green Region Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Indicators project, SCAG partnered with the Local Government Commission (LGC) to host three CivicSpark Fellows.
- The project provides a visual resource of sustainability progress across the 191 cities and six counties within the SCAG region in both policy and performance.
- The policies and performance mapped for this project help identify existing best practices across 28 sustainability indicators.

- The CivicSpark program is a statewide Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program administered by the State of California's Office of Planning and Research and the Local Government Commission (LGC).
- SCAG is a regional partner and beneficiary of the CivicSpark program and has hosted CivicSpark Fellows working in the Sustainability Department for the past five (5) years.

Green Region Initiative

Tracking Sustainability in Southern California
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

Green Region Initiative v3.6

Achievements

- Completed updates to the GRI Policy Indicators and Storymaps creating a polished and enhanced GRI v3.6
- Created GRI shapefiles that can be accessed via SCAG Open Data Portal and SCAG Geodatabase
- Quantified the regional efforts using the GRI to create sustainability statistics and GRI at a Glance

Sustainability at a Glance

REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
SCAG REGION 191 CITIES SIX COUNTIES

POPULATION 19 mil
% of California Pop 48.1%
African American 6.2%
Asian American 16.1%
Caucasian 30.9%
Hispanic/Latino 46.9%

Land Use 38,000 sq miles
Miles of Freeway 1,121
Miles of Major Roads 14,614
Sq Ft of Open Space/Capita 8,752
Miles of Existing Bikeway 4,130

OPEN SPACE
Nature's Land Conservation
Policy within the Region
No conservation policies that track carbon spend 24%
Policies in general plan that promote protection of public lands 40%
15%

CLIMATE ACTION
CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING
MUNICIPAL GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY
Policy within the Region
No inventory that includes all sectors 66%
Inventory that includes all sectors 34%
State preferred & updated inventory 77%
34%
Performance within the Region
No inventory that includes all sectors 64%
Inventory that includes all sectors 36%
State preferred & updated inventory 19%

Local Government Commission
Leaders for Livable Communities

scaggreenregion@scag.ca.gov

Green Region Initiative v3.6

The Green Region Initiative (GRI) tracks sustainability effort across the SCAG region. Through this simplified region-wide sustainability tool, the GRI provides a streamline platform for local jurisdictions to collaborate and share best practices ultimately creating a more sustainable Southern California.



Achievements

- Completed updates to the GRI Policy Indicators and Storymaps creating a polished and enhanced GRI v3.6
- Created GRI shapefiles that can be accessed via SCAG Open Data Portal and SCAG Geodatabase
- Quantified the regional efforts using the GRI to create sustainability statistics and GRI at a Glance



Climate Adaptation

Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework

SCAG's Regional Climate Adaptation Framework will assist local and regional jurisdictions in managing the negative impacts of climate change. The study looks at how the Southern California region can work together to plan and prepare for the impacts of sea level rise, extreme heat, increasingly frequent and damaging wildfires, and other climate-related issues. The region is already dealing with these severe climate impacts and adaptation planning is necessary to help individuals, communities, and natural systems cope with the unavoidable consequences of a changing climate.

Stakeholder Focus Groups & Interviews | **Public Engagement Events** | **Outreach & Engagement Reference Guides/Tools** | **Vulnerability Assessment & Project Tracking Tools**

Spring/Summer 2019 | Winter/Spring 2020

Climate Risk & Vulnerability Mapping | **Transportation/Land Use Impact Analysis** | **Model Language for General Plans** | **Southern California Adaptation Planning Guide**

Project Overview

Climate adaptation planning has been slow in the SCAG region and across the country. This pie chart shows the level of adaptation effort for 191 SCAG cities and 6 counties. Many cities lack the capacity resources to develop effective climate adaptation plans and policies.

What's Next?

- Project Management:** assist with various admin tasks, organize meetings, and coordinate with SCAG, consultants, and stakeholders.
- Research:** provide research support for various aspects of the project.
- Writing:** help develop content for the adaptation website, respond to queries and emails, and other writing tasks.
- Working Groups:** help to organize and run a series of adaptation working groups hosted by SCAG as well as take notes on lessons learned at these meetings.
- Outreach:** attend our Summer/Fall outreach events to engage local communities and identify the best adaptation messaging strategies.

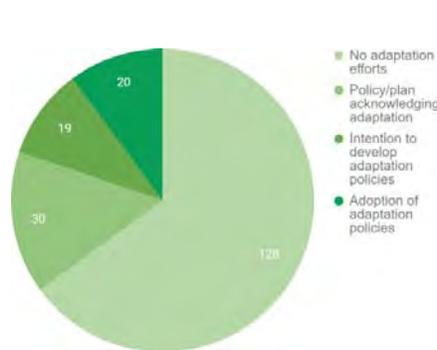
April Crain
Born and raised in Australia, April graduated from the University of Melbourne with a BA in International Relations, Criminology, and Spanish. After CivicSpark, she will pursue a career in International Environmental Law.

Local Government Commission
Leaders for Livable Communities

Sustainability website: sustain.scag.ca.gov
Adaptation email: adaptation@scag.ca.gov

Regional Climate Adaptation Framework

- Adaptation and resilience planning efforts in the region and across the country have been slow.
- Of the 191 cities and 6 counties in the SCAG region, only 20 have adopted adaptation plans/policies, whereas 128 have made little to no adaptation planning efforts.
- SCAG's Regional Climate Adaptation Framework will build a roadmap, offer support, and provide useable data and projections for our member cities to start planning for climate adaptation.
- This is absolutely vital to developing geographic, social, and economic resilience in the region.



CLIMATE TALKS
... JOIN THE DIALOGUE

SCAG is pleased to kick off their Climate Adaptation Planning Framework project. A study that looks at how Southern California can work together to plan and prepare for the impacts of sea level rise, more frequent and damaging wildfires, extreme weather events, and other climate-related impacts. Over the next year, SCAG will work with regional stakeholders to identify key adaptation strategies, engage in a dialogue, and provide planning tools for climate adaptation.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION:
A research effort to estimate the regional impacts of a changing climate through:
- Sea Level Rise & Flooding
- Extreme Heat & Drought
- Wildfires & Air Quality
- Water & Ecosystem Impacts
- Agriculture & Communities

TIMELINE 2019 - 2020

SCAG

Working with Active Transportation

Go Human, Active Transportation and Special Programs

Go Human is an advertising campaign created by SCAG's Active Transportation Department with the goal of reducing traffic collisions and GHG emissions by encouraging people to walk, bike, and take a more active mode of transportation. Go Human participates in events that help communities envision a more active city through education and advocacy.

Volunteering Overview

The fellows assisted the ATP team in Go Human labeling events where we engaged with community members and informed them on the Go Human cause. The fellows assisted in two Go Human events, one partnered with COAST Open Streets in Santa Monica and the other with LA CoMotion.

Go Human Kits

At the LA CoMotion event a pop-up demonstration was set up to help visualize a curbside without parking and more space or entertainment. The Go Human Kit of Parts was created to help agencies set up similar pop-up demonstrations while conserving their resources.

Lupe Franco
Lupe grew up in the community of Boyle Heights located in Los Angeles where she studied Geology at Cal State Los Angeles and obtained a GIS certificate from Pasadena City College. After CivicSpark she will be attending San Jose State University for a Masters in Environmental Studies.

Local Government Commission
Leaders for Livable Communities

Go Human

- Go Human is the Active Transportation and Special Programs Departments campaign.
- Created with the goal of promoting pedestrian and bicyclist safety and a more active mode of transportation.
- The Fellows volunteered in two Go Human events: COAST Santa Monica and LA CoMotion.



Attachment: PowerPoint Presentation - CivicSpark (Green Region Initiative - Sustainability Map Update)

Civicspark Projects

Volunteer Engagement



Service



Trainings



Next Steps

Lupe Franco

Attend San Jose State University in the Fall for Environmental Studies with a focus on Environmental Justice and Climate Research.



Elisa Barrios

Looking to continue my environmental career in a position that combines my passion for conservation and sustainability.

Attending a masters program in GIS and/or environmental science



April Crain

Attending the University of Colorado at Boulder Law School focusing on International Environmental Law.





Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017
August 1, 2019

To: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Grieg Asher, Program Manager I, Sustainability, (213) 236-1869, asher@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California's policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SCAG has initiated preparation of a Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework (CAF) to help the region's jurisdictions improve resiliency to climate-related stressors such as extreme heat, wildfire, drought, flooding, precipitation rates and sea level rise. The CAF will address existing vulnerabilities through the lens of land use and transportation, and provide implementation tools for local jurisdictions to adapt to climate change. Tools are also intended to help stakeholders more effectively communicate about climate stressors and identify opportunities for the region's land use pattern and transportation system to be more adaptable. SCAG's consultant team will summarize the project's status and identify upcoming deliverables and milestones.

BACKGROUND:

Climate change adaptation planning has become more pressing with each passing year as the SCAG region experiences extreme climate-related events more frequently, such as the destruction, travel congestion and air quality degradation from wildfires, inland flooding and mudslides from torrential rainstorms, coastal flooding from sea level rise, and urban heat island effects from unusually high temperatures. These events have become persistent reminders to local governments, residents, workers and businesses throughout the SCAG region that systematic adaptation and resiliency planning must become a high priority. Moreover, since climate stressors do not follow jurisdictional boundaries, effective management of and adaptation to risks posed by climate change will require cross-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration.

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SCAG staff identified an opportunity in 2017 to develop a Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework (CAF) including a regional assessment of vulnerabilities and risks, as well as the identification of tools for local jurisdictions to plan for mitigation measures and guide their future growth with climate adaptation in mind. With discretionary resources available from the 2017 SB1-funded Adaptation Planning Grant Program, Caltrans awarded SCAG a \$941,700 competitive planning grant to prepare the comprehensive CAF, which will include implementation tools, data, and resources for all SCAG region jurisdictions to prepare vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, general plans, and other documents.

In early 2019, SCAG initiated a contract with Cambridge Systematics, Inc. to help prepare the CAF. Since the project's initiation, a Climate Adaptation Working Group has been established with key regional stakeholders, and a kickoff meeting was conducted in spring 2019. Part of the project's scope will be for the consultant to prepare a multipart analysis of transportation and land use impacts of climate events, including the use of the SCAG Regional Travel Demand Model, location based services data for transportation impacts, and mapping software for land use impacts. Ultimately, the final CAF will include a multilingual Southern California Adaptation Planning Guide, which will walk cities through a detailed consideration of risk and strategy development, and will emphasize ongoing monitoring as essential to extracting maximum adaptation benefits.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This project is funded in SCAG's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Overall Work Program under 20-145.4834.01.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Climate Adaptation Framework

SCAG Climate Adaptation Framework

Energy and Environment Committee

Grieg Asher, David Von Stroh
SCAG Sustainability Department, Cambridge Systematics consultant team
August 1, 2019

www.scag.ca.gov

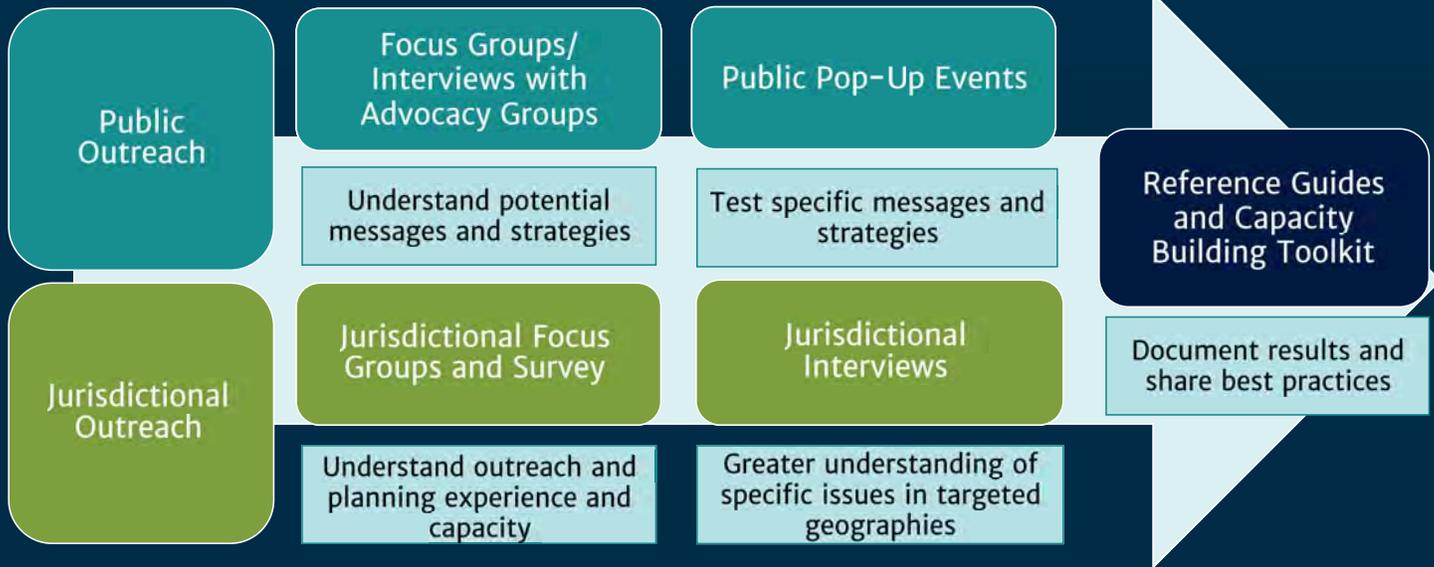


Adaptation planning coordination and guidance

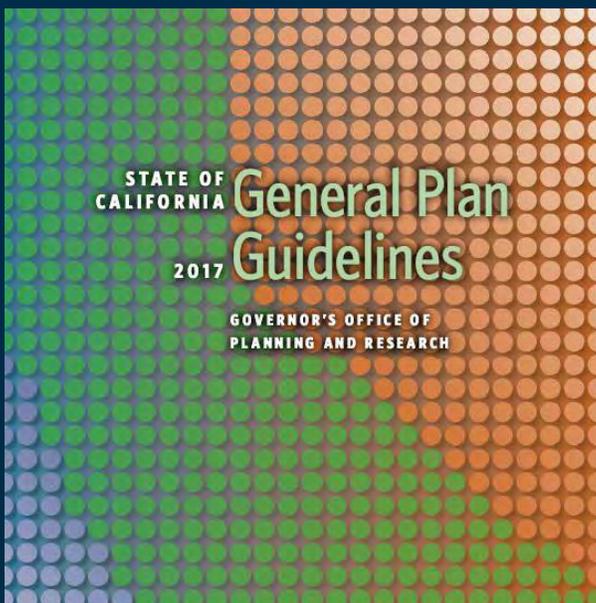


- Coordination strategy will:
 - Encourage and offer platforms for cooperation
 - Assist jurisdictions with tools and techniques to facilitate regional coordination on adaptation strategies
 - Identify gaps in understanding and connections
 - Guard against “maladaptation”
 - Allow communities to identify strategies to reduce those climate risks in an efficient and effective manner

Overview of Outreach Tasks



General Plan Guidance Overview



- Gap analysis and overview
- Model language for:
 - Circulation, Land Use, Safety and Environmental Justice General Plan elements
 - Local Coastal Programs
- Develop checklist of components needed to address vulnerability and identify adaptation solutions

Identifies a comprehensive suite of policies for jurisdictions to choose from and tailor to suit their local context

Transportation and Land Use Analysis



- Risk Mapping
 - Wildfires, Sea Level Rise, Flooding, Extreme Heat Impacts
- Travel Demand Modeling (TDM)
 - Baseline
 - Climate Impact Scenarios – based on risk mapping
 - Adaptation/Mitigation Scenarios
- Location-Based Services Data Analysis
 - Selected Recent Events (wildfires, floods)
 - Before, during, after – travel patterns, residential, workplace
- Case Studies Toolkit

Risk and Vulnerability Mapping



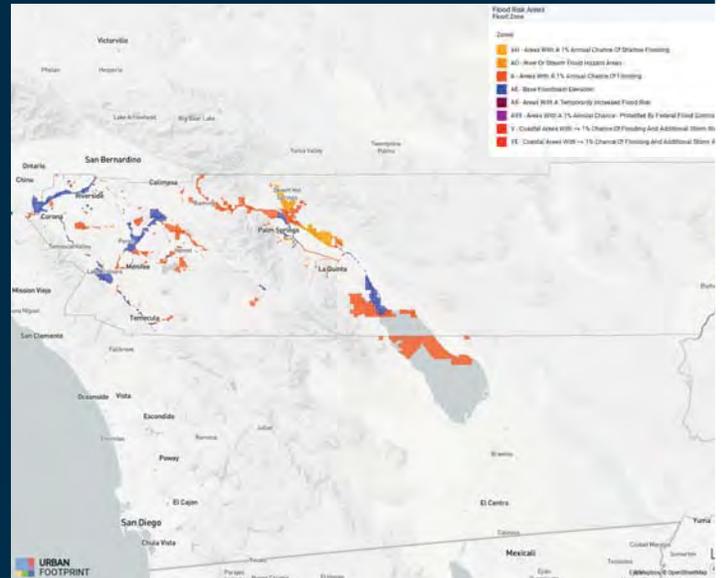
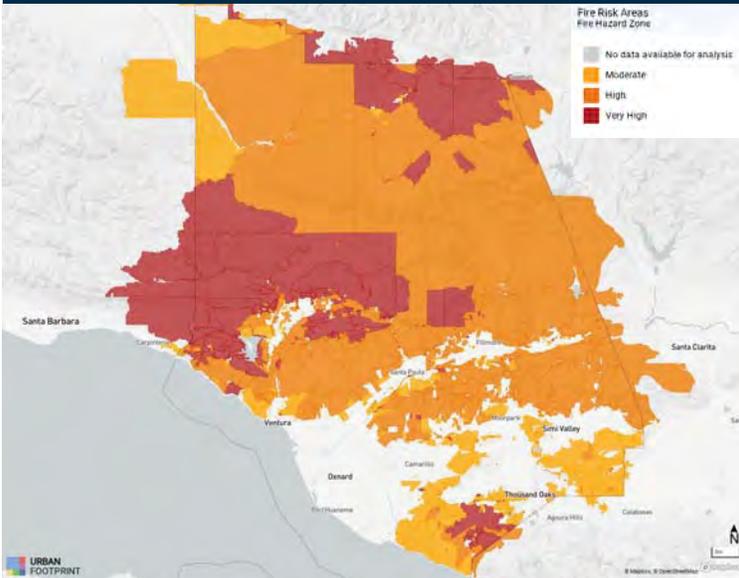
- Wildfire Risk, Sea Level Rise, Extreme Precipitation Flood Risk
- County and Regional Mapping
- Impacts Data Summary
 - Dwelling Units
 - Population
 - Jobs
 - Land Area

Risk and Vulnerability Mapping

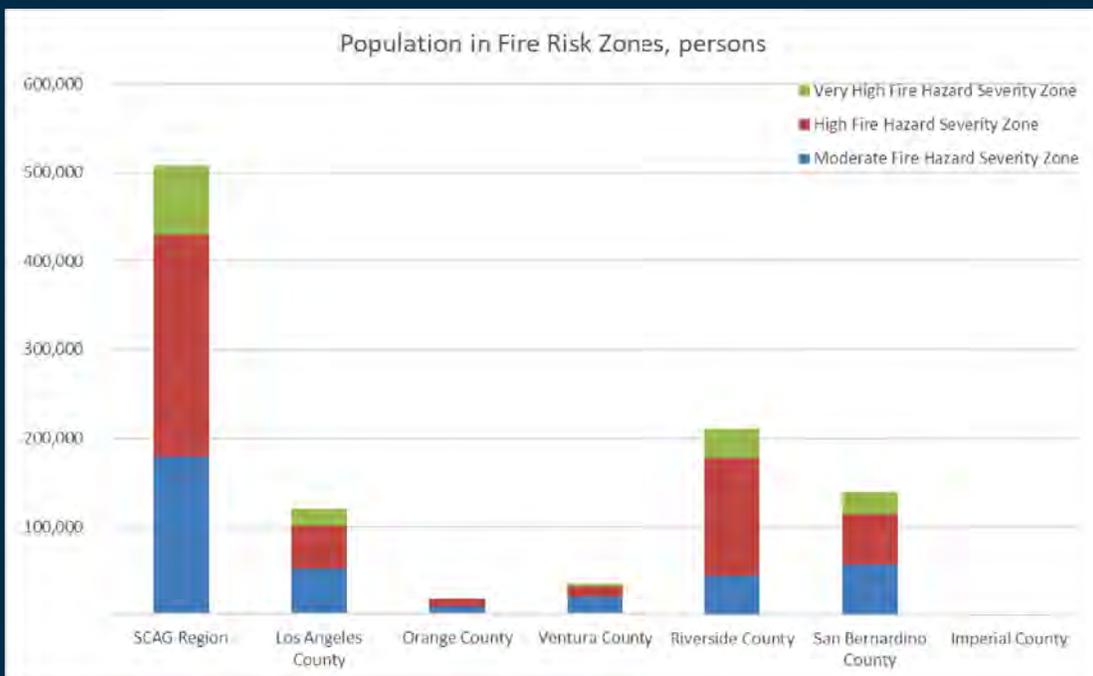


Ventura County Wildfire Risk
Source: CalFire

Riverside County Flood Risk
Source: FEMA



Risk and Vulnerability Mapping



Wildfire and Flood Events for Analysis



Event	Name	County	Start Date	End Date	Note
Fire	Thomas Creek Rye	Ventura	12/4/2017	1/12/2018	281,791 acres burned
		Los Angeles	12/5/2017	12/5/2017	15,619 acres burned
		Los Angeles	12/5/2017	12/13/2017	6,048 acres burned
Fire	Woolsey	LA, Ventura	11/8/2018	11/22/2018	96,949 acres burned
Fire	Holy	Orange, Riverside	8/6/2018	9/13/2018	23,136 acres burned
Fire	Cranston	Riverside	7/26/2018	8/10/2018	13,139 acres burned
Fire	Canyon 2	Orange	10/9/2017	10/17/2017	9,198 acres burned
Flood	Palm Springs	Riverside, San Bernardino	2/14/2019	2/14/2019	>\$2 Million damages
Flood	Costa Mesa, Malibu	Orange, Ventura	11/29/2018	12/6/2018	Mudslides and flooding

Risk and Vulnerability Mapping



Orange County 1 meter Sea Level Rise + avg storm conditions
Source: CoSMoS

Orange County 1 meter Sea Level Rise + extreme storm conditions
Source: CalFloD-3D (CalAdapt)



Additional tools and resources



- Gap Analysis
- Interactive Mapping Tool
- Finance/funding workshop
- Principles and Metrics Reference guide
- Decision-making spreadsheet toolkit
- Risks/Adaptations project tracking tool

Contact the project team

SCAG

Grieg Asher
asher@scag.ca.gov

Adaptation Team
adaptation@scag.ca.gov

Cambridge Systematics

David Von Stroh
dvonstroh@camsys.com

www.scag.ca.gov





Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017
August 1, 2019

To: Energy & Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)
From: Jason Greenspan, Manager of Sustainability, Planning Division,
213-236-1859, greenspan@scag.ca.gov
Subject: Caltrans District Vulnerability Assessments

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EEC:

For Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR TC:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 2: Advance Southern California’s policy interests and planning priorities through regional, statewide, and national engagement and advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Caltrans is in the process of preparing reports on the vulnerability of the state highway system to the effects of climate change. The intention of these vulnerability assessment reports is to provide data to support the discussion about how climate change impacts the way the state highway system is planned, designed, built, operated and maintained. The vulnerability assessment reports for twelve districts throughout California will ultimately evaluate which state highways are most vulnerable to flooding and other damage, assess possible consequences, and evaluate methods for deciding how to prioritize action. Representatives from Caltrans will provide a broad overview of the statewide goal, purpose and process of developing vulnerability assessment reports.

BACKGROUND:

In an effort to address Climate Change for both mitigation and adaptation purposes, Caltrans is taking steps to fully integrate climate change into transportation investment decision making, from planning to project development, operations and maintenance. Caltrans’ objective is to make the state highway system more resilient, sustainable, and adaptable to climate-spurred events and extreme weather. To identify where the state highway system is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme events, Caltrans is conducting vulnerability assessments throughout the state at the district level using five climate stressors: sea level rise, storm surge, changes in

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precipitation, changes in temperature, and increased wildfires. Although the vulnerability assessment reports neither propose specific projects nor discuss costs, they use the best science currently available on potential temperature changes and sea level rise to assess the various types of risks the state will need to prepare for in the future. District vulnerability assessment reports will project future climate scenarios, quantify and map impacts of climate change stressors, and identify transportation assets at risk.

Three vulnerability assessments have been completed thus far for the Oakland/San Francisco, Fresno and Redding Caltrans districts. Vulnerability assessments for Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego are pending release this fall, with six additional districts next in line, including Orange County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Caltrans District Vulnerability Assessments



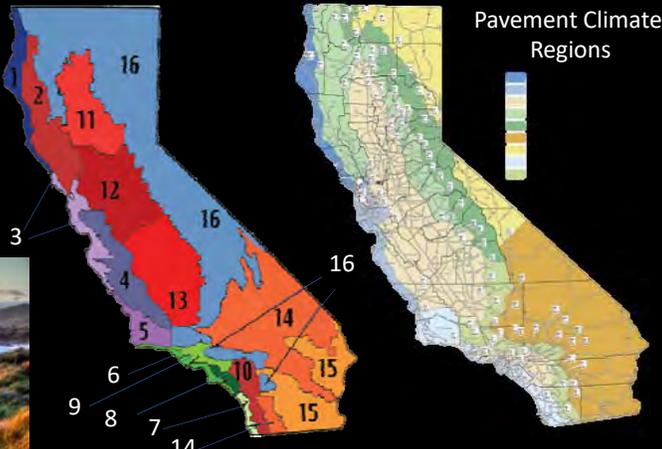
TOWARD A CLIMATE RESILIENT STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Reza Navai, Ph.D, AICP
 Assistant Division Chief
 Transportation Planning
 California Department of Transportation

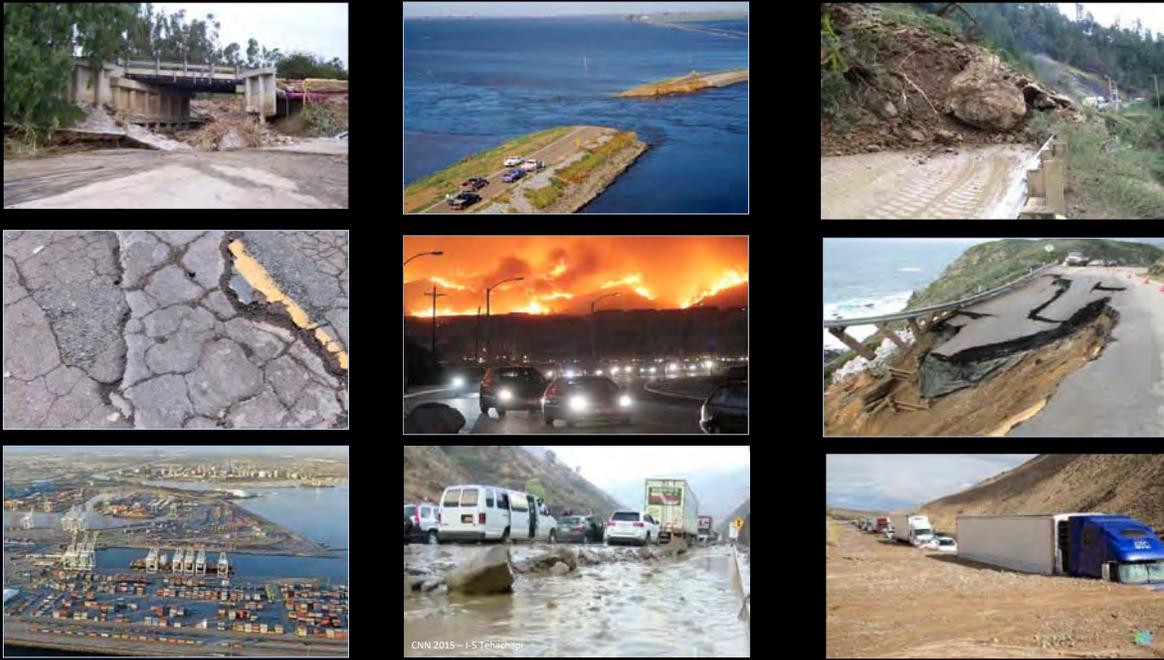
Southern California Association of Governments
 Energy and Environmental Committee
 August 1, 2019

California's Diverse Landscape and Climate Zones

- Diverse Local climates from temperate rainforests in the North to arid deserts in the South
- Within 80 miles of one another lie the highest and lowest points in the lower 48 states. Mount Whitney at 14,495 ft. and Death Valley at -282 ft.



Climate Change Impacts to Transportation Infrastructure



Severe Storms and Emergency Repairs State Highway Network

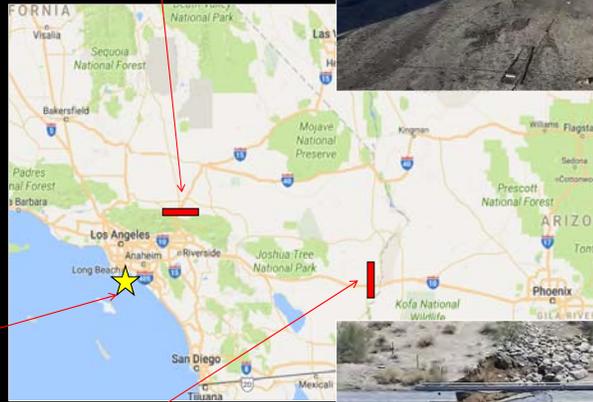


Over \$250 Million Storm Damage in Caltrans District 4 (2017)

Impact on Regional & Interstate Network

- A facility can be affected even if it is not directly exposed to a climate stressor
- In the summer of 2015, 2 separate incidents shut down the main truck routes between the ports and rest of the U.S.

I-15 Cajon Pass Fire (July 2015)



Ports of Los Angeles & Long Beach

I-10 flooding & bridge collapse (July-Sept 2015)



Increase Travel Time in Bay Area

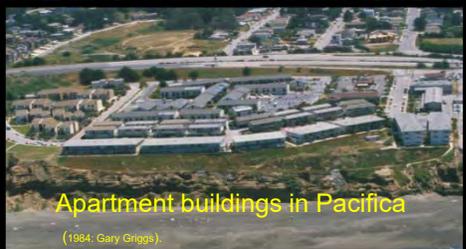


California's 4th Climate Change Assessment 2018

Ports at Risk



Coastal Properties at Risk



Pathway to Resiliency

What Are We Doing ?

Vulnerability Assessments

- Project climate Impacts on state highways and transportation assets
- Develop GIS Map and Data base
- Local and Regional partnership

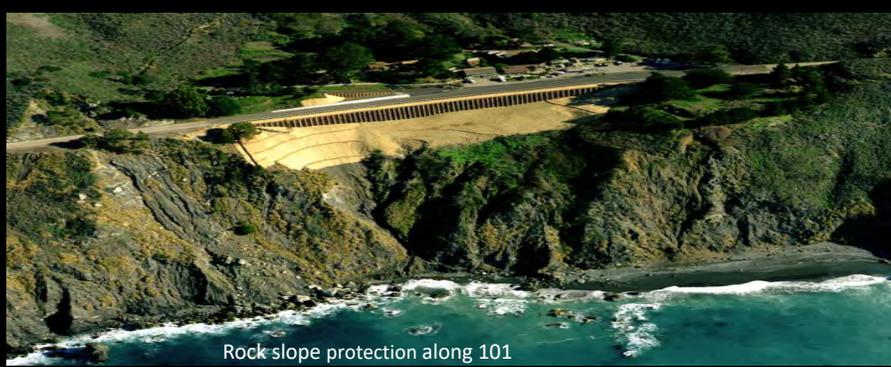
Climate Adaptation Strategies

- Prioritize assets at risk
- Develop adaptation strategies
- Integrate into Caltrans business practices
- Develop Standards for planning, design, and project programming

Adaptation Based on Historical Data (Reactive Adaptation)

- Adapting to Recurring Events or where Impact is already Visible
- Data is available and Collected Overtime
- No – Regrets Adaptation Actions





Rock slope protection along 101



Defend



Major erosion event along 101, in need of repair

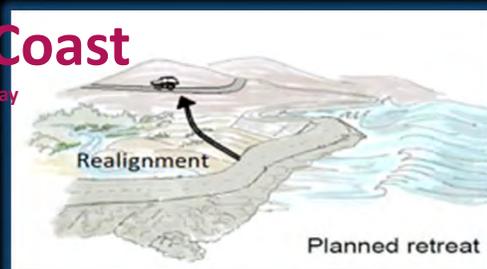


Seawall protecting HWY 1 in Malibu (District 7)

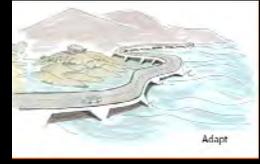
Storm Surge - Piedras Blancas, Highway 1, San Luis Obispo



Realignment - Piedras Blancas



- The largest track of tidal salt marsh in CA outside of SF Bay



Elkhorn Slough Sea Level Rise Adaptation Efforts

Pacific Coast Highway, Monterey County



State Route 37 Adaptation Efforts



SR 37 Alternative Routes Between I-80 and 101

- SR 37 Corridor is 21 miles
- Northern Rte (Hwy 12 to Hwy 116) = 44 miles
- Southern Rte (Richmond Bridge - 580) = 43 miles
- SR-37 closure would have severe impact to I-80, SR 101 and sub corridors



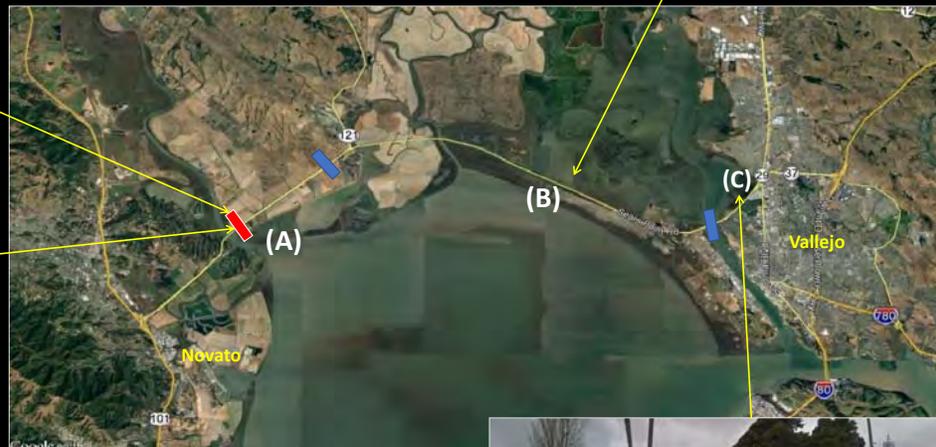
The Weakest Link ...



Novato Creek



Mare Island Bridge

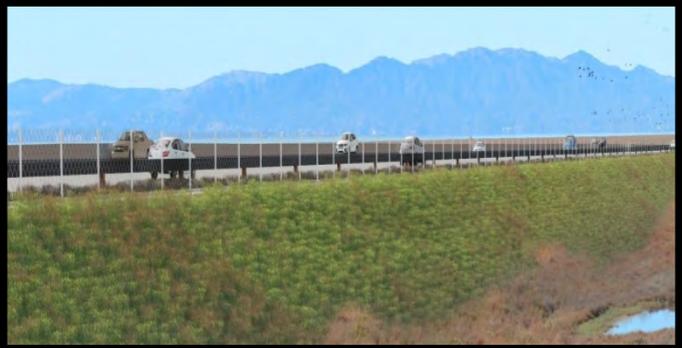


San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge



Adaptive Structural Scenarios Considered

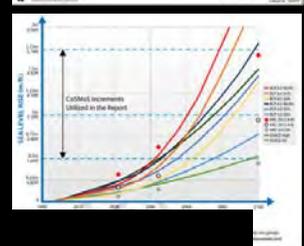
- Berm/Embankment
- Box Girder Causeway (over land)
- Bridge/causeway (over land-water)



Adapting to Future Conditions – Raising the Bar (Proactive Adaptation)

• Challenges:

- Risk-Based – Planning/Design with Uncertainty
- Better Data – Narrowing Uncertainty
- Training – Adaptive Design & Natural Infrastructure
- Complex Models - Projections vs. Historical Data
 - Global Climate Models (GCMs) i.e., IPCC
 - Probabilistic/Scenario-Based projections i.e., RCPs
 - Applied Models i.e., CoSMoS (storm model)



Toward Resiliency in Transportation System

Vulnerability Assessments by Regions

- Project future climate scenarios (2050, 2070, 2100)
- Quantify and map impacts of climate stressors
- Identify assets at risk (roads, bridges, culverts, etc.)



Climate Change Stressors Studied



Sea Level Rise



Storm Surge



Precipitation



High Temperatures



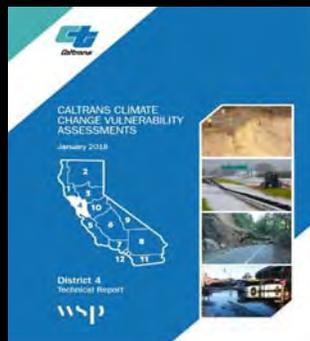
Wildfires

All 12 Caltrans Districts Will Receive:



Summary Report

- Overview of the natural environment and transportation infrastructure
- Description of the interaction of the transportation system and identified stressors



Technical Report

- Background on data used to develop reports
- Vulnerability assessment methodology

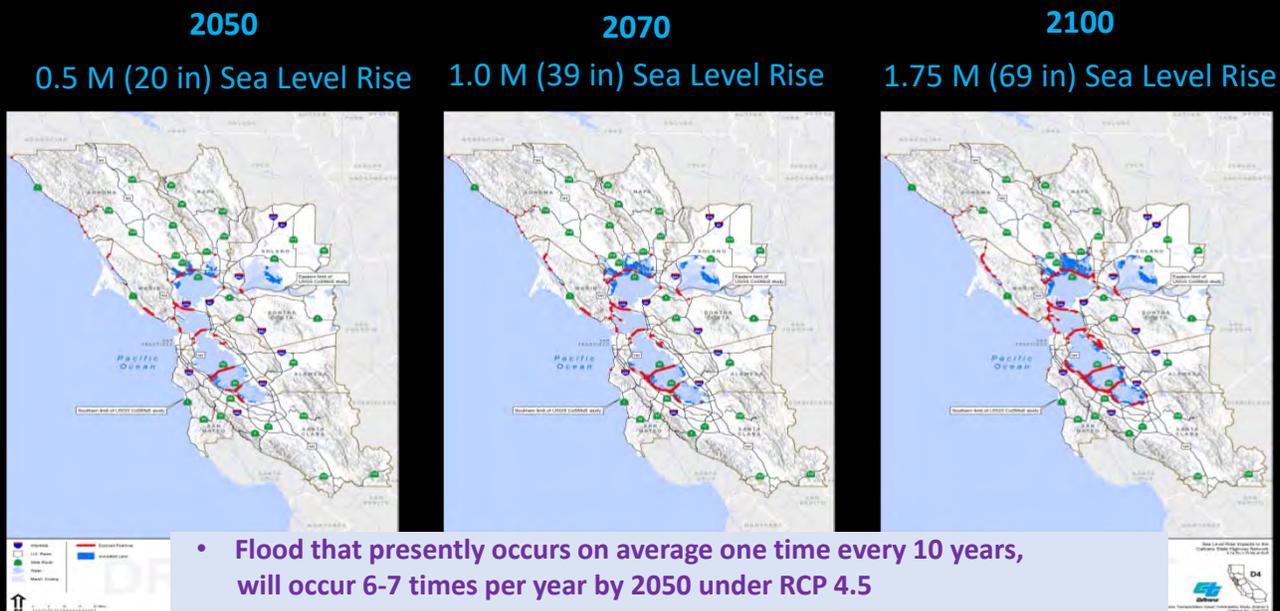


On-line viewer Tool

- Posted online, the tool allows users to toggle stressors on and off to visualize locations of the stressors



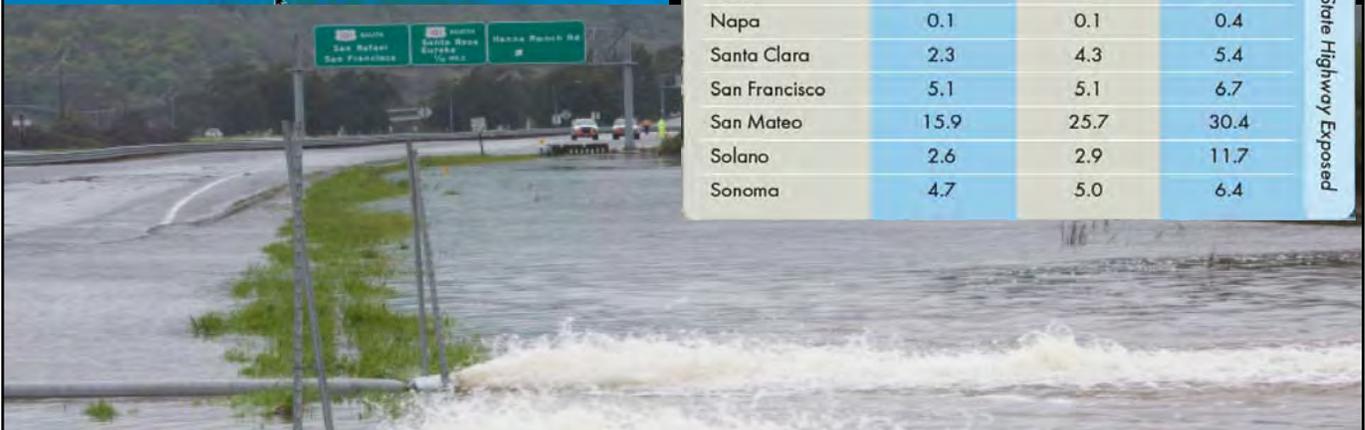
Sea Level Rise Impacts under the High Emission Scenario Caltrans District 4 – Bay Area





Sea Level Rise with Storm Surge

110 MILES OF ROADWAYS AND BRIDGES IN DISTRICT 4 ARE EXPOSED TO STORM SURGE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, WITH 30 OF THOSE MILES IN SAN MATEO COUNTY



County	Estimated Sea Level Rise with Storm Surge			Miles of State Highway Exposed
	0.5 meter (1.64 ft) 2048 - 2100	1.0 meter (3.28 ft) 2064 - 2100	1.75 meter (5.74 ft) 2081 - 2100	
Alameda	5.6	10.0	25.3	
Contra Costa	2.3	2.3	4.4	
Marin	10.6	13.5	19.5	
Napa	0.1	0.1	0.4	
Santa Clara	2.3	4.3	5.4	
San Francisco	5.1	5.1	6.7	
San Mateo	15.9	25.7	30.4	
Solano	2.6	2.9	11.7	
Sonoma	4.7	5.0	6.4	

Sea Level Rise with Storm Surge

Fig. 7

STORM SURGE EXAMPLE

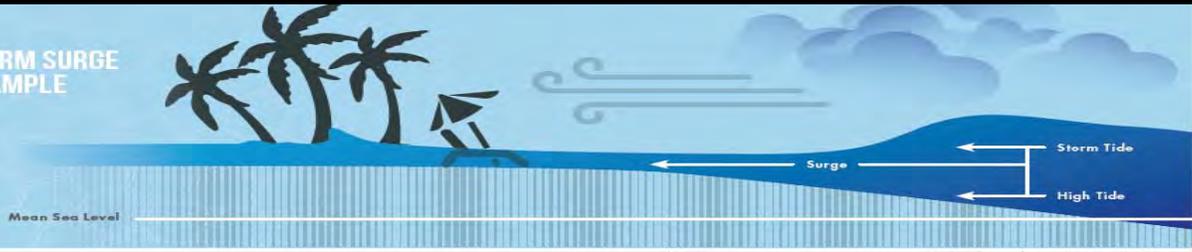


Fig. 8

ROADS EXPOSED TO HIGHER RISK OF SEA LEVEL RISE



Roads at Risk of Flooding Due to Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge, San Francisco Bay Area. 3.28 ft (1 meter) Sea Level Rise 100-year Storm Surge

FLOODED BAYSHORE ROAD HIGHWAY 37



FLOODED BRIDGE ACCESS I-80 IN OAKLAND



ERODING COASTAL ROAD HIGHWAY 1 AT GLEASON BEACH



Projected Sea Level Rise and Impacts Bridge Exposure

Climate Impact	Potential Transportation Impact
Sea Level Rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadway washout Flooding of roadways Disruption of transit services Bridge Scour Railway flooding Damage to roadway substructure Route closure Travel Delays Increased need for emergency response services

Estimated Sea Level Rise by Source

USACE¹

- High
- Intermediate

NRC 2012/CCC

- A1B1

CA 4th Climate Assessment

- RCP 8.5 99.9%
- RCP 4.5 50%

CoSMoS = Coastal Storm Modeling System

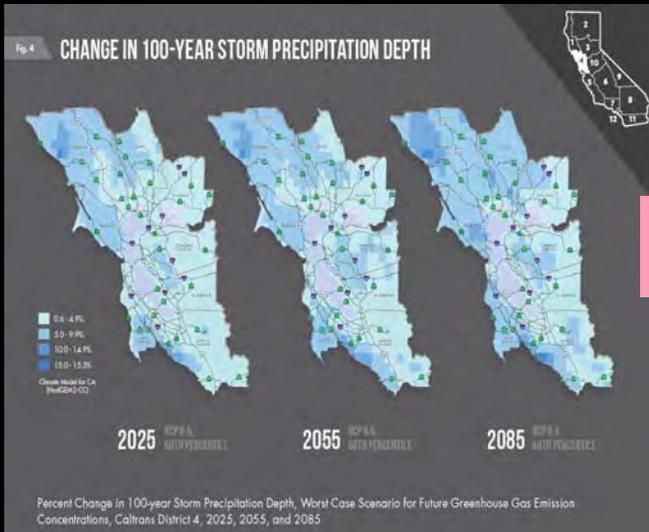


¹ Sea Level Change Curve Calculator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, <http://www.corpsdelaware.us/coastalrises.cfm>, November 12, 2014

BRIDGES IN COASTAL AREAS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Heavier Precipitation

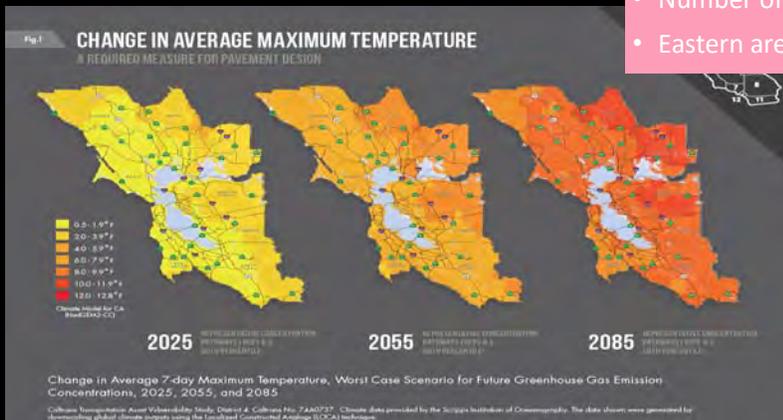


100 Year Rainfall depth is expected to increase up to 15 Percent



- Rainstorms are expected to be less frequent, but stronger when they occur

Temperatures Rising



- Number of extremely hot days projected to increase.
- Eastern areas show greatest increase



2006 California heat wave

11 consecutive days above 100°F

655 deaths

1,182 hospitalizations

16,166 ED visits

- 2017-18 - one of the most destructive years in CA
- 42 miles of State highway network impacted

Recurring Wildfires

Fig 9 INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF WILDFIRES

Levels of Concern:
■ VERY HIGH
■ HIGH
■ MEDIUM
■ Equal Riskway

2025 2055 2085

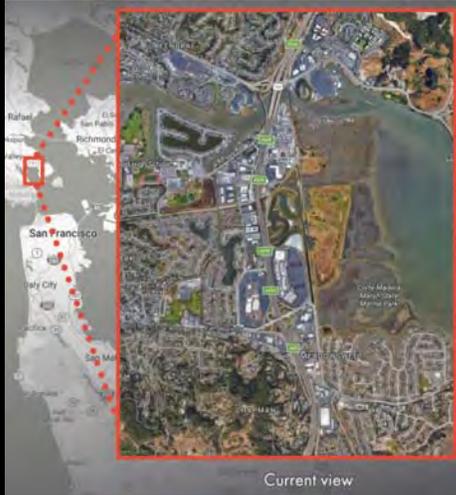
Increased Likelihood of Caltrans State Highway System Exposed to Wildfires within District 4 in Future Years

- Wildfire severity and frequency has resulted in 80% increase in area burned in recent years

County	Miles		
	2025	2055	2085
Santa Clara	1.0	2.8	4.0
Solano		4.0	7.5
Napa		1.4	2.4

Asset-level assessments

- Identify Localized Exposure
- Develop Facility Management Plans'
- Local Coordination
- Develop complementary practices



ON-LINE INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL FOR DECISION-MAKING

- Moderate
- Very High

Wildfire Exposure 2010 to 2039 RCP 8.5

- Moderate
- High
- Very High

Wildfire Exposure 2040 to 2059 RCP 8.5

- Moderate
- High
- Very High

Wildfire Exposure 2060 to 2079 RCP 8.5

- Moderate
- High
- Very High

Basemap Gallery



Climate Adaptation Strategy

Recommending adaptation strategies for integration into transportation investment decisions

Climate Adaptation Strategy Report

Develop adaptation strategies guide

- Best Practices
- How to mainstream adaptation into planning, programming, project development, maintenance and operations



District Adaptation Reports

Evaluate at-risk assets, prioritize, and design project alternatives within districts

RANKED WITHIN DISTRICT

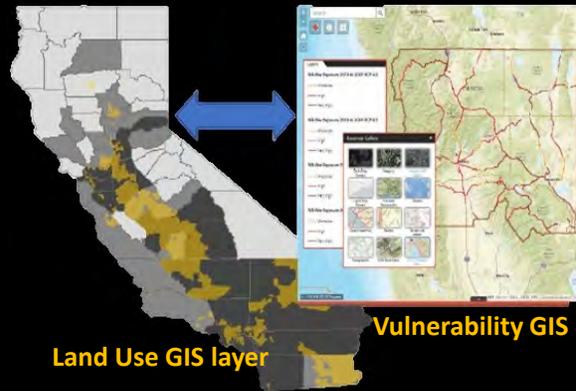


Climate Change is an Equity Issue

- Inter-generational Equity
- Interaregional Equity



San Jose, California, after rising floodwaters. CBS News, Feb. 2017



Land Use GIS layer Vulnerability GIS layer



Transportation in the Face of Changing Climate

Thank you
Reza.navai@dot.ca.gov

*I-15 Washout, February 2017
District 8*



Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017
August 1, 2019

To: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Roland Ok, Senior Regional Planner, Compliance &
Performance Monitoring, (213) 236-1819, ok@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Connect SoCal PEIR Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update on comments received in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that SCAG released for a 30-day public review and comment period on January 23, 2019, update on comments received during the Scoping Meetings that were held on February 22, 2019, and an overview of stakeholder outreach meetings that occurred from June 2019 to July 2019. Additionally, this report provides a preliminary draft outline and a schedule of key milestones for the PEIR.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to the federal Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) and Section 65080 of the California Government Code, SCAG is required to adopt and update a long-range regional transportation plan (RTP) every four (4) years. SCAG’s last RTP was adopted in 2016 and an updated RTP is required to be adopted by April 2020. In accordance with the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, or Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg), the RTP will include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which details strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger vehicles (automobiles and light-duty trucks). As one of the State’s 18 MPOs, SCAG must prepare an SCS that demonstrates the region’s ability to attain GHG emission-reduction targets through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning.

CEQA and its implementing regulations (*State CEQA Guidelines*) require SCAG as the Lead Agency to prepare an EIR for any discretionary government action, including programs and plans that may cause significant environmental effects. *Connect SoCal* is a regional planning document updated

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every four years (see further discussion below). *Connect SoCal* would update the 2016 RTP/SCS. Given the regional level of analysis provided in *Connect SoCal*, a Program EIR (PEIR) is the appropriate CEQA document. A PEIR is a “first-tier” CEQA document designed to consider “broad policy alternatives and program wide mitigation measures” (*State CEQA Guidelines* Sec. 15168). The programmatic environmental analysis for the *Connect SoCal* PEIR will evaluate potential environmental effects consisting of direct and indirect effects, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts resulting from the Plan, and will include mitigation measures to offset any identified potentially significant adverse environmental effects. As a first-tier document, the PEIR may serve as a foundation for subsequent, site-specific environmental review documents (including Addendums, Supplemental EIRs, Subsequent EIRs) for individual transportation and development projects in the region (*State CEQA Guidelines* Sec. 15385).

In addition to fulfilling legal requirements, the PEIR will provide an opportunity to inform decision makers and the public about potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of the RTP and alternatives. This first-tier regional-scale environmental analysis will also help local agencies evaluate and reduce direct and indirect impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative environmental effects with respect to local projects.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS OF NOP AND SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS FOR THE *CONNECT SOCAL* PEIR:

As indicated in the February 7, 2019 Staff Report to the EEC, staff prepared the NOP for *Connect SoCal*, which was authorized for release and 30-day public review by the EAC on January 16, 2019. The public review period for the NOP occurred from January 23, 2019 to February 22, 2019. The NOP was released to notify local, state and federal agencies, and other interested agencies, organizations and individuals that SCAG plans to prepare a PEIR for *Connect SoCal*. The NOP provided a brief overview of the plan, environmental topics to be evaluated and a description of preliminary draft alternatives to be evaluated. As part of the scoping process required under CEQA, two NOP scoping meetings were conducted on February 13, 2019. SCAG received 30 comment letters in response to the NOP. Additionally, approximately 50 guests participated in the scoping meetings. Breakdown of commenters for the NOP and scoping meetings are listed below:

Breakdown of Commenters on the NOP and Scoping Meetings¹	Number
Sovereign Nation	2
County Transportation Commission	2
Business Organizations	8
Air Districts	2

¹ SCAG received 30 comment letters in response to the NOP and while the scoping meeting was attended by 50 guests, 18 of the guests actively provided comments.

Environmental Advocacy Groups	9
State Agencies	3
Local Jurisdictions	6
Legal, other Advocacy Groups and Residents	15
Elected Officials	1

Both PEIR and *Connect SoCal* related topics were raised by the commenters. The breakdown of the NOP and scoping meeting comments, by topic area, are provided below:

Document	Breakdown of Topic Areas	Number
PEIR	Air Quality	9
	Alternatives	7
	Biological Resources	10
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	13
	Hazards	2
	Hydrology	3
	Land Use and Planning	6
	Mitigation Measures	5
	Population and Housing	7
	Transportation and Traffic	14
	Utilities and Service Systems	2
Plan	Alternative Planning Scenario	4
	Active Transportation	3
	Aviation	2
	Climate Change	6
	Electric Vehicle	1
	Environmental Justice	5
	Good Movement	3
	Inclusion of Projects	3
	Infill/Transit Oriented Development	3
	Natural Lands	1
	Performance Measures	1
	Scenario Planning	3
	Transit and Rail	1

SUMMARY OF KEY COMMENTS FROM THE NOP AND SCOPING MEETING:

As mentioned previously, SCAG received a variety of comments from interested parties listed above. Upon evaluation, SCAG determined that there were several recurring comments related to certain topics. SCAG has identified these comments as “Key Comments”. Key Comments include but are not limited to the following:

Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Analysis: Several commenters have posed strong concerns over California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) use of VMT reduction targets as a strategy for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. Commenters have stated that the VMT reduction targets are inaccurate, unattainable, and in conflict with SB 375. Commenters who oppose VMT based analysis have requested that SCAG should reject CARB’s decision to impose VMT reduction targets.

While some commenters have opposed the use of VMT reduction targets, other commenters have supported CARB’s decision, as they believe that VMT reduction would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help in promoting the building of sustainable neighborhoods, increased public transit, and the protection of natural resources.

Biological Resources: Several commenters have stated that SCAG’s *Connect SoCal* PEIR place a greater emphasis on wildlife corridors, wildlife connectivity, and conservation lands and wetlands protection. Commenters have also requested that SCAG analyze impacts to biological resources as it relates to climate change. Furthermore, commenters have requested that SCAG develop stronger mitigation measures to protect biological resources.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Several commenters have requested that SCAG’s analysis of GHG emissions include an analysis of climate resiliency and climate adaptation. Additionally, commenters have requested that SCAG refer to CARB’s Mobile Source Strategy guidelines to address GHG impacts.

Air Quality: Several commenters have requested that the PEIR be consistent with the Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs) created by the air districts located within the region. Furthermore, commenters have requested that the PEIR incorporate best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures noted in the AQMPs.

Alternatives: Several commenters have requested that SCAG provide additional clarification with respect to alternatives. Some of the commenters have expressed their preference to the Intensified Land Use alternative, while others have requested to provide additional input in the scenario planning and/or alternative development process.

Environmental Justice: While not directly related to CEQA, several commenters have requested that SCAG evaluate environmental justice impacts within the PEIR. Commenters have recommended that the PEIR include an accounting of investment in disadvantaged communities

that addresses discrepancies in access to transportation options. Additionally, commenters have requested that the PEIR incorporate analysis and data related to race/ethnicity, age and low income and their exposure to poor air quality and health hazards.

OVERVIEW OF *CONNECT SOCAL* STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH MEETINGS:

As part of the PEIR process, SCAG hosted five stakeholder outreach meetings at its Downtown Los Angeles office. The outreach meetings were targeted towards specific stakeholder groups and tailored to their specific interests. The purpose of the stakeholder outreach meetings were to follow up with comments received from the NOP and to solicit input on SCAG's environmental analysis and mitigation measures. The stakeholder outreach meetings and their meetings dates are as follows:

- Business Groups – June 26, 2019
- Environmental Groups – June 26, 2019
- Land Management Agencies and Air Districts – July 9, 2019
- State and County Transportation Commissions and Council of Governments – June 16, 2019
- State Agencies – June 16, 2019

SUMMARY OF KEY COMMENTS FROM THE STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH MEETINGS:

Similar to the NOP and Scoping Meetings, SCAG received comments covering a wide range of topics. Key Comments include but are not limited to the following:

Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Analysis: Similar to the NOP and Scoping Meeting Comments, some stakeholders posed strong concerns over California Air Resources Board's (CARB) use of VMT reduction targets as a strategy for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction.

Air Quality: Air District Stakeholders have requested that the PEIR be consistent with the Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs) created by the air districts located within the region. Additionally, they requested clarifications regarding the PEIRs Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and have requested that SCAG use recent data available from the air districts.

Mitigation Measures: Several stakeholders requested additional clarification our SCAG's mitigation approach and that the PEIR list mitigation that is not over prescriptive, yet feasible for implementation.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Similar to the NOP and Scoping Meetings, several stakeholders reiterated that SCAG's analysis of GHG emissions include an analysis of climate resiliency and climate adaptation.

CEQA Streamlining: Several stakeholders requested clarification as to how local lead agencies would be able to use the Connect SoCal PEIR as a document to tier off of.

KEY UPDATES FOR THE *CONNECT SOCAL* PEIR:

Based on comments received, SCAG has identified key update areas for the *Connect SoCal* PEIR:

- Clarify the CEQA streamlining process for efficient development of future projects.
- Clarify the difference between a Program and Project EIR.
- Conduct additional Stakeholder Outreach.
- Improve or incorporate new mitigation measures (program and project-level mitigation measures).
- Address Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) updates to the State CEQA Guidelines (i.e., Wildfire, SB 743, Climate Change).
- Engage in Tribal Consultation pursuant to AB 52.
- Provide clear and concise descriptions with respect to PEIR alternatives.
- Design the PEIR as a resource tool for local jurisdictions.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE *CONNECT SOCAL* PEIR:

Staff has prepared a preliminary draft outline for the *Connect SoCal* PEIR. Staff intends to provide the EEC with periodic updates discussing progress regarding the PEIR and to offer members of the EEC ample opportunities to become familiar with the preliminary comments of the PEIR. The preliminary draft outline is as follows.

- Executive Summary
- Section 1.0 – Introduction
- Section 2.0 – Project Description
- Section 3.0 – Environmental Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures
- Section 4.0 – Alternatives
- Section 5.0 – Long Term CEQA Considerations
- Section 6.0 – Persons and Sources Consulted
- Technical Appendices supporting the Draft PEIR

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS CONSIDERED:

The PEIR is a programmatic document that will analyze potential effects of the Plan on the environment. Although *Connect SoCal* will include some individual transportation projects, the PEIR does not specifically analyze environmental effects of any individual transportation or development project. Project-level environmental analyses will be prepared by implementing agencies on a project-by-project basis as projects proceed through the design and decision-making process.

The potential scope of environmental effects that warrant analysis in the *Connect SoCal* PEIR are as follows:

- Aesthetics and Views
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Resources

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources and Open Space
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils and Mineral Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Public Services and Utilities
- Wildfire

DRAFT SCHEDULE:

Key dates for the development and completion of the *Connect SoCal* PEIR are listed below:

Milestone	Anticipated Date
AB 52 Consultation	1 st and 2 nd Quarter 2019 (Completed)
Stakeholder Outreach	2 nd and 3 rd Quarter 2019 (Completed)
Complete Draft PEIR	3 rd Quarter 2019
Release Draft PEIR for Public Review	November 2019
Complete Final PEIR	1 st and 2 nd Quarter 2020
Adoption and Certification	April 2020

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the current Fiscal Year 2019/20 Overall Work Program (020.0161.04: Regulatory Compliance).