

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2013

Save the Date: SCAG/Southern California Leadership Council 4th Annual Economic Summit

SCAG and the Southern California Leadership Council will co-host the 4th Annual Economic Summit, on Thursday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza. This summit is an extraordinary occasion for state and local elected officials, public and private sector CEOs, business and labor leaders, stakeholder agency representatives and city managers to come together to find ways in which we can build a stronger, more prosperous and sustainable Southern California. Mark your calendars now. More information on this event will be sent to you soon. I look forward to seeing you at the summit.

Save the Date: 2014 Regional Conference and General Assembly

SCAG will host the 49th Annual Regional Conference & General Assembly on May 1 – 2, 2014, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells Resort & Spa. Please mark your calendars for this important regional event that will feature high-profile keynote speakers, engaging panel discussions, live entertainment and more. Additional details and registration information will be available in the coming months.

City Managers Meetings

During the past month, several members of SCAG's Executive Team and I have been travelling throughout the region to meet with city managers to discuss items of mutual interest. I've been briefing them on topics such as activities taken to implement the approved 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), milestone input from the cities for RTP/SCS plan update, SCAG's legislative priorities, potential grant opportunities and getting their feedback on how we can continue to be of service to our members. During this period, we've met with the Imperial County cities, Western Riverside Council of Governments and member cities, San Bernardino Associated Governments and member cities, Coachella Valley Association of Governments and member cities and Orange County Council of Governments and member cities. During the upcoming months, I look forward to meeting with city managers in Los Angeles and Ventura counties to discuss similar topics.

Buy America Update

On July 8, SCAG hosted a meeting with the county transportation commissions, state agencies and major utilities in Southern California to discuss Buy America. Nearly 40 CEOs or senior executives for the impacted agencies or companies participated. Buy America is a great program that requires the use of certain U.S.-made products on infrastructure projects. MAP-21 provisions, however, changed the implementation of buy America regarding utility relocation. This resulted in the halting of over \$6 billion dollars of transportation projects in the near future.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently announced a six-month grace period, ending December 31, for utility companies to take the necessary steps to ensure that steel and iron products used in relocation work as part of federal-aid highway projects comply with Buy America. After that point, utility agreements using only state or local funding can move forward if the utility company certifies the item is unavailable domestically or the time to purchase it domestically is insufficient. FHWA expects that all utility steel and iron products used for utility relocations carried out pursuant to a utility agreement executed after December 31, will comply with Buy America. If a utility has certain products for which it has not been able to locate domestically produced items for utility agreements executed after December 31, FHWA will consider a requested waiver for those items per existing procedures and standards.

A group of Southern California transportation agencies, including SCAG, collectively provided comments to FHWA regarding general waivers from the Buy America policy, as well as regarding FHWA's minimal use threshold policy exception to Buy America requirements (see Board Info packet). We will keep you informed as we move forward and work toward a long-term solution to ensure that we have no Buy America delays in implementing transportation projects.

SCAG Map Book Update: Input Due September 13, 2013

SCAG staff has developed a draft Map Book for each jurisdiction in the region detailing various land use datasets that will be used for consideration in the upcoming RTP/SCS. In early August, these booklets (and their related datasets) were made available to all local planning directors, city managers, subregional executive directors and subregional coordinators in the SCAG Region for their review. Input from local jurisdictions on these datasets is requested by September 13. In order to solicit input and provide guidance on this material, SCAG staff conducted presentations at several subregional workshops at the request of individual COGs. Specifically, SCAG staff met with jurisdictions in the Gateway Cities COG, Orange County COG and South Bay Cities COG. Meetings have also been held with individual

jurisdictions to assist them in reviewing and updating SCAG's Map Book. Staff will continue to reach out to local jurisdictions to collect the updated land use input and to confirm SCAG staff's preliminary land use updates. I would like to take this opportunity to remind those who have not yet responded to staff's inquiry of the importance of reviewing and verifying the data.

Housing Element Compliance Status from SCAG Jurisdictions

SCAG completed its 5th Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) cycle with the adoption of the Final RHNA Allocation Plan by the Regional Council on October 4, 2012 and approval of the Final Allocation Plan by California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on November 26, 2012. Local jurisdictions are required to adopt updated Housing Elements for the 5th planning cycle by October 15, 2013. According to HCD, as of early August 2013, less than 50% of the 197 local jurisdictions in the SCAG region had submitted draft Housing Elements for the 5th planning cycle for HCD's review. Jurisdictions are advised to submit their updated 5th cycle Housing Elements to HCD as early as possible to ensure pre-review opportunity by HCD. Further, some jurisdictions do not yet have a certified 4th cycle Housing Element update. It is critical to ensure a certified 4th cycle housing element before the 5th cycle due in October this year. SCAG staff is available to facilitate this process.

National Freight Advisory Committee Subcommittee Appointments

The National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC) was recently established under the authority of the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters related to freight transportation, including implementation of the freight transportation requirements of MAP-21. California's representatives on the NFAC include: Bonnie Lowenthal, California State Assembly Member; Fran Inman, Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty Co. and Member, California Transportation Commission; Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, Port of Hueneme, California; Genevieve Giuliano, Professor, Director & Senior Associate Dean, University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy; and Randell Iwasaki, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Further, six subcommittees have been established to cover issues ranging from conditions and performance of the freight system to project delivery and operations. Out of California's five representatives, three will be serving as Co-Chairs. Bonnie Lowenthal will Co-Chair the Safety, Security and Environment Subcommittee; Fran Inman will Co-Chair the Project Delivery and Operations Subcommittee; and Randell Iwasaki will Co-Chair the Research, Innovation and Technology Subcommittee.

The first meeting of the NFAC convened in late June in Washington D.C. and the next meeting is anticipated in early November.

Pending USDOT Designation of the Primary Freight Network

Based on recent discussions with the FHWA's Office of Freight Management in Washington D.C., the primary freight network designation of 27,000 centerline miles is anticipated to be released this month. SCAG staff has been engaged in ongoing communications with FHWA staff to highlight the importance of our region's freight system and the limitations of a 27,000-mile national network in capturing the complexities of freight flows. FHWA staff indicated that they are trying to work within the constraints of the statutory provisions of MAP-21. Southern California is encouraged to formally comment upon the release of the draft network through the federal register process.

Major Metro Regions Collaborating to Implement RC Adopted Goods Movement MAP-22 Principles

SCAG has been engaged with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) building a collaborative effort with major metropolitan regions to implement the Regional Council's adopted goods movement MAP-22 freight principles. In the upcoming months, we will continue to reach out to other major metropolitan areas to build support for a common federal agenda based on the freight reauthorization principles.

GIS Services Program

SCAG's GIS Services Program welcomes the City of San Dimas and the City of La Puente to the program. In San Dimas, 18 staff underwent customized training with curriculum that included data specifically drawn from their jurisdiction and using the new version of ArcGIS software, ArcGIS 10.2. In La Puente, SCAG staff restored the city's ArcGIS license and data sets, which had been lost. In addition, La Puente received four wall-size maps to review land use data and parcels overlaid on aerial photography. Currently, SCAG staff is arranging to conduct approximately 20 trainings region-wide through December.

SCAG GIS Services staff also conducted four subregional meetings, which served to update local jurisdictions on their local counterparts' accomplishments and current activities. Meetings were held in the Coachella Valley (with the collaboration of Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley GIS User Group); western Riverside County (with the collaboration of the City of Hemet, the County of Riverside and the Western Riverside Council of Governments); El Centro (with the collaboration of the City of Holtville and the County of Imperial); and in San Bernardino County (in collaboration with the Town of Apple Valley, the City of Victorville, the City of Adelanto, the City of Hesperia and the Mojave Water District). At these meetings, SCAG staff solicited feedback for future opportunities.