

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

November 2013

RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting



Climate Change Panelists: Louise Bedsworth, Governor's Office of Planning & Research, Warren Duffy, Duffy & Company and Robert Lempert, RAND Corporation pose with Hasan Ikhrata, SCAG Executive Director (far left) and Hon. Greg Pettis, SCAG President (far right).

INFORMATION – CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

A three-member panel presented a wide range of views on global climate change during today's joint meeting of the Regional Council and policy committees.

The September release of the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report stating that the warming of the earth's climate is unequivocal and that human influence on warming is clear, prompted a request from RC members for a discussion on climate change and associated policy responses.

Presenters were Dr. Louise Bedsworth from the Governor's Office of Planning & Research. Dr. Bedsworth presented on the Governor's Environmental Goals and Policy Report; Warren Duffy, Founder of Duffy & Company, who presented an alternative viewpoint to the U.N. IPCC Fifth Assessment Report; and Robert Lempert of the RAND Corporation, whose research focuses on risk management and decision-making under conditions of deep uncertainty, with an emphasis on climate change, energy and the environment.

Read the full staff report at <http://bit.ly/1bbFVck>. The PowerPoint presentations from the meeting are available at <http://bit.ly/HLDDsL>.

ACTION – SCAG ADDS TWO NEW DISTRICTS

The Regional Council approved the formation of two new Regional Council districts in western Riverside County, bringing the total number of SCAG Regional Council districts to 69. The Regional Council reviews the composition of Regional Council districts every five years as part of its district evaluation process.

ACTION – STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE - The Regional Council voted to approve changes to the agency's 2009 Strategic Plan. The 2013 Update outlines a range of goals and objectives to improve the agency's operational efficiency and its service to the region. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/1aulxkB>.

From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month

SCAG SUSTAINABILITY GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

SCAG has initiated work with the successful 73 grant applicants under the Sustainability Call for Proposals. All applicants have been notified of the awards. Staff resources were assigned across the agency to work with awardees on refining scopes of work, procuring consultant assistance and managing projects in order to process the 73 grants and minimize administrative costs. Based on currently identified and available funding, SCAG is proceeding to obligate \$5.39 million worth of projects, representing the top 44 ranked proposals. At the same time, SCAG is actively seeking additional federal, state and other funding in order to proceed with the remaining Phase 3 projects.

NEW MAPPING TOOLS FOR CITIES & AGENCIES

SCAG staff is providing analysis, maps and web-based applications to assist local governments in taking advantage of the CEQA streamlining provisions offered under SB 743. This recently enacted legislation outlines streamlining procedures for transit oriented development projects. A staff report on this subject is included as part of the Nov. 7 SCAG policy committee meetings. SCAG's initial map showing existing Transit Priority Areas is available at <http://bit.ly/187DQ08>. The California Environmental Protection Agency recently updated its CalEnviroScreen Tool, which identifies communities experiencing the highest environmental health impacts within the state through analyzing public health and environmental measures. SCAG has analyzed the results of the updated Tool in combination with information developed by the US EPA showing potential sites for renewable energy development within the SCAG region. This information is available at <http://bit.ly/17F6r2T>.

SCAG WEBSITE UPDATE

As part of the Regional Council's Adopted Strategic Plan, SCAG has updated the agency website, www.scag.ca.gov. The new site will be live on Nov. 8. The website is a key window of communication to all SCAG stakeholders on SCAG's ongoing and past activities. The website also is a component of SCAG's ongoing efforts to provide valuable services to member jurisdictions and enhance communication with member agencies, partners, stakeholders and the general public. Staff obtained input and feedback from website visitors to ensure that the updated design includes needed functionality and improved design features. Major new features include a fresh, open design that better showcases SCAG services and programs; enhanced interactive maps and data; and improved search capability to help you find what you need, faster. My thanks and congratulations to all staff who participated in this important effort.

  www.scag.ca.gov

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 19th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee Meeting
- 20th Workshop on General Plan Guideline Update
- 28th – SCAG offices closed -Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29th

DECEMBER

- 5th 4th Annual Economic Summit
- 17th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee Meeting
- 25th SCAG offices closed - Christmas Day