



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
June 22, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). A VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

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

**Members Present**

**Hon. Bill Jahn, President**  
**Hon. Rex Richardson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**Hon. Clint Lorimore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Hon. Alan Wapner, Imm. Past President**  
Hon. Peggy Huang, Chair, CEHD  
Hon. Stacy Berry, Vice Chair, CEHD  
Sup. Linda Parks, Chair, EEC  
Hon. David Pollock, Vice Chair, EEC  
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, TC  
Hon. Jess Talamantes, Vice Chair, TC  
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, LCMC  
Hon. Margaret Clark, Vice Chair, LCMC  
Hon. L. Dennis Michael, President’s Appt.  
Hon. Margaret Finlay, President’s Appt.  
Sup. Luis Plancarte, President’s Appt.  
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-officio

*Big Bear Lake*  
*Long Beach*  
*Eastvale*  
  
*Cypress*  
  
*Moorpark*  
*El Centro*  
*Burbank*  
  
*Rosemead*  
*Rancho Cucamonga*  
*Duarte*  
  
*Lewis Group of Companies*

**District 11**  
**District 29**  
**District 4**  
**SBCTA**  
TCA  
District 18  
Ventura County  
District 45  
District 1  
District 42  
RCTC  
District 32  
District 9  
District 35  
Imperial County  
Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Frank Navarro, President’s Appt.  
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.

*Colton*  
*Pechanga Dev. Corp.*

District 6  
TGRPB Representative

**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*

---

**Staff Present**

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable Bill Jahn called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked Councilmember Jan Harnik, RCTC, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Given the public health directives limiting gatherings due to COVID-19, President Jahn announced the meeting is being held telephonically and electronically in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Jahn opened the public comment period.

He reminded the public to submit comments via email to [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov). Staff acknowledged there were no public comments received by email.

President Jahn closed the public comment period.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Final Comprehensive Budget

President Jahn introduced the item and asked Executive Director Kome Ajise to provide a report.

---

Immediate Past President Alan Wapner, SBCTA, asked a question regarding a 5% annual increase on the General Fund budget including the overall impacts of the pandemic on the revenues. Chief Financial Officer Basil Panas responded the General Fund budget is down when compared to previous years. Although Mr. Panas acknowledged the impact of the pandemic, he reported that this matter will be taken into consideration pending information from the funding sources.

Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, asked for clarification regarding the vacation buy-back option and whether it was intended for a one-time benefit offered to SCAG employees. Based on her understanding at a prior EAC meeting, the policy is a one-time benefit especially in light of the economic effects of the pandemic. She emphasized the importance of work life balance and therefore, she would be unable to support this matter as a recurring benefit. Chief Financial Officer Basil Panas confirmed the vacation cash-out policy is an ongoing benefit while Human Resources Manager Carmen Flores explained the policy is offered once annually with a cap of 400 vacation hours.

Discussion ensued regarding vacation policies in other public agencies; encouraging employees to utilize vacation hours; offering the cash-out benefit after the pandemic period and accumulated leaves of absences are funded under the reserve budget in the General Fund (Michael, Huang and Wapner).

Immediate Past President Alan Wapner, SBCTA, asked for clarification regarding the following line items in the budget: (1) Cloud Services increased from \$489K to \$1.2 million; (2) Miscellaneous Services increased from \$400K to \$2.1 million and the specific services this budget cover; and (3) Office Rental increased to 43%. Chief Information Officer Julie Loats responded and described the plan for a centralized regional data platform for all jurisdictions will be cloud-hosted. Chief Financial Officer Basil Panas responded the miscellaneous services entails costs related to SB 1 grant and AB 101 funds which have not been categorically placed in the budget and are temporarily noted.

Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, asked a question regarding the significant increase of transit/bus passes in the budget. Chief Financial Officer Basil Panas responded.

Councilmember Jess Talamantes, Burbank, District 42, asked a question whether the budget will be re-evaluated in the coming months considering the effects of the pandemic. Executive Director Kome Ajise responded.

A MOTION was made (Richardson) adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Final Comprehensive Budget and corresponding Resolution No. 20-621-2, subject to approval of the General Fund Budget and Membership Dues Assessment by the SCAG General Assembly; and authorize the submittal of the

---

FY 2020-21 OWP to Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA. Motion was SECONDED (Michael) and passed by the following roll call votes:

**AYES:** Berry, Clark, Finlay, Harnik, Jahn, Lorimore, Michael, Parks, Plancarte, Pollock, Richardson, Talamantes and Wapner (13)

**NOES:** Huang and Viegas-Walker (2)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

**INFORMATION ITEM**

2. COVID-19: Leading and Learning in Uncertain Times

President Jahn introduced the item and asked Executive Director Kome Ajise to provide a report.

Mr. Ajise reported on the initial broad assessment of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Southern California in the context of transportation, planning and the economy. He provided highlights of the many ways the transportation and planning community is responding; an overview of a series of early actions being pursued by staff to support our partner agencies; and insights on preparing the region for policy discussions and actions on economic recovery.

Despite significant disruptions, Mr. Ajise reported SCAG's transportation and municipal partners are working tirelessly to address the most critical needs of our communities while continuing to provide services, to support the health, safety and economic well-being of the region in the wake of the pandemic and stay-at-home orders.

In closing, Mr. Ajise discussed the next steps and planning for recovery and activities aimed at stimulating the broader regional economic recovery strategy.

President Jahn thanked Mr. Ajise for his presentation.

Councilmember Peggy Huang, TCA, referenced a Los Angeles Times article regarding thousands of healthcare workers were laid off or furloughed as the coronavirus spreads and how this relates to telemedicine and healthcare forecasting. She commented regarding aerial imagery and asked a question whether there will be collaboration with the Mosquito Vector Control District and local agencies with identifying improperly maintained swimming pools as breeding ground for mosquitoes. Executive Director Kome Ajise responded and stated continued surveillance and elements of telemedicine as being the primary focus and use of aerial imagery for all planning activities in the region.

Councilmember Rex Richardson, Long Beach, District 29, thanked Mr. Ajise for his presentation and commented regarding the growing economic concerns as a result of the pandemic which exposed local jurisdictions' existential issues in jobs, housing, transportation, etc. He encouraged collaboration and a focused roundtable discussion on recovery across the region must start now.

Randall Lewis, Ex-officio member, echoed comments made by Councilmember Richardson and asked a question as to how SCAG will manage this effort and how the Regional Council and committee members can support this work. Executive Director Kome Ajise responded that SCAG has begun the work which is in progress while being cautious of the agency's capacity ensuring no jurisdiction is left out in the convening process.

Councilmember Jess Talamantes, Burbank, District 42, commented regarding revenue losses in Metro and the bleak economic forecast impacting the region as a result of the pandemic.

Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, echoed comments made by Councilmember Richardson; stated regional approach to recovery; and suggested an outreach on the local level while ensuring no duplicate efforts are made by collaborating with the League of California Cities (LOCC); California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG); San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and agencies south of the border.

Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, asked a question regarding current or anticipated furloughs for SCAG and delay of the approval of Connect SoCal. Executive Director Kome Ajise responded there are no anticipated furloughs based on the budget. With respect to Connect SoCal (the "Plan"), Mr. Ajise explained the regional recovery is tied to the Plan since one area of major recovery is tied to construction activities.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran reminded the committee of the Closed Session taking place immediately after the EAC meeting and cautioned the members that discussions related to Connect SoCal may be suited for a larger conversation in the Regional Council and/or CEHD Committee.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, referenced a report by the Ventura County Transportation Commission regarding the benefits related to traffic and pollution when telecommuting and ridesharing while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. She also mentioned the importance of broadband and addressing homelessness whether through secondary dwelling units especially during this pandemic.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### Approval Items

---

- 
3. Minutes of the Special Meeting - April 2, 2020
  4. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-035-C01, IT Managed Services
  5. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-021-C01, Federal Advocacy Services\*
  6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-034-C01, Heat Island Reduction with Urban Greening and Cool Streets
  7. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-047-C01, Omnitrans Bus Stop Safety Improvement Plan
  8. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 17-026-C1 Amendment 5, Professional Auditing Services
  9. SB 1291 (Senate Committee on Transportation) - FTIP Submissions
  10. AB 2011 (Holden) - West San Bernardino County Rail Construction Authority and and SB 1390 (Portantino) - Montclair to Ontario Airport Construction Authority

Receive and File

11. May State and Federal Legislative Monthly Update
12. CFO Monthly Report

President Jahn asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Immediate Past President Alan Wapner, SBCTA, asked to pull \*Agenda Item No. 5, *Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-021-C01, Federal Advocacy Services*. President Jahn acknowledged the request.

A MOTION was made (Finlay) to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 3 through 10; except for Agenda Item 5; Receive and File Items 11 through 12. Motion was SECONDED (Pollock) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Berry, Clark, Finlay, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Michael, Parks, Plancarte, Pollock, Richardson, Talamantes, Viegas-Walker and Wapner (14)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

**PULLED AGENDA ITEM**

5. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-021-C01, Federal Advocacy Services
-

Immediate Past President Wapner expressed concerns and explained why he will not be supporting the approval of the contract item for lobbyist Holland & Knight to provide federal advocacy services to SCAG based from his experience, given that the firm is also the same consultant to SBCTA. Executive Director Kome Ajise stated that while he understands the concerns expressed by Immediate Past president Wapner, he stated SCAG went through a credible contract procurement process as a basis for the selection. Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey explained and offered background information regarding the absence of a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. for several years. While multiple firms were interviewed, Mr. Chidsey expressed confidence with the reviewing committee's selection and foreseen successes with moving forward with the hiring of the consultant.

Councilmember Jan Harnik, RCTC, asked for the names of the individuals from the firm who will be representing SCAG in Washington, D.C. Director of Policy and Public Affairs Art Yoon provided the names of the members of Holland & Knight, as follows: Leslie Pollner, Senior Policy Advisor; Kathryn Hazeem Lehman, Partner.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, expressed support for Immediate Past President Wapner's concerns.

Councilmember L. Dennis Michael, Rancho Cucamonga, District 9, remarked his familiarity with the consultant firm and stated support for the approval of the contract item.

Councilmember Jan Harnik, RCTC, asked for clarification regarding the termination of services clause or provisions of the contract. Chief Financial Officer Basil Panas responded the agency may terminate the contract with a 30-day notice with no obligation to provide a reason.

A MOTION was made (Michael) approving Item 5, Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-021-C01, Federal Advocacy Services. Motion was SECONDED (Talamantes). The motion failed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Finlay, Harnik, Jahn, Michael, Plancarte and Talamantes (6)

**NOES:** Huang, Lorimore, Parks, Pollock, Viegas-Walker and Wapner (6)

**ABSTAIN:** Clark (1)

**[ Clerk Notes: Please see Motion to Reconsider for Agenda Item 5, below ]**

#### **CFO MONTHLY REPORT**

---

---

Basil Panas, Chief Financial Officer, reported a pending audit resolution letter from Caltrans regarding the Incurred Cost audit is yet to be received.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-Officio Member and Business Representative, will be providing a report at the Regional Council meeting.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jahn thanked SCAG staff for preparing the Final Connect SoCal Plan and associated Program Environmental Impact Report. He announced that he appreciated the requests by many of our stakeholders for more time to review the plan and consider its implications in light of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the region. For this reason, he stated the agency will be offering more time to review Connect SoCal and to address concerns and will be recommending to the Regional Council a delay of up to 120 days consideration to approve Connect SoCal for all other purposes than transportation conformity, including delay of the submittal of Connect SoCal to ARB for its determination of whether the Sustainable Communities Strategy meets the regional GHG emission reduction targets.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Kome Ajise expressed appreciation for the Executive/Administration Committee for their continued commitment and thinking beyond boundaries for the recovery of the region especially during the planning process of Connect SoCal. Mr. Ajise thanked the work of SCAG staff in the regional transportation plan who not only met the challenge but also met the agency's obligations for the region.

### **Motion to Reconsider Agenda Item No. 5**

At this point in time, Councilmember Rex Richardson, Long Beach, District 29, expressed concerns and technical issues he experienced while participating remotely for this meeting and asked Board Counsel Ruben Duran to provide guidance regarding re-opening the vote for Agenda Item 5. Mr. Duran stated that a motion to reconsider is an option for the committee and confirmed this action is a standard practice for a legislative body.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, who voted in opposition for Agenda Item 5 asked for a motion to reconsider. Motion was SECONDED (Michael) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Berry, Finlay, Harnik, Jahn, Michael, Parks, Plancarte, Pollock, Richardson and Talamantes (10)

---



---

**NOES:** Clark, Huang, Lorimore and Wapner (4)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

A MOTION was made (Michael) approving Item 5, Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-021-C01, Federal Advocacy Services with a stipulation for a one-year review. Motion was SECONDED (Richardson) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Berry, Finlay, Harnik, Jahn, Michael, Plancarte, Richardson and Talamantes (8)

**NOES:** Clark, Huang, Lorimore, Parks, Pollock and Wapner (6)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

**ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

President Jahn announced the EAC will now convene into Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Jahn adjourned the Special Meeting of the EAC at 4:58 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

//

**CLOSED SESSION  
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

The Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) convened to Closed Session.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Bill Jahn, President</b>	<i>Big Bear Lake</i>	<b>District 11</b>
<b>Hon. Rex Richardson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<i>Long Beach</i>	<b>District 29</b>
<b>Hon. Clint Lorimore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<i>Eastvale</i>	<b>District 4</b>
<b>Hon. Alan Wapner, Imm. Past President</b>		<b>SBCTA</b>
Hon. Peggy Huang, Chair, CEHD		TCA
Hon. Stacy Berry, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Cypress</i>	District 18
Sup. Linda Parks, Chair, EEC		Ventura County
Hon. David Pollock, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 45
Hon. Jess Talamantes, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, LCMC		RCTC
Hon. Margaret Clark, Vice Chair, LCMC	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Margaret Finlay, President's Appt.	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Sup. Luis Plancarte, President's Appt.		Imperial County
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-officio	<i>Lewis Group of Companies</i>	Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, TC	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Frank Navarro, President's Appt.	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
Hon. L. Dennis Michael, President's Appt.	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	District 9
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jahn called the Closed Session meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Jahn opened the Public Comment Period.

---

Staff acknowledged there were no public comment speakers.

President Jahn closed the Public Comment Period.

President Jahn asked the EAC members and the legal team to connect to the dedicated Closed Session Zoom meeting I.D.

#### **CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) – *Two (2) Cases*
2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1) - *Liu vs CalPers and SCAG (Case No. 19STCP0456)*

At the conclusion of the Closed Session, Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that the EAC was briefed on the items listed on the closed session agenda, but no reportable action was taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report**

2019-20																
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC [Sp. Mtg]	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	Total M Attend To Da
Hon. Bill Jahn, Chair	Big Bear Lake	District 11		1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	10
Hon. Rex Richardson, 1st Vice Chair	Long Beach	District 29		1		1	1	0	1	1		0	0	1	1	7
Hon. Clint Lorimore, 2nd Vice Chair	Eastvale	District 4		1		1	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	1	9
Hon. Alan Wapner, Imm. Past. Chair		SBCTA		1		1	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	1	9
Hon. Peggy Huang, Chair, CEHD		TCA		0		1	0	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	8
Hon. Stacy Berry, Vice Chair, CEHD	Cypress	District 18		1		1	1	0	1	0		1	1	1	1	8
Supervisor Linda Parks, Chair, EEC		Ventura County		1		0	1	1	0	1		1	0	1	1	7
Hon. David Pollock, Vice Chair, EEC	Moorpark	District 45		1		1	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	1	9
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Chair, TC	El Centro	District 1		1		1	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	1	9
Hon. Jess Talamantes, Vice Chair, TC	Burbank	District 42		1		1	1	1	0	0		1	1	0	1	7
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, LCMC		RCTC						1	1	1		1	1	1	1	7
Hon. Margaret Clark, Vice Chair, LCMC	Rosemead	District 32		1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	10
Hon. L. Michael Dennis, President's Appt.	Rancho Cucamonga	District 9		1		1	0	1	1	0		1	1	0	1	7
Hon. Margaret Finlay, President's Appt.	Duarte	District 35		1		1	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	1	9
Hon. Frank Navarro, President's Appt.	Colton	District 6		1		0	1	1	1	0		1	1	1	0	7
Supervisor Luis Plancarte, President's Appt.		Imperial County		0		1	1	1	1	1		0	1	1	1	8
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board											0	1	0	1
Mr. Randall Lewis, Ex-Officio Member	Lewis Group of Companies	Business Representative		1		1	1	1	1	1		0	0	1	1	8

Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2019-20 (Minutes of the Special Meeting - May 6, 2020)