



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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MEETING OF THE

DISTRICT EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend In-Person & Remotely

***Thursday, February 22, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.***

To Attend In-Person:

**SCAG Main Office – Policy A Meeting Room
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/83054317138>

To Attend and Participate by Phone:

**Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 830 5431 7138**

PUBLIC ADVISORY

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

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To Attend In-Peron and Provide Verbal Comments: Go to the SCAG Main Office located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or any of the remote locations noticed in the agenda. The meeting will take place in the Policy A Meeting Room on the 17th floor starting at 10:00 a.m.

To Attend by Computer: Click the following link: <https://scag.zoom.us/j/83054317138>. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click “Download & Run Zoom” on the launch page and press “Run” when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically. Select “Join Audio via Computer.” The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, “Please wait for the host to start this meeting,” simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.

To Attend by Phone: Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully. Enter the **Meeting ID: 830 5431 7138**, followed by #. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing # to continue. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.

Instructions for Participating and Public Comments

Members of the public can participate in the meeting via written or verbal comments.

- 1. In Writing:** Written comments can be emailed to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov. Written comments received **by 5pm on Wednesday, February 21, 2024**, will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG’s website prior to the meeting. You are **not** required to submit public comments in writing or in advance of the meeting; this option is offered as a convenience should you desire not to provide comments in real time as described below. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of this committee regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) are available at the Office of the Clerk, at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or by phone at (213) 630-1420, or email to aguilarm@scag.ca.gov.

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



2. **Remotely:** If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, please wait for the presiding officer to call the item for which you wish to speak and use the “raise hand” function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number.
3. **In-Person:** If participating in-person, you are invited but not required, to fill out and present a Public Comment Card to the Clerk of the Board or other SCAG staff prior to speaking. It is helpful to indicate whether you wish to speak during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) and/or on an item listed on the agenda.

General Information for Public Comments

Verbal comments can be presented in real time during the meeting. Members of the public are allowed a total of 3 minutes for verbal comments. The presiding officer retains discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting, including equally reducing the time of all comments.

For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called. Items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted on with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

In accordance with SCAG’s Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is “willfully interrupted” and the “orderly conduct of the meeting” becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

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DISTRICT EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Art Brown Quail Hill Community Center 39 Shady Canyon Drive Irvine, CA 92603	Jenny Crosswhite City of Santa Paula - City Hall 970 Ventura Street Santa Paula, CA 93060	Margaret E. Finlay 2221 Rim Road Duarte, CA 91008
Jan Harnik City of Palm Desert- City Hall 73510 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260	Mark Henderson South Bay Council of Governments Environmental Services Center 2355 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 125 Torrance, CA 90501	Kathleen Kelly 46-100 Burroweed Lane Palm Desert, CA 92260
Luis Plancarte SCAG Imperial County Regional Office 1503 N. Imperial Avenue, Suite 104 El Centro, CA 92243	Marty Simonoff City of Brea - City Hall One Civic Center Drive Management Services Room (3 rd Floor) Brea, CA 92821	Alan Wapner City Clerk's Office at Las Vegas City Hall 495 S. Main Street, 2 nd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89101



DISTRICT EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Members – February 2024

- 1. Hon. Art Brown**
President, Buena Park, RC District 21
- 2. Hon. Jenny Crosswhite**
Santa Paula, RC District 47
- 3. Hon. Margaret Finlay**
Duarte, RC District 35
- 4. Hon. Jan C. Harnik**
Imm. Past President, RCTC Representative
- 5. Hon. Mark Henderson**
Gardena, RC District 28
- 6. Hon. Kathleen Kelly**
Palm Desert, RC District 2
- 7. Sup. Luis Plancarte**
Imperial County
- 8. Hon. Marty Simonoff**
Brea, RC District 22
- 9. Hon. Alan Wapner**
SBCTA Representative

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DISTRICT EVALUATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Policy A Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Thursday, February 22, 2024
10:00 AM

The District Evaluation Committee may consider and act upon any of the items listed on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action Items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Honorable Art Brown, Chair)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Matters Not on the Agenda)

This is the time for public comments on any matter of interest within SCAG’s jurisdiction that is *not* listed on the agenda. For items listed on the agenda, public comments will be received when that item is considered. Although the committee may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon at this time.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT ITEM

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – November 7, 2023

PPG. 7

ACTION ITEM

2. District Evaluation Process and Update
(Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel)

PPG. 14

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Review proposal by the City of Santa Clarita to be its own single-city Regional Council District.
2. Make final Committee recommendations to be presented to the Regional Council.

ADJOURNMENT



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
DISTRICT EVALUATION COMMITTEE (DEC)
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT EVALUATION COMMITTEE (DEC). AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.ig2.com/Citizens/>.

The District Evaluation Committee (DEC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its special meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Art Brown, President, Chair

Hon. Jenny Crosswhite

Hon. Margaret E. Finlay

Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President

Hon. Mark E. Henderson

Hon. Kathleen Kelly

Hon. Marty Simonoff

Hon. Alan Wapner

Buena Park

Santa Paula

Duarte

Gardena

Palm Desert

Brea

District 21

District 47

District 35

RCTC

District 28

District 2

District 22

SBCTA

Members Not Present

Supervisor Luis Plancarte

Members Not Present

Members Not Present

Imperial County

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer

Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer

Jeffery Elder, Acting Chief Counsel

Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board

Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Brown called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and asked Regional Council Member

Marty Simonoff, Brea, District 22, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

He also reminded the members that if a member of this body was attending remotely but not at a location specified on the agenda, they could observe but not participate in any discussion or voting of this body.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Brown opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda. He reminded the public to submit comments via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov.

The Clerk of the Board acknowledged there were no public comments for items not listed on the agenda and that there were no written public comments received by the 5 p.m. deadline.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION ITEMS

1. District Evaluation Process

There were no Public Comments for Item 1.

Jeff Elder, Acting Chief Counsel, provided an overview of the 2023 District Evaluation Process. His presentation included information on the Bylaws requirements, background of the past District Evaluation Process, 2023 Department of Finance population data specific to District population target and deviation, and consideration of input from subregional organizations.

Regional Council Member Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, stated this was not the first time they had heard about the Santa Clarita issue and indicated that it appeared they had increased by approximately 14,000 people in the five-year period which still did not take them up to the 245,000. She also noted that San Fernando which was not contiguous with them had decreased. She asked if there was a give or take of about 50,000 people.

Acting Chief Council Elder confirmed that she was correct and stated that there was a historical deviation of plus or minus 50,000 but that there were districts that fell outside of that. He indicated that it was the general deviation that they try to withhold.

Regional Council Member Finlay asked where San Fernando would go if they weren't with Santa Clarita.

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, acknowledge the growth of Santa Clarita and whether it deserve a single city district. He indicated that the complexity of this district was something they had explored in prior years. He stated that if this was something that the committee wanted to explore, they could certainly ask for it. He explained that one of the recommendations that Mr. Elder put before the committee was to go out to the subregional council of governments and ask for input. He indicated that perhaps they could ask this specific question to get some local thoughts about how that realignment could happen, should this be something that the committee would want to consider pursuing.

Regional Council Member Finlay indicated that in her opinion it would be something to look at. She shared that perhaps one of the reasons member Marsha McLean wanted the change was because she's on for two years and then San Fernando gets the seat for two years.

Regional Council Member Alan Wapner stated that he supported staff recommendation and that he thought it was time to start looking at the Los Angeles City Council districts and look at the whole system. He indicated that at some point the President may want to appoint an ad hoc to study the issue and perhaps they can do something next time when they do the reorganization of districts.

Regional Council Member Kathleen Kelly, Palm Desert, District 2, stated she supported staff's recommendation and indicated that Regional Council Member Finlay captured member McLean's concern. She indicated that member McLean had expressed that Santa Clarita had an agreement with San Fernando to trade off and was an impediment to seeking leadership. She indicated that she thought that was their agreement and they [SCAG] had not made them make that agreement. She emphasized that if it was an impediment to seeking leadership, perhaps it was something they could take into account and potentially renegotiate in how they select their representative.

Regional Council Member Jenny Crosswhite, Santa Paula, District 47, indicated that there was a reality that within five years they [Santa Clarita] may cross that threshold because there was a big development that was happening right at the edge of Santa Clarita, but it hadn't happened yet. She noted that it did seem like they needed to revisit their agreement. She also observed that there were some cities that were getting close [to the threshold] depending on what population shifts

were for the next time redistricting happens. She indicated that there might be some bigger conversations to be had but was not sure if this cycle was the one to have them at.

Regional Council Member Marty Simonoff, Brea, District 22, indicated that he was going to support the staff recommendation but really thought that Regional Council Member Wapner made a point that they needed to look at Los Angeles. He stated that maybe an ad hoc committee was the solution to see how they divide things up in a more equitable fashion.

Regional Council Member Finlay asked who determined how many votes Los Angeles got.

Chair Brown indicated that it was based by population in their district.

Mr. Chidsey explained there was a target population number for each district and that the SCAG Regional Council was population weighted by the approximate number of constituents represented by each Regional Council district. He indicated that when they delineate this over the districts available, each Los Angeles City Council district represents about the same population as each multi-city district or single city district. He indicated that this was where the 250,000 in population comes in. He explained that when the Regional Council was originally established this was a foundational element that the districts be based around the size of the Los Angeles City council district. He explained that any thought about changing this or reducing that number was really a bigger picture conversation because then they would want to ensure that the population ratio of each Regional Council district remains equal to that so that they are getting a representative of the entire population for the region.

Regional Council Member Finlay expressed that they [city of Los Angeles representatives] rarely came to meetings.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, explained that part of the reason was that the Los Angeles city charter required them to meet three times a week and so they were at city council meetings. He indicated that a lot of them had subcommittee meetings that met on the same day as the Regional Council. He indicated that they did engage and that he had one on one meetings with every single one of them [the Los Angeles district representatives]. He shared that they all wanted to participate and that some of them would send staff or they would monitor the [Regional Council] meeting remotely at times. He explained that they couldn't always be here physically and that it had been a constraint that they have dealt with. He further explained that when he talked to the Council President, he was looking to designate one of them to be as active as possible and to always be present. He indicated that this was the level of engagement that they have. He shared that they were not the only districts that did not attend and that there were a number of other Regional Council members that did not attend. He indicated that in this particular case it was a conflict with their primary assignment and was not sure how they remedy this. He stated that he appreciated

Regional Council Member Wapner's point about needing to study this a bit more in depth so that they can have a thoughtful response to what they are trying to do.

Chair Brown shared that in 1994 when he came to the Regional Council there was only 17 members that made all the decisions for SCAG and then they expanded to the current Regional Council.

Regional Council Member Wapner explained that it was not his intent to take a hit against Los Angeles. He indicated that his concern was that with time many of the Los Angeles city districts were decreasing in population while other cities were increasing in population, and thought they needed to monitor this more. He also noted that San Fernando was completely encircled by the city of Los Angeles and that there was no reason why they couldn't go with a nearby Los Angeles council district, and this way Santa Clarita could have their own. He indicated that there was nothing keeping them from adding someone to a council district.

Executive Director Ajise indicated that it was a good point and that there was nothing that kept the Los Angeles council districts sacrosanct as a Regional Council district. He explained that if the populations truly drops and they have to do a realignment in the next go around, they may end up in a situation where the council district subsumes another city to make the population work.

Mr. Chidsey shared that an example of this was Long Beach which had two districts, however, the city of Avalon was part of one of the Districts in Long Beach.

Regional Council Member Simonoff expressed that he understood the situation with the city of Los Angeles as Executive Director Ajise explained. Nonetheless, he indicated he would be curious to see what their attendance was as they never see them at any SCAG meetings or event.

Executive Director Ajise indicated they had attendance records.

Chair Brown indicated that they were published in every agenda.

Immediate Past President Jan Harnik, RCTC, expressed support for Regional Council Wapner's comments and thought that it was time to look at this on a grander scale to make sure that they were doing the right thing. She indicated that there had been so much shift in population and was not sure when it was last done.

Mr. Chidsey explained that this process happens every five years and that the process they went through the last time was a little different because the population actually decreased over the last five years.

Immediate Past President Harnik indicated that she understood the process but was just wondering when the last time was that they looked at the guidelines they were working with to determine who gets representatives. She asked if they should look at this.

Mr. Chidsey expressed that staff agreed and that the dynamics of the region were changing with population growth being faster in certain parts of the region and declining in others. He indicated this was evident as they looked at the long-range growth projections of Connect SoCal and stated this was something they should be doing more work and thought on as to how do they maintain a balance. He expressed that maintaining the general idea that each Regional Council district has an equally weighted vote amongst them was an important concept to stick with.

Executive Director Ajise noted that one of the things to look at was whether to keep the 70 [districts] as already predetermined by the Regional Council and if this was the case, then the study would want to look at how to shift the thresholds such that they lay the foundation before it happens. He indicated that when the population shifts happen then they automatically do it as opposed to have it happen and then they consider it at that time. He indicated that if this was what Regional Council Wapner was referencing then they needed to do an in-depth thoughtful study about what exactly the districts should look like and what the population threshold should look like. He indicated that if they were anticipating shifts in population and decided to keep the district size then they needed to consider how they reshape such that they can compensate for that population shift, which goes into one geographic area over the other. He noted they could study this thoughtfully to create the levers when the time comes.

Regional Council Member Finlay stated that staffs recommendation was good but just wanted to take into consideration a concern by a city that has felt neglected. She expressed that as Regional Council Member Kelly had indicated this was their agreement and it seemed to her that they needed to look into changing that agreement because San Fernando was about 10% of the population of Santa Clarita.

Mr. Chidsey based on feedback received from the Committee, suggested adding language to the recommendation directing staff to seek secondary input from subregional organizations on areas that the Committee should consider or study for future review of the District Evaluation process.

A MOTION was made (Finlay) to approve staff recommendation, as amended, 1) that the population target size and deviation (245-345,000 with +/- 50,000) remain unchanged; 2) that the current District boundaries remain unchanged; 3) that no Districts be added; 4) that staff seek input from subregional organizations regarding any changes to the current composition of the Districts in their respective subregion, which staff will bring back to this committee; and 5) to get input from the subregional organizations on the current recommendation to not readjust the Districts and seek



language from the subregions on areas they should be looking at to research in the future. Motion was SECONDED (Harnik). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Brown, Crosswhite, Finlay, Harnik, Kelly, Simonoff, and Wapner (7)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the meeting of the District Evaluation Committee at 2:34 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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AGENDA ITEM 2
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
February 22, 2024

To: District Evaluation Committee (DEC)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Richard Lam, Deputy Legal Counsel
(213) 630-1510, lam@scag.ca.gov

Subject: District Evaluation Process and Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Review proposal by the City of Santa Clarita to be its own single-city Regional Council District.
2. Make final Committee recommendations to be presented to the Regional Council.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 4: Provide innovative information and value-added services to enhance member agencies' planning and operations and promote regional collaboration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In years ending in 3 and 8, the SCAG Bylaws requires that the Regional Council (RC) review the current composition of the Districts based upon population data and geographic community of interest. The RC has delegated this task to the District Evaluation Committee (Committee).

At the Committee's November 7, 2023, meeting, staff provided background on the bylaw requirements for evaluation of Districts, a summary of the 2018 District Evaluation process and current population data, and made recommendations subject to input from subregional organizations. The Committee approved the recommendations and staff was directed to obtain input from the subregional organizations regarding any possible recommended changes. Staff has received input from the subregional organizations. Additionally, Staff has received input from the City of Santa Clarita proposing that it be its own single-city District and that the City of San Fernando be added to District 54. Los Angeles City Council District 7 and Los Angeles City Council District 2 submitted responses to that proposal. The Committee is asked to consider the proposal from the City of Santa Clarita and make a final recommendation to the RC.

BACKGROUND:

Bylaw Requirements to Periodically Evaluate Regional Council Districts

As the Committee is aware, SCAG's Bylaws provide that, in each year ending in "3" or "8," the RC must review District boundaries "based upon city population data as most recently available from

the State Department of Finance.” (Bylaws Art. V.A.(1)(a)(2).) Additionally, the Bylaws provide that Districts: (1) should have a “geographic community of interest” and be of “approximately equal population” (Bylaws Art. V.A.(1)(a)(1)); (2) may span multiple counties, but must not cross subregional boundaries (*ibid.*); and (3) are limited to 70 in number (Bylaws Art. V.A.(1)(a)(6)). Outreach to subregional organizations is required and they may make recommendations to establish or modify Districts, using the same population data described above. (Bylaws Art. V.A.(1)(a)(5).)

November District Evaluation Committee Meeting

In November, the Committee received a presentation on the bylaw requirements for evaluation of Districts, a summary of the 2018 District Evaluation process and current population data, and staff’s recommendations. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee approved the following staff recommendations:

- That the population target size and deviation (245,000-345,000 with +/- 50,000) remain unchanged.
- That the current District boundaries remain unchanged.
- That no Districts be added.
- That staff seek input from subregional partners regarding any changes to the current composition of the Districts in their respective subregion.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the need for a future discussion regarding a more thorough review of the District Evaluation process and directed staff to seek additional input from our subregional partners on areas that the Committee should consider when conducting that review. Staff will begin that outreach at the conclusion of the current District Evaluation process.

Subregional Partner Outreach

At the direction of the Committee, SCAG staff sought input from subregional partners regarding any changes to the current composition of the Districts in their respective subregion. SCAG received responses from 5 subregional organizations,¹ the City of Santa Clarita (District 67), Los Angeles City Council District 7 (District 54), and Los Angeles City Council District 2 (District 49) on the matter. With the exception of the City of Santa Clarita, no changes are being proposed.

On January 17, 2024, the City of Santa Clarita (City) submitted a proposal for it to be its own District and the City of San Fernando (San Fernando) to be added to District 54 (see Attachment 1). The City based their request on its current population (230,659) and its population growth. Specifically, the

¹ The following subregional organizations informed SCAG staff that they recommended no changes to the current composition of its RC Districts: Ventura Council of Governments; Coachella Valley Association of Governments; South Bay Cities Council of Governments; Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments; and Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

City noted that it is the most populous city in the SCAG region to remain in a multi-city District and that it continues to experience significant population growth. The City pointed out that the California Department of Finance forecasts show that the City's population is projected to be 258,800 by 2045.

The City is currently part of District 67 with San Fernando. The City has proposed that San Fernando be added to District 54, which is currently a single-city District made up of Los Angeles City Council District 7. The City notes that San Fernando shares its boundaries entirely with Council District 7, that San Fernando and Council District 7 are part of the San Fernando Valley COG subregion, and that the population of San Fernando (23,487) and Council District 7 (253,100) would be within SCAG's established target population range. The City also discussed the economic, housing, transportation, climatic and social factors that San Fernando and Council District 7 share. Finally, the City discussed the participation of Council District 7 in RC meetings.

On January 26, 2024, Los Angeles City Council District 7 submitted a letter in support of the approved November staff recommendations and in opposition of the proposal put forth by the City to add San Fernando to District 54 (see attachment 2). Council District 7 noted that its population was 253,100 and projected to grow to 304,515 by 2045, which is within the bounds to retain a single-city District designation, and that the City has not met the single-city District population threshold (245,000). Council District 7 pointed out that the demographic data included in the City's letter are not criteria for single-city designation per the bylaws criteria. Finally, Council District 7 stated that under the proposal it would be the only District to lose its single-city designation to accommodate another jurisdiction that has not met the stated criteria.

On January 31, 2024, Los Angeles City Council District 2 also submitted a letter in support of the approved November staff recommendations and in opposition of the proposal put forth by the City (see attachment 3). Council District 2 noted that the City's proposal to change its status to a single-city District fails to meet the staff recommendations accepted by the Committee that the District population target size and deviation remain unchanged and that the district boundaries remain unchanged with no Districts being added. Council District 7 also noted that District 54 has a current population of over 253,000 and should retain its right to remain a single-city District and should not be combined with San Fernando.

CONCLUSION:

Given the responses received from District 54 and District 49, the fact that the City has not met the population target size, and that the City's proposal would change the current District boundaries, SCAG staff has concerns with the City's proposal. The Committee is asked to consider the proposal from the City of Santa Clarita and make a final recommendation to the RC.

Staff recommends that the Committee make a final recommendation to the RC:

- That the population target size and deviation (245,000-345,000 with +/- 50,000) remain unchanged.
- That the current District boundaries remain unchanged.
- That no Districts be added.

Following approval of this action, the Committee's recommendations would be presented to the Regional Council for their review and action.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work related to the District Evaluation process is funded from the General Fund Budget.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Attachment 1 – January 17, 2024, Letter from the City of Santa Clarita
2. Attachment 2 – January 26, 2024, Letter from Los Angeles City Council District 7
3. Attachment 3 – January 31, 2024, Letter from Los Angeles City Council District 2



City of
SANTA CLARITA

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125
www.santa-clarita.com

January 17, 2024

Cameron Smyth
Mayor

The Honorable Art Brown
District Evaluation Subcommittee
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Chair Brown:

Subject: Request for a Single-City Regional Council District

I am writing to request that the City of Santa Clarita be placed within its own single-city Regional Council District. Currently, the City of Santa Clarita and City of San Fernando comprise Regional Council District 67, which was formed in 2008.

With a population of 230,659, the City of Santa Clarita is the most populous city in the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) region to remain in a multi-city Regional Council District.

As the third most populous of the eighty-eight cities in Los Angeles County, the City of Santa Clarita continues to experience significant population growth. Since the last SCAG district evaluation process in 2018, Santa Clarita's population has increased by 6.5 percent and in comparison to the evaluation process in 2013, Santa Clarita's population has increased by nearly 13 percent. As forecasted by the California Department of Finance, Santa Clarita will continue to grow at a substantial rate, as its population is projected to be 258,800 by 2045.

A potential pathway in creating a single-city district for the City of Santa Clarita and enhancing representation for the San Fernando Valley is to have the City of San Fernando join Regional Council District 54, which is currently a single-city district held by Los Angeles City Council District 7 (Council District 7).

The City of San Fernando shares its boundaries entirely with Council District 7, as shown in the attached map, which allows for a contiguous Regional Council District that better meets SCAG's by-laws in establishing Regional Council Districts that contain a "geographic community of interest."

The City of San Fernando and Council District 7 are part of the San Fernando Valley COG subregion, consistent with SCAG by-laws that jurisdictions within a Regional Council District remain within a regional subregion. Additionally, with the population of Council District 7 at 253,100, and the population of the City of San Fernando at 23,487, the new population size for Regional Council District 54 would be 276,587, which would keep the district population within SCAG's established Regional Council District target population range.

Given the geographical proximity to one another, the City of San Fernando and Council District 7 share many unifying conditions, including economic, housing, transportation, climatic, and social factors. Additionally, the two jurisdictions share the same County, State, and Federal representatives. These commonalities better meet SCAG's original intent in establishing Regional Council Districts that contain communities of common interests and geographical representation.

As transportation planning and access to public transit are key policy areas and priorities for SCAG, it is important to highlight that the City of San Fernando and Council District 7 rely on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for public transit services, sharing five fixed Metro bus routes. Additionally, the two jurisdictions are working together on the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project, which will offer light rail services to both jurisdictions.

Moreover, as shown in the graphics below, the City of San Fernando and Council District 7 share greater similarities with regard to resident demographics and communities of interest than the City of San Fernando and City of Santa Clarita.

Demographics

	San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
Black	0.65%	3.55%	3.39%
Latino	92.86%	70.98%	31.67%
White	5.29%	19.21%	55.68%
Asian	14.31%	5.99%	8.89%
% of Foreign Born	37%	40%	21%

Highest Level of Education Attained (25 years and older)

	San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
Less than High School	42%	32%	11%
High School Graduate	26%	26%	20%
Sole College	20%	25%	37%
Bachelor Degree or Higher	12%	17%	33%

Median Household Income

San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
\$55,170	\$57,352	\$83,554

Homeownership/Rent

	San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
% that Own	54%	60%	68%
% that Rent	46%	40%	33%

Residents Living below the Federal Poverty Level

	San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
Below 100%	20%	17%	10%
Below 200%	51%	44%	23%

Housing Burden

	San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
Housing Burden*	48%	53%	42%
Severe Housing Burden	23%	26%	18%

*Severe Housing Burden is defined as spending 50% or more of household income on housing.

Recreational Space

	San Fernando	District 7	Santa Clarita
Acres per 1,000 population	0.99	2.76	4.02

Honorable Art Brown
January 17, 2024
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In addition to remaining consistent with SCAG's by-laws, the proposed Regional Council District 54 would strengthen representation of the District and the San Fernando Valley.

In the last 56 Regional Council meetings, spanning over the last six years, the representative for Regional Council District 54 has attended five meetings for an attendance rate of 9 percent. Moreover, the representative has missed the last 26 consecutive Regional Council meetings, with the last recorded attendance made in April 2021.

In conformance with the expressed desires of SCAG's Executive Administration Committee, this proposal would enable the most populous city that remains in a multi-city district to be placed into a single-city district and enhances representation of Regional Council District 54, while not adding any new districts.

As we recognize that the District Evaluation Subcommittee may be reviewing multiple issues and requests related to the overall district evaluation process, my City Council colleagues, City of Santa Clarita staff, and I look forward to working with you during the coming months in enhancing representation for the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and comments. Should the District Evaluation Subcommittee or SCAG staff require additional information regarding our comments, please contact Intergovernmental Relations Officer Masis Hagobian at (661) 286-4057 or mhagobian@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,



Cameron Smyth
Mayor

CS:MH:kl

s\ms\masis\letters\SCAG District Evaluation Subcommittee Request 2024

Attachment

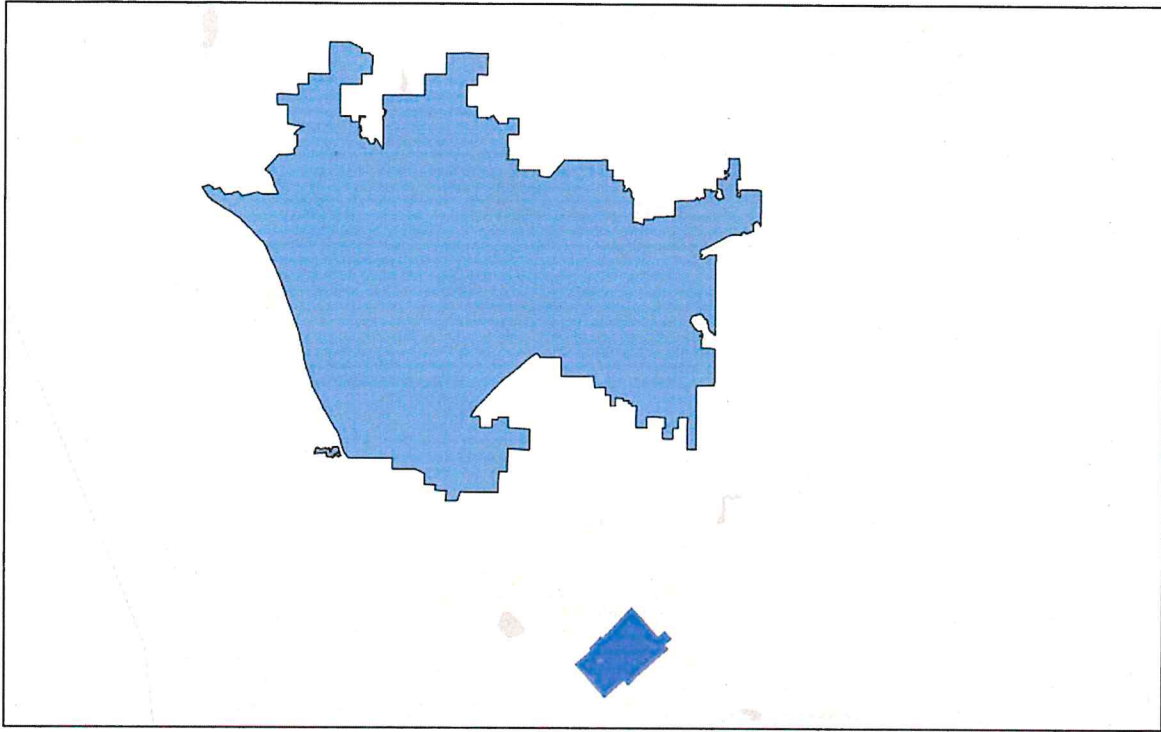
cc: Members of the City Council
Honorable Celeste Rodriguez, Mayor, City of San Fernando

Attachment: Attachment 1 – January 17, 2024, Letter from the City of Santa Clarita (District Evaluation Process and Update)

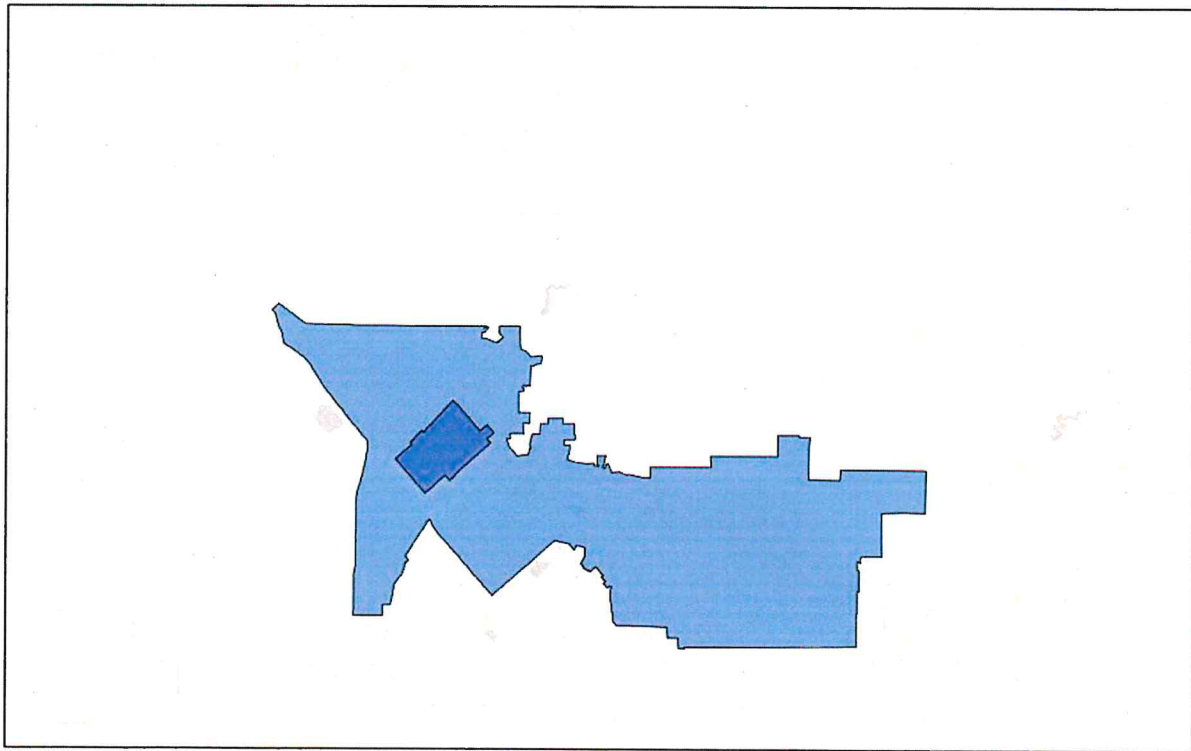
Honorable Art Brown
January 17, 2024
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Honorable Monica Rodriguez, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles
Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager
Leadership Team
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Kome Ajise, Executive Director, SCAG
Jeffrey Elder, SCAG
Kevin Gilhooley, SCAG
David Salgado, SCAG
Erik Rodriguez, SCAG
John Bwarie, SFVCOG
Arthur Sohikian, NCTC

Current Regional Council District 67



Proposed Regional Council District 54





COUNCILWOMAN MONICA RODRIGUEZ
SEVENTH DISTRICT

January 26, 2024

Dear Members of the SCAG District Evaluation Committee,

I am writing in support of the staff recommendations as proposed to, and approved by, the Committee on November 7, 2023, and in response to the proposal put forward by the City of Santa Clarita in a letter to the Committee dated January 17, 2024. The letter proposes changing the City of Santa Clarita's status to a single-city designation on the Regional Council by implicating Council District 7, with a direct impact to our role on that body. Broadly, the staff recommendations accepted by the Committee include that a) District population target size and deviation (245,000-345,000 with +/-50,000) remain unchanged; b) District boundaries remain unchanged; no Districts be added; and c) SCAG staff should seek input from subregional partners regarding any changes to the current composition of the Districts in their respective subregion and then return to the Committee with that input.

As listed in attachment one of the Committee's letters, the population of Council District 7 was 253,100 in 2023, and projected to grow to 304,515 by 2045. Under existing and the above presented criteria, Council District 7 in the City of Los Angeles remains squarely within the bounds to retain a single-city Regional Council District designation, notwithstanding Santa Clarita's desire for a change in their own. The demographic data highlighted in the letter is not relevant criteria per the Committee's guidelines. Santa Clarita has not met the single-city designation population threshold, and therefore implementing a proposal with this significant of an impact to other Regional Council members to achieve it is not responsible or necessary. I believe the committee has time to consider a comprehensive strategy to address this, and perhaps other similar concerns for areas approaching the threshold within the next or future evaluation periods.

I cannot be supportive of a proposal that would treat my district, which has fully qualified for single-city designation per the criteria, to be the only one in our region to lose that for the sake of accommodating the interests of another jurisdiction that has not met the objective criteria. As such I support the Committee's recommendation as-is.

Sincerely,

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez
LA City Council, District 7



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
PAUL KREKORIAN
COUNCIL MEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

January 31, 2024

Jeffery Elder
Acting Chief Legal Counsel
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Response to Regional Council District Evaluation Committee
recommendation for District 54

Mr. Elder,

In response to your letter dated December 14, 2023 seeking comment on Los Angeles City Council Subregion 54, I support the recommendation by District Evaluation Committee members that no changes be made to the existing composition or number of Regional Council Districts. This committee invested important time in its analysis and evaluation. Its conclusion should be respected.

In response to the proposal put forward in a letter to the Committee dated January 17, 2024, the proposal to change the City of Santa Clarita's status to a single-city designation on the Regional Council fails to meet the first two staff recommendations accepted by the Committee:

- a.) that the District population target size and deviation (245,000-345,000, +/-50,000) remain unchanged
- b.) that District boundaries remain unchanged, with no Districts being added.

Observing these criteria, Regional Council District 54, with its current population of over 253,000 residents, retains every right to remain a single-city designation and should not be combined with the City of San Fernando - which would be the direct result of the proposal by Santa Clarita.

I fully support SCAG determining a process going forward for the evaluation of geographies that have breached threshold amounts for the 2028 District Evaluation Process. The responsible thing for the Regional Council to do is to honor the

recommendation its Committee has made, through this open and transparent process, by continuing the current representative makeup of the Regional Council.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian
President, Los Angeles City Council
Councilmember, Second District

cc: Hon. Art Brown, Chair, District Evaluation Committee, SCAG
Hon. Monica Rodriguez, Los Angeles City Councilmember, Seventh District
Hon. Cameron Smyth, Mayor, City of Santa Clarita
Hon. Celeste Rodriguez, Mayor City of San Fernando
Kome Aijse, Executive Director, SCAG
John Wickham, Assistant Chief Legislative Analyst, City of Los Angeles