

SCAG STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

I am pleased to announce that SCAG is undergoing an update to its Strategic Plan – last adopted in 2009 – to be more responsive to the changing needs of the region and our membership. The initiative is being led by President Michele Martinez and builds upon the previous plan, which helped lay the foundation for the successful agency that we are today. A President's Strategic Plan Committee has been formed and is supported by a staff committee. The first meeting of the President's Strategic Plan Committee was held on Dec. 7 and an assessment survey emailed to board members and stakeholders last month. The survey assesses SCAG's communications and services and what issues SCAG should be addressing in the future. Survey participants have until Friday, Jan. 6 to provide feedback. The President's Strategic Plan Committee plans to present an updated plan to the Regional Council in April and to the full General Assembly in May.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S RECOVERY AND OPPORTUNITIES

On Dec. 1, 2016, over 400 local leaders convened to attend the Seventh Annual Southern California Economic Summit in downtown Los Angeles. Independent economists from across the region confirmed that the Southern California economy is poised to continue its steady recovery, but emphasized that there is still much work to be done. A special session on innovation addressed the potential for the region's key industries to breathe new life into our economy. The program was bookended by remarks from former California Governor Gray Davis and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom that vigorously promoted strategies for job growth and building an inclusive economy. To view photos, downloads and presentations from this year's event, visit the Seventh Annual Southern California Economic Summit page at our Regional Economic Strategy & Data website. Archival videos of the summit, including remarks from former Governor Gray Davis and California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom will soon be available as well.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2017 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

SCAG is now accepting nominations for the 2017 SCAG Sustainability Awards. Each year, SCAG recognizes outstanding sustainable planning efforts and development projects in Southern California. Nominations are open to projects that coordinate land use and transportation actions and that improve the mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability of our region. Eligible submittals include plans, projects and programs completed or adopted after Jan. 1, 2013 and prior to Dec. 20, 2016. Award nominations are open to all parties, including local governments, non-profits and private developers. Winning projects will be presented at the 2017 Regional Conference and General Assembly, to be held at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa on May 4-5, 2017. Please visit <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Awards.aspx> for more information and to download the nomination packet. Nomination packets must be submitted no later than Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 2:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG LEADERSHIP TOURS IMPERIAL COUNTY

On Dec. 14, 2016, SCAG President Michele Martinez and I traveled to Imperial County to meet with Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) representatives and local elected officials on critical issues for the subregion. The visit included a tour of major sustainability sites in Imperial County, with stops at the Salton Sea to highlight ongoing mitigation projects which are helping slow the deterioration of the Salton Sea. The group also stopped at the Imperial Irrigation District's geothermal energy plant and brand new utility-scale battery storage facility, which is the first of its kind in the western United States. The batteries are charged

through a nearby solar farm and can be put online almost instantly. All of the facilities toured highlight Imperial County's potential as a new renewable energy hub, which presents economic opportunities in addition to meeting state mandates for GHG reduction and clean energy production.

SCAG SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT FOR NORWALK GREEN LINE EXTENSION STUDY

SCAG, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Cities of Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs, is conducting a planning study to identify and evaluate feasible alternatives for extending the Metro Green Line east from the Norwalk Station to connect to the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station. This study will evaluate alternative routes and potential station locations and identify ways to provide safe and convenient "first/last mile" access to stations. The study will also identify and evaluate opportunities to develop transit-oriented land uses around the stations that support community needs and goals. SCAG is seeking input from residents, businesses and stakeholders to understand the benefits and costs of the project and to help shape the development of transportation and land use strategies so that they best support local and regional goals. SCAG will hold two community "open house" meetings, on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, Jan. 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Further information is available at www.scag.ca.gov/norwalkgreenlinestudy.

SCAG CONVENES NATURAL & FARM LANDS WORKING GROUP

On Nov. 17, SCAG convened a meeting of the Natural & Farm Lands Working Group. Formerly known as the Open Space Working Group, this is a collection of stakeholders and experts in the fields of habitat and agricultural land conservation from throughout the region. The working group has been meeting since 2014 and was instrumental in finalizing the policies and strategies for Natural & Farm Lands Appendix in the 2016 RTP/SCS. The most recent meeting focused how the group can help SCAG implement these policies and strategies and on how to further define conservation goals for future planning initiatives. Topics discussed at the meeting included best practices, funding opportunities and improving ease of data sharing. The next meeting will be held in early February 2017. If you have questions, please contact India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov.

AIR RESOURCES BOARD RELEASES DRAFT EMISSION REDUCTION SCOPING PLAN

After a series of public workshops, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) released the Discussion Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan on Dec. 2, 2016. ARB also released initial recommendations from its Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. The Scoping Plan includes the state's vision, goals and strategies for addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet targets through 2030. Based on the current schedule, ARB will release a proposed Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan this month for a 45-day public review and comment period. ARB is planning to release a proposed second Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan in the spring of 2017, followed by a public hearing to present the proposed second Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan to the ARB Board for consideration and approval. For more information on the Discussion Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan, please visit: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>.

UPDATE ON 2016 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

As reported previously, the 2016 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) is being jointly developed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and SCAG to meet federal and state Clean Air Act requirements. On Dec. 2, 2016, the SCAQMD released the Draft Final 2016 AQMP for the 60-day Set Hearing. If no major public comments are received, the Draft Final AQMP will be presented to the SCAQMD Governing Board for adoption on Feb. 3, 2017. At its meeting on Jan. 5, the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee is scheduled to take action on staff's recommendation that the Regional Council approve the transmittal of SCAG's portion, commonly known as the Appendix IV-C, to the SCAQMD for inclusion in the Final AQMP. Upon adoption by the SCAQMD Governing Board, the Final AQMP is scheduled to be submitted to the ARB for approval in March 2017 and subsequent submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review and approval.

The adoption and ultimate approval of this air plans by the U.S. EPA will help the region comply with health-based national air quality standards set out by the Clean Air Act and allow SCAG to perform the required transportation conformity analysis. For additional information, visit <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>. Additional air plans are also under development by the ARB and other local air districts in the SCAG region; their status will be reported as appropriate in the future.

UPCOMING CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This year, several competitive Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) programs present opportunities to advance sustainability in the SCAG region. Early in 2017, guidelines and/or notices of funding availability are expected to be released for the following projects:

- Urban Greening Program (\$80 million available through state Natural Resources Agency) <http://resources.ca.gov/grants/urban-greening/>
- Organics Grant; Recycle Fiber, Plastic and Glass Grant; and Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant (\$40 million total, available through CalRecycle) <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Climate/GrantsLoans/>

SCAG recommends that local jurisdictions keep tabs on these opportunities and determine their interest in applying for these resources once funds become available. SCAG will remain engaged with these and other GGRF funding programs including Transformative Climate Communities, Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities and Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation and will keep the Regional Council informed as program guidelines and applications become available.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARKS AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released a Notice of Funding Availability for their Housing-Related Parks Program. This program is designed to reward local governments that approve housing units for lower-income households with grant funds to create or rehabilitate parks. Approximately \$35 million is available statewide for the 2016 funding round. The grant is non-competitive; all eligible applications will receive funding. All jurisdictions are encouraged to apply. Grant applications are due to HCD by Feb. 23. For the complete grant guidelines and more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/2iAPEYk>.

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) in partnership with the Office of Planning and Research has announced the release of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program: Best Practices Pilot, Guidelines and Application. This grant program supports local land use planning related to climate and the State's statutory planning priorities. SCGP funding in the amount of \$250,000 will be available for applicants to apply for up to \$50,000. Proposed applications must support local implementation of state policies, with a focus on creating more resilient communities through climate adaptation and mitigation. This is a request for proposals to be submitted by Feb. 9. For the complete grant guidelines and more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/2iQfJ3b> or contact scpgip@opr.ca.gov.

SCAG HOSTS EVENT TO DISCUSS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS FOR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

On Dec. 13, SCAG hosted a well-attended mini-conference on electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and multifamily housing, discussing approaches to overcoming the obstacles in providing EV infrastructure to the 40% of Californians that live in multifamily housing. SCAG staff organized the event in collaboration with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and SCAG Clean Cities Coalition. One panel focused on how the region is being affected by state's legislation around EV and its goals in reducing greenhouse gases and vehicle miles travelled. A second panel shared the viewpoint of building and property managers, including

what obstacles they face for installing EV on their properties and what they believe the state can do to incentivize additional EV and charging infrastructure. The final panel convened professionals from local utilities, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Energy Commission to present the plans their organizations have for deploying additional EV infrastructure within the SCAG region in the future.

SCAG ATTAINS GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION

In December 2016, SCAG was certified as a Green Business under the City of Los Angeles Green Business Program. This program aims to provide resources to help businesses become greener and more sustainable in their operations and recognizes environmental achievements through an official certification. The certification acknowledges organizations that are committed to increasing energy and water efficiency, generating cost savings, reducing waste and creating a healthier environment for Angelenos. SCAG is committed to environmental stewardship in its internal operations and endeavors to maintain a work environment that encourages healthy lifestyles by offering employee programs that encourage transit use, ridesharing and increased physical activity.

SCAG CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In late November, SCAG hosted a 16-member Chinese delegation from the Zhejiang Provincial Development and Reform Commission. High-level delegates visited SCAG to learn policies, regulations and measures of regional transportation and land use planning that aim to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve economic growth in Southern California. SCAG staff introduced regional governance and shared strategies and experiences on integrated transportation planning, big data, innovation in planning, regional collaboration and the latest development of the 2016 RTP/SCS. The delegates expressed interest in further collaboration with SCAG on sustainable economic development and greenhouse gas reduction strategies.