



Southern California Association of Governments Remote Participation Only February 3, 2022

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES (COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD); ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC); AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC)) MINUTES OF THE MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/

The Joint Policy Committees of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting telephonically and electronically, given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

CEHD Members Present:

Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair	Covina	RC District 33
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair	Cerritos	RC District 23
Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto	Coachella	District 66
Hon. Drew Boyles	El Segundo	District 40
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	Mission Viejo	District 13
Hon. Juan Carrillo	Palmdale	North L.A. County
Hon. Steve De Ruse	La Mirada	GCCOG
Hon. Paula Devine	Glendale	District 42
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	Duarte	District 35
Hon. Micheal Goodland	Jurupa Valley	WRCOG
Hon. Mark Henderson	Gardena	District 28
Hon. Tim Holmgren	Fillmore	District 47
Hon. Peggy Huang		TCA
Hon. Bill Jahn	Big Bear Lake	District 11
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	Palm Desert	District 2
Hon. Jed Leano	Claremont	SGVCOG
Hon. Anni Marshall	Avalon	GCCOG
Hon. Lauren Meister	West Hollywood	WSCCOG
Hon. John Mirisch	Beverly Hills	Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large



REPORT

Hon. James Mulvihill	San Bernardino	Pres. Appt., Member at Large
Hon. Steve Nagel	Fountain Valley	District 15
Hon. Kim Nguyen	Garden Grove	District 18
Hon. Trevor O'Neil	Anaheim	District 19
Hon. Jim Predmore		ICTC
Hon. Jan Pye	Desert Hot Springs	CVAG
Hon. Rex Richardson	Long Beach	District 29
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	Bellflower	GCCOG
Hon. Lyn Semeta	Huntington Beach	District 64
Hon. David Shapiro	Calabasas	LVMCOG
Hon. Becky Shevlin	Monrovia	SGVCOG
Hon. Mark Waronek	Lomita	SBCCOG
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	Fontana	SBCTA
Hon. Tony Wu	West Covina	SGVCOG
Hon. Frank Zerunyan	Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG

CEHD Members Not Present

Hon. Al Austin, II	Long Beach	GCCOG
Hon. David Avila	Yucaipa	SBCTA
Hon. Michael C. Carroll	Irvine	District 14
Hon. Rose Espinoza	La Habra	OCCOG
Hon. Bill Hodge	Calexico	ICTC
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	Brea	OCCOG
Hon. Robert "Bob" Joe	South Pasadena	AVCJPA
Hon. Marisela Magana	Perris	District 69

Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr. Tribal Gov't Regl Planning Rep.

Hon. Bill MirandaSanta ClaritaSFVCOGHon. Edward PagetNeedlesSBCTAHon. Sunny ParkBuena ParkOCCOGHon. Michael PoseyHuntington BeachOCCOGHon. Rita RamirezVictorvilleDistrict 65

Hon. Paul Rodriguez Chino Pres. Appt., Member-at-Large

EEC Members Present

Hon. David Pollock, (Chair)	Moorpark	District 46
Hon. Carmen Ramirez, (Vice Chair)	Oxnard	District 45
Hon. Margaret Clark	Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland	Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis	Westlake Village	LVMCOG





Hon. Sandra Genis Costa Mesa OCCOG Hon. Shari Horne Laguna Woods OCCOG Hon. Diana Mahmud South Pasadena **SGVCOG** Redlands Hon. Toni Momberger **SBCTA** Hon. Cynthia Moran Chino Hills **SBCTA**

Sup. Linda Parks Ventura County

Hon. Jeannine Pearce District 30 Long Beach

Sup. Luis Plancarte **Imperial County**

Hon. Deborah Robertson Rialto District 8 Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells Culver City District 41 **SFVCOG** Hon. Sharon Springer Burbank Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson Signal Hill GCCOG

EEC Members Not Present

Hon. Ana Beltran Westmoreland **ICTC** Hon. Daniel Brotman Glendale **AVCJPA** Hon, Maria Davila South Gate GCCOG Hon. Jordan Ehrenkranz Canyon Lake **WRCOG** Hon. Elaine Litster Simi Valley **VCOG** Hon. Oscar Ortiz Indio **CVAG** Lawndale **SBCCOG** Hon. James Osborne Hon. Miguel Pulido Santa Ana **OCTA** Hon. Greg Raths Mission Viejo OCCOG Hon. Richard Rollins Port Hueneme **VCOG**

Hon. Rhonda Shader Placentia President's Appointment Hon. Jesus Silva **Fullerton** President's Appointment

Hon. John Valdivia San Bernardino **SBCTA** Hon. Bonnie Wright Hemet **WRCOG**

TC Members Present:

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, (Chair) El Centro District 1 Hon. Steven Hofbauer, (Vice Chair) **Palmdale District 43** Hon. Sean Ashton Downey District 25 Hon. Rusty Bailey Riverside District 68

Hon. Ben Benoit Wildomar South Coast AQMD

Hon. Art Brown Buena Park District 21 Montclair **SBCTA** Hon. John Dutrey Hon. Emily Gabel-Luddy **AVCJPA**

Hon. Dean Grose Los Alamitos District 20





Hon. Jack Hadjinian	Montebello	District 34
Hon. Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Hon. Ray Hamada	Bellflower	District 24
Hon. Jan Harnik	Palm Desert	RCTC
Hon. Mike T. Judge	Simi Valley	VCTC
Hon. Trish Kelley	Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Linda Krupa	Hemet	WRCOG
Hon. Richard Loa	Palmdale	NCTC
Hon. Clint Lorimore	Eastvale	District 4
Hon. Steven Ly	Rosemead	District 32
Hon. Steve Manos	Lake Elsinore	District 63
Hon. Ray Marquez	Chino Hills	District 10
Hon. Larry McCallon	Highland	SBCTA
Hon. Marsha McLean	Santa Clarita	District 67
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	Rancho Cucamonga	District 9
Hon. Ara Najarian	Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Frank Navarro	Colton	District 6
Hon. Hector, Pacheco	San Fernando	District 67
Hon. Charles Puckett	Tustin	District 17
Hon. Crystal Ruiz	San Jacinto	WRCOG
Hon. Tim Sandoval	Pomona	District 38
Hon. Zak Schwank	Temecula	District 5
Hon. Marty Simonoff	Brea	District 22
Hon. Thomas Small	Culver City	
Hon. Ward Smith	Placentia	OCCOG
Hon. Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Hon. Cynthia Sternquist	Temple City	SGVCOG
Hon. Jess Talamantes		SFVCOG
Hon. Brent Tercero	Pico Rivera	GCCOG
Hon. Steve Tye	Diamond Bar	District 37
Hon. Alan Wapner	Ontario	SBCTA/SBCOG
Hon. Alicia Weintraub	Calabasas	LVMCOG
Hon. Paul Marquez	Caltrans District 7	Ex-Officio Member
TC Members Not Present:		
Hon. Phil Bacerra	Santa Ana	District 16
Hon. Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Hon. Will Berg	Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon. Russell Betts	Desert Hot Springs	CVAG
Hon. Joe Buscaino	Los Angeles	District 62
Hon. Ross Chun	Aliso Viejo	OCTA





Hon. Jonathan Curtis	La Cañada-Flintridge	District 36
Hon. Diane B. Dixon	Newport Beach	OCCOG
Hon. James Gazeley	Lomita	District 39
Hon. Paul Krekorian		District 49
Hon. Fred Minagar	Laguna Niguel	District 12
Hon. Carol Moore	Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Ed Reece	Claremont	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Saleh	Bell	GCCOG
Hon. Rey Santos	Beaumont	District 3
Hon. Jeremy Smith	Canyon Lake	
Hon. Larry Smith	Calimesa	
Hon. Jose Luis Solache	Lynwood	District 26
Hon. Don Wagner		Orange County
Hon. Colleen Wallace	Banning	

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
Justine Block, Acting Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Art Yoon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning
Basil Panas, Chief Financial Officer
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Peter Waggonner, Office of Regional Council Support

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. A quorum was confirmed. President Richardson asked Jorge Marquez, CEHD Chair, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Richardson opened the Public Comment Period. President Richardson outlined instructions for public comments and announced that comments received before the 5 p.m. deadline on Wednesday, September 1 had been posted to SCAG's website and were transmitted to members.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that there were comments received after the deadline. Mr.



Duran read three comments received after the deadline into the record for up to two minutes each at the direction of President Richardson.

The first comment was received from Michael Hughes, Hills for Everyone, supporting conservation policies in Connect SoCal and restoration of biological corridors.

The second comment was received from Kevin Shin, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, in support of the Connect SoCal Plan and urging the Regional Council to approve the Plan.

The third comment was received from Eugene D. Seroka, Port of Los Angeles, in support of the Connect SoCal Plan and urging the Regional Council to approve the Plan.

President Richardson asked the Clerk to confirm quorum before closing the Public Comment period. The Clerk confirmed there was a quorum present.

Seeing no other public comment speakers, President Richardson closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Final Connect SoCal Technical Refinements and PEIR Addendum

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, provided brief remarks and thanked the policymakers who had been with them since the beginning of the Connect SoCal plan.

Sarah Jepson, Planning Director provided a brief overview of the final Connect SoCal plan with technical refinements and noted that the final Connect SoCal outlined more than \$638 billion in transportation system investments and targets growth in areas so that housing, jobs, and transit can be closer together, while helping to preserve natural lands and open space. She also provided an update on the outreach activities with stakeholders to better understand how Connect SoCal could be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. She further noted that they were asking the Regional Council to approve the final Connect SoCal PEIR Addendum and revised mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

President Richardson stated that this was a great presentation and an incredible effort by the entire team. He noted that this plan was significant and helped set the stage for Southern California. He indicated they had a responsibility to really think about air quality, transportation, and access to



housing. He transitioned the chairing responsibility to Regional Councilmember and Transportation Chair Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1.

Chair Viegas-Walker reminded the JPC members of the action they were taking on this day. She outlined instructions for public comments and proceeded to open the Public Comment Period for Agenda Item 1. She asked Board Counsel Duran to help facilitate the Public Comment period.

Ruben Duran called on the public comment speakers as follows:

Jerard Wright, BizFed and Grassroots Alliance, thanked staff for the collaborative effort with the business community and noted that the final version of Connect SoCal had improved since May and was ready for adoption.

Rich Lambros, Southern California Leadership Council, echoed the comments of Mr. Wright and expressed support for adopting the Connect SoCal resolution before them.

Jennifer Ward, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Orange County Business Council, echoed the prior comments and expressed support for the Connect SoCal Plan, and asked that they recommended approval to the Regional Council.

Jeff Montejano, Chief Executive Officer of Building Industry of Southern California, echoed President's Richardson's comments about the significance of the plan and expressed support for the Connect SoCal Plan.

Luis Portillo, Director of Public Policy for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, expressed support for the Connect SoCal Plan and urged them to support adoption of the plan.

Mike Lewis, Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition, stated it was worthwhile to take the pause and noted changes to look out for in the future in preparation for the next plan. He stated he looked forward to working with SCAG.

Ray Baca, Executive Director of Engineering Contractors Association, expressed support for the Connect SoCal Plan and urged them to support adoption of the plan.

Seeing no further other public comment speakers, Chair Viegas-Walker closed the Public Comment Period.

Chair Viegas-Walker proceeded to allow for comments from members of the Joint Policy Committees.

Board Counsel Duran help facilitate comments by the Joint Policy Committee members.





CEHD Policy Committee Member John Mirisch noted that the goals of Connect SoCal were very laudable but expressed concern about the unbalanced outreach for the addendum, which he had expressed in greater detail at the CHD meeting. He noted that they needed to take advantage of the paradigm shifting potential of remote work to further their shared goals of equity, inclusivity and diversity. He further stated that in a post COVID world they had unique opportunities to be a part of a new paradigm, which promotes economic balance and geographic equity for Californians throughout the SCAG region, state and country. He asked if there was a way, he could vote in favor of Connect SoCal and the broader goals, while registering an oppose position to what he considered to be the lack of balance in some aspects of the addendum.

Chair Viegas-Walker indicated that he had just accomplished this [registering his opposition] by noting it before the Joint Policy Committee members and the 400 people that were listening.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Peggy Huang expressed concern over the urban growth emphasis that was in the Connect SoCal plan. She further noted that everybody has recognized that COVID has changed the world. She expressed support for the plan and concern over inconsistencies in the plan, and stated they needed to be addressed.

Chair Viegas-Walker asked staff to be prepared to address comments at the end of the comment portion.

Regional Council Member (TC) Steve Tye indicated that when they started the process for the Connect SoCal plan nobody had ever heard of COVID-19, and they couldn't have planned around it. He agreed that it was going to be different, and they were making the best decisions that could be made at this time. He stated they extended the timing to be sure everybody was heard and thought this was a good product and that staff had done a terrific job. He indicated that when appropriate he would be glad to move for adoption of the Connect SoCal plan.

Regional Council Member (TC) Steve Hoffbauer indicated there was no document that was going to make everybody happy on everything. He stated there would certainly be additional changes as new information became available, as different technologies were available, and as policies got refined. He expressed support for the plan and seconded the motion by Policy Committee Member Tye.

Regional Council Member (TC) Hector Pacheco provided comments in support of the Connect SoCal plan. He stated their community was looking forward to recognizing this as another step in a long road of planning for what they really want to see in the Southern California region.

Policy Committee Member (EEC) Diana Mahmud echoed the comments made by Policy Committee Members Mirisch and Huang. She stated she recognized the importance of moving the plan forward but asked if there was some way to document the reservations being expressed.



Chair Viegas-Walker clarified that these comments would be capture in the minutes of this Joint Policy Committee meeting.

Policy Committee Member (EEC) Sandra Genis expressed concern that if they continue this emphasis on urbanism, people who want the traditional housing choices won't just content themselves with a high-density condo or a high-rise apartment, they will go to other states, and these will be their most highly educated people. She stated that while she did support the plan in concept, she did not want to stand in the way of them getting funding but did have reservations.

Policy Committee Member (CEHD) Lauren Meister stated she appreciated all of staff's hard work on this plan. She stated she agreed with the comments provided by Mike Lewis. She stated she wanted to register her concerns about the assumptions made and echoed the comment by Policy Committee Member Huang, Mirisch and Genis. She stated that as they moved forward, they really needed to focus on the impacts of COVID-19 on housing, transportation, and business.

Regional Council Member (EEC) David Pollock expressed it was too early to know the long-term effects of the pandemic but agreed that it was going to impact them in some way. He indicated that he thought the full impacts were going to be reflected in the next Connect SoCal report in 2024.

Regional Council Member (EEC) Meghan Sahli-Wells thanked SCAG for the appointment to the Cal STA Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force. She expressed support for the plan and hoped they were all there for racial equality and equity. She indicated she was happy and proud of the work that SCAG had done and especially staff, given the extensive outreach to multiple groups.

Chair Viegas-Walker thanked everyone for their courtesy, professionalism, and the respectful way in which they were making their comments.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Drew Boyles echoed comments made by Policy Committee Members Mirisch, Huang and Genis. He also expressed support for the plan but stated he had concerns about some of the components and encouraged staff to fully understand the effects of COVID-19.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Trevor O'Neil stated he supported the plan but wanted to register similar concerns as raised by many other members for the record.

Policy Committee Member (CEHD) Juan Carrillo asked staff to be mindful and make sure that they address the social justice concerns in the plan. He stated he was looking forward to making sure





they address everybody's concerns. He indicated he wanted them to make sure that social justice was something that they strived to provide for everybody.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Margaret Finlay expressed support and stated she appreciated the work that staff had done.

Regional Council Member (TC) Karen Spiegel noted that once they decide on this plan, they needed to take notes from it for the next process. She stated the pandemic had changed all of them and telecommuting would probably change transportation and many other factors.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Lynn Semeta echoed some of the same concerns expressed by Policy Committee Members Huang, O'Neil, and others regarding the plan.

President Richardson thanked Chair Viegas-Walker for chairing the meeting. He stated they had confidence in the Connect SoCal plan, which was a product of rigorous collaboration and meticulous vetting. He expressed that further delay threaten their regional recovery from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and that adopting this plan had many benefits to help move the region forward.

Chair Viegas-Walker noted they were reserving some time for staff to respond to comments.

Ms. Jepson addressed the comments and concerns expressed by the members and noted they would take into consideration the impacts of the pandemic and continue to monitor it over the next year.

A MOTION was made (Tye) that the Regional Council adopt Resolution No. 20-624-1 to 1) adopt the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (Connect SoCal or Plan) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Addendum and Revised Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; 2) approve Connect SoCal in its entirety; and 3) submit Connect SoCal to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) for confirmation that the Plan meets greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. Motion was SECONDED (Hofbauer). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES:

(CEHD) Beaman Jacinto, Boyles, Bucknum, Carrillo, De Ruse, Devine, Finlay, Goodland, Henderson, Holmgren, Huang, Jahn, Kelly, Leano, J. Marquez, Marshall, Meister, Mirisch, Mulvihill, Nagel, Nguyen, O'Neil, Predmore, Pye, Richardson, Santa Ines, Shapiro, Shevlin, Warren, Wu, Yokoyama, Zerunyan, (EEC) Clark, Copeland, Genis, Horne, Mahmud, Momberger, Moran, Parks, Pearce, Pollock, Ramirez, Sahli-Wells, Springer, (TC) Ashton, Benoit, Brown, Dutrey, Gabel-Luddy, Grose, Hadjinian, Hamada, Harnik, Hofbauer, Judge, Kelley, Loa, Lorimore, Ly, Manos, R. Marquez, McCallon, McLean, Michael, Najarian, Navarro, Pacheco, Puckett, Ruiz, Sandoval,



Schwank, Simonoff, Small, W. Smith, Spiegel, Talamantes, Tye, Viegas-Walker, Wapner, Weintraub (81)

NOES: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: SEMETA (1)

Regional Council Member (CEHD) David Shapiro indicated he was trying to unmute and could not. He noted his vote as a yes.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Kim Nguyen also noted her vote as a yes.

Policy Committee Member (CEHD) Anni Marshall asked if her vote was heard. President Richardson confirmed her vote as yes.

Policy Committee Member (CEHD) Acquanetta Warren asked if her vote was heard. The Clerk confirmed her vote was heard.

Policy Committee Member (CEHD) Carrillo noted his vote was a yes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Receive and File

- 2. Connect SoCal Aligning Implementation with Pandemic Response
- 3. Connect SoCal Emerging Issues and Trends for Future Planning

President Richardson indicated he had received a request from CEHD Policy Committee Member Huang to pull the two items on the Consent Calendar. He asked her if the issues had been resolved with Agenda Item No. 1 or if she would still like to speak to these separately.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Huang indicated most of her concerns had been addressed. She stated her concern on Agenda Item No. 3 was the fact that when they were talking about post COVID and density as issue that more research needed to be done.

President Richardson asked Regional Council Member (CEHD) Huang if she wanted to pull the item.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Huang confirmed she wanted to pull only Agenda Item 3.

President Richardson entertained a motion on Agenda Item 2. A motion was made by Bill Jahn and seconded by Ben Benoit.



After being provided direction by staff and to avoid having to do several roll call votes on the pulled item, President Richardson proceeded to allow discussion on the items first.

Regional Council Member (CEHD) Huang stated that for Agenda Item No. 2 she thought they needed to do a better job in terms of outreach and repeated her concerns on Agenda Item 3.

Ms. Jepson addressed the comments and indicated they would continue to look at research as more information became available on the pandemic.

Board Counsel Duran noted for the record that SCAG did not receive any public comments or requests to speak on Agenda Items 2 or 3 from the public.

President Richardson confirmed they had a motion and a second.

Policy Committee Member (CEHD) Mirisch thanked SCAG staff for all their work. He also asked for a little bit more balance going forward when it comes to exploring the potential for looking at long term solutions that take advantage of the new reality, as he thought there were some exciting opportunities here.

A MOTION was made (Jahn) to approve Consent Calendar Agenda Item Nos. 2 and 3. Motion was SECONDED (Benoit). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES:

(CEHD) Beaman Jacinto, Boyles, Bucknum, Carrillo, De Ruse, Devine, Finlay, Goodland, Henderson, Holmgren, Huang, Jahn, Kelly, Leano, Meister, Mirisch, Mulvihill, Nagel, Nguyen, O'Neil, Predmore, Pye, Richardson, Santa Ines, Shapiro, Shevlin, Wu, Yokoyama, Zerunyan, (EEC) Clark, Copeland, Davis, Genis, Horne, Mahmud, Momberger, Moran, Pearce, Pollock, Ramirez, Sahli-Wells, Springer, Wilson, (TC) Ashton, Benoit, Brown, Dutrey, Grose, Hadjinian, Hamada, Harnik, Hofbauer, Judge, Kelley, Loa, Lorimore, Ly, Manos, R. Marquez, McCallon, McLean, Michael, Navarro, Puckett, Sandoval, Schwank, Simonoff, Small, W. Smith, Spiegel, Talamantes, Tye, Viegas-Walker, Wapner, Weintraub (75)

NOES: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: NONE (0)

ANNOUNCEMENT/S

President Richardson reminded Regional Councilmembers that they still had a meeting of the





Regional Council at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Richardson adjourned the Joint Policy Committee meeting at 12:31 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES]