



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN 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 regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Art Brown, President</b>	<b><i>Buena Park</i></b>	<b>District 21</b>
<b>Sup. Curt Hagman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>		<b>San Bernardino County</b>
<b>Hon. Cindy Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b><i>Long Beach</i></b>	<b>Los Angeles County</b>
<b>Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President</b>	<b><i>RCTC</i></b>	<b>Riverside</b>
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Luis Plancarte, Vice Chair, EEC		Imperial County
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC	<i>VCTC</i>	Ventura County
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President’s Appt.	Eastvale	District 4
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.		Air District Representative
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26
Hon. Marshall Goodman, President’s Appt.	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Hon. Tim McOsker, President’s Appt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38

**Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director  
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer  
Erika Bustamante, Deputy Director, Finance  
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer  
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable Art Brown called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. President Brown asked Immediate Past President Jan Harnik, RCTC, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov).

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel acknowledged there were no written public comments received before or after the deadline.

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

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

**Approval Items**

1. Minutes of the Meeting – March 6, 2024
-

2. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: Contract No. 24-024-C01, Last Mile Project Assessment for the SCAG Region
3. Resolution No. 24-664-3 Approving Amendment 2 to the FY 2023-24 Comprehensive Budget including Overall Work Program (OWP)

#### Receive and File

4. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
5. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Hagman) to approve the Consent Calendar Items 1 through 3; and Receive and File Items 4 through 5. Motion was SECONDED (Shapiro) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Allen, Brown, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Lock Dawson, Lorimore, McCallon, and Shapiro (10)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

#### **INFORMATION ITEM**

6. Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program of 2021 (REAP 2.0) Update & Prioritization Principles (*Kome Ajise, Executive Director*)

Executive Director, Kome Ajise introduced Item 6. He shared with members that the REAP program had been hit by the Governor's reduced budget proposal to reduce it by 50%. He stated the Chief Planning Officer would walk them through thoughts about how they could move forward. He stated that because of the Governor's proposal, it created a bit of uncertainty for SCAG moving forward. He stated SCAG had been assigned \$246 million in program funds, and they had done a lot of work to get to a point where they had sub-allocated \$193 million and not knowing how they would recover if in fact, they did not get half of the money they were supposed to spend, they put the program on hold.

He stated that what they wanted to do that day was help create some stability in how they move forward with various scenarios they were beginning to imagine. He stated he had originally mentioned to the membership they had about \$130 million in matching funds, but it was wrong, and the number was actually \$115 million. He stated this was to say that the money they had already suballocated, the \$192 million, had leveraged another \$115 million to where they had commitment to the tune of about \$360 million dollars they had let out the door. He stated he said

all of that to suggest that cutting half of the program and trying to reprogram half the money did not quite work because of how much had already been let out. He stated that it was under those circumstances that they were beginning to think through what they might do if, in fact, they ended up with this scenario. He explained their primary objective was to continue to ask for the program to be restored, even if over a longer period of time. He then turned it over to Chief Planning Officer, Sarah Jepson to walk them through where their thinking was and how the members could help shape that thinking going forward.

Chief Planning Officer, Sarah Jepson presented Item 6. She thanked the members for their support and the work on REAP 2.0. She stated they had been working on this for the last two and a half years. She stated she thought it had been a tremendous opportunity for their region to think about how to take a big regional plan and really work to fund local projects that implement it. She also thanked her team, who had worked hard over that period doing work they had never done before to put together a comprehensive program. She stated they were committed to doing their best to restore the full funding. She explained the robust process they had been through put them in a better position to advocate for the projects they had selected, as well as to adapt. Furthermore, she stated they wanted to start the conversation with the members on a set of broad principles and a process for prioritizing projects that receive REAP 2.0 funds. She stated they would then return to the members later in the summer following further engagement with their grantees and stakeholders, and hopefully, with a little more certainty on what the Fiscal Year 25 state budget will look like.

She explained their thought process was in terms of which projects go first and which projects they could push into a future fiscal year based on funding capacity. She stated they were not yet really talking about which projects they would cut. She shared a phased approach would allow them to move forward during this time of uncertainty, which was critical for two reasons, and possibly many more. She stated it was critical, because even with a cut, and if they received a \$123 million dollars, this was still the largest grant they had ever received at SCAG, and it was going to take a significant amount of effort to both launch and complete the projects by June of 2026. She stated they had already lost at least six months in delay because of the stop work order and had their projects on hold following the release of the Governor's proposal. She stated they wanted to position themselves to restart as soon as possible, and having this phased approach would allow them to do that. She shared the second reason this was critical was they had partners who had spent money and were waiting for reimbursement, and/or have received consultant proposals for projects they wanted to start and if they waited too long, they would have to restart all of these processes, which was an inefficient use of resources. She stated that with a phased approach, they hoped to provide some level of certainty for both their planning work at SCAG, and to their partners so they could adjust accordingly. Before she discussed the principles they had started to think through, she provided a recap on how they developed the REAP 2 program and how they got to the point of allocating resources. After the recap, she stated they had done quite a bit of work, and wanted to

make sure they were able to see the full scope of the efforts, as they now started to transition to a conversation about how they might phase their resources moving forward. She explained that in a phased prioritization process, they were talking about a phase one that would have at least \$123 million dollars, which was half of their allocation and looking for ways with those resources to meet all those main core program objectives they had set out in the beginning for this program. She stated they were also thinking of using and retaining many of the guiding principles they used to select the projects in the first place, but needed to look at ways they might revise those guiding principles given a reduced budget. She then referenced page 76 in the agenda packet, to discuss the outline of some initial concepts for how they might supplement or revise those guiding principles. She shared the first one was they thought they would look to prioritize the reimbursement of incurred costs for eligible expenses. She stated that to the extent that their partners had already spent money, they wanted to make good on their commitments to them. She stated they were looking at prioritizing suballocated programs, meaning those programs that were not regional or led by SCAG. She stated they would look to prioritize projects that had been competitively selected and awarded to SCAG cities and counties over those that were awarded by formula. She stated competitive projects, as was mentioned, bring with them matching dollars in many cases, so they had a greater opportunity to leverage more resources. She stated they would look at prioritizing the housing programs that were part of REAP 2 programs. She stated they would also look at the housing programs for local jurisdictions to help them meet their six cycle RHNA goals given both the urgency of the housing work and the lack of other available resources.

She noted that while they would prioritize the housing programs, they would still look at ensuring some funding for the mobility projects to ensure that all the core program objectives were met. She stated they would look to optimize funding for the region by prioritizing in phase one, projects that have matching funds that might expire, and needed to do more investigation with their awardees to understand the extent of this. Lastly, she explained they would then defer to phase two all the projects they were not prioritizing in phase one.

Hon. Larry McCallon, Air District Representative asked with regard to prioritizing reimbursement of the eligible expenses, if that meant that some of those projects would be halted and some would continue based on the further prioritization. Ms. Jepson responded stating they already had some MOUs in place, or had in the guidelines for programs, told those who were receiving funding they could start spending money. She stated that when they were talking about reimbursing for the eligible expenses, first, it would be those who had already spent money, and that would be County Transportation Commission partners as well as some of the COGs. She stated it was between \$7 and \$10 million dollars that had already been expended.

Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Riverside, District 68, sought clarification if staff was just trying to get guidance on the principles first. Ms. Jepson explained they could move forward and use these [principles] as the basis to then dig into the whole set of programs and figure out which of the

projects best met the principles. Executive Director Ajise also added that they could do that but were also hoping they could get input from the members perhaps letting them know this was good enough, move forward and show them where the projects might fall. He stated they did not want to be presumptuous to assume this was perfect. He stated they expected to spend some time talking to their stakeholders about the principles after getting some input from the board on how to move forward, because there were a lot of people that were affected by this. He stated the idea was to create some sense of stability going forward. He shared they wanted to set themselves up such that once the budget was approved, they had a couple of scenarios where they might get half the money or get all the money over a period of time to be able to move as quickly as possible. He stated the SCAG region had moved a little faster than any other region, which was remarkable, given the size of their program, but they had the pressure of trying to spend the money before 2026 so they moved fast and got a lot of commitments from their stakeholders to get the program running.

President Brown stated they had a request from a member of the public to speak. He stated the public speaking period was closed but he would allow the one person to speak.

Mr. Ben Feldman, Special Project Deputy with Supervisor Solis of Los Angeles County, stated that as they may recall, at the SCAG meeting following the Governor's proposed budget, the Supervisor had made comments to the Regional Council on the importance of prioritizing and being able to figure out how to move these dollars forward. He stated he wanted to communicate a message from her of appreciation to Ms. Jepson and the team and SCAG for being able to work so smoothly and quickly to bring this item forward and expressed a lot of appreciation.

### **CFO REPORT**

Erika Bustamante, Deputy Director, Finance, thanked members for supporting Budget Amendment two and stated that would be their last budget amendment for the fiscal year. She reported the 30-day public comment period, for the proposed fiscal year 25 overall work program was ending on April 8, and the final budget would be presented to the EAC and RC in May. Lastly, she reported SCAG had collected over 99% of its membership dues for the fiscal year and were preparing to send collection letters for the fiscal year 25 membership dues once approved at the General Assembly.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Brown provided an update on the 2024 General Assembly. He informed members there was still time to register for SCAG's 59th Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly. He shared the event would take place May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert. He shared online registration would end on April 26. He also reported he joined delegation of SCAG leaders for the annual Sacramento Summit at the state capitol on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. He stated the trip focused on three important goals: 1) Protecting the Regional Early Action Planning grant program 2.0 from proposed budget cuts; 2) Supporting Assembly Bill 2485 to

increase transparency and accuracy in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment determination process; and 3) Honoring promises to fund the Active Transportation Program and Infill Infrastructure Grant program to support regional goals on climate, housing, and safety. He thanked First Vice President Curt Hagman, Second Vice President Cindy Allen, Immediate Past President Jan Harnik and all the Regional Council members and staff who joined him in advocating for Southern California. Lastly, he reported the next regular meeting of the EAC was scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 3 p.m. at the JW Marriot Resort and Spa in Palm Desert.

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

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, reported that the previous month, the Joint Policy Committee recommended the Regional Council approve the final Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy as well as the associated transportation conformity determination and the Program Environmental Impact Report. He shared this vote came after the committee received a detailed report and presentation on revisions to the draft plan based on feedback received during the public comment period. He explained the final plan, which incorporated all revisions, was posted online on March 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated members would be considering final approval of the plan and PEIR the following day at the Regional Council meeting. Executive Director Ajise explained that after Regional Council approval, staff would submit the plan to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration who would consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine final transportation conformity. Additionally, he stated SCAG staff would also submit the plan to the California Air Resources Board for review and approval of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. He stated the federal and state actions will allow the region to move forward with the critical transportation projects included in the plan. Furthermore, he provided an update on the EPA's proposed disapproval of the 2019 Contingency Measure Plan for the 1997 federal ozone standard, a regional air plan created by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He explained if issues raised by the EPA were not addressed within the 24-month period, a highway sanction and a federal air plan would be imposed in the South Coast Air Basin, which includes all of Orange County and the urbanized areas of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. He clarified highway sanctions would prevent impacted highway capacity projects from receiving federal approval or funding. He stated SCAG staff were proactively working to prevent the EPA from finalizing the disapproval and the resulting highway sanction, but there were no easy solutions to resolve the underlying air plan issues and lift highway sanctions once imposed. He stated SCAG closely coordinated with AQMD and SCAG-region County Transportation Commissions to prepare and submit a joint letter outlining the significant regional implications of the potential disapproval. He stated their coalition recommended the EPA approve the air plan rather than proceeding with the proposed disapproval. He shared they also proposed another alternative to conditionally or partially approve the plan to support meaningful partnerships and provide practical pathways to resolve the underlying issues and avoid highway



sanctions. Lastly, he stated the EPA must finalize their action by July 1, and he would continue to update the Regional Council on developments.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Public Employment**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title: Executive Director

**Public Employment**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiators

Agency designated representatives: Ruben Duran, Board Counsel

Unrepresented employee: Executive Director

There were no public comments for closed session. Seeing none, the public comment period was closed.

President Brown recessed the EAC into Closed Session.

**REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS**

President Brown reconvened the meeting of the EAC.

Board Counsel Duran announced there was no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 5:06 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

//

Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report

MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	2023-24												Total M Attend To Da	
			31-May	29-Jun	30-Jun	JULY	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR		MAY
Hon. Art Brown, President, Chair	Buena Park	District 21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Hon. Curt Hagman, 1st Vice Chair		San Bernardino County	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	11
Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	9	
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, Imm. Past President		RCTC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	11	
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Vice Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	
Hon. Deborah Roberston, Chair, EEC	Rialto	District 8	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	
Hon. Luis Plancarte, Vice Chair, EEC		Imperial County	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	Pomona	District 38	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7	
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC		VCTC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	9	
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	8	
Hon. Marshall Goodman, President's Appt.	La Palma	District 18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	11	
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President's Appt.	Eastvale	District 4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.		Air District Representative	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
Hon. Tim McOsker, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	District 62	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Ma	Business Representative	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	11	
			16	15	13	15	16	16	15	13	15	15	9	13	0	

Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2023-24 April (Minutes of the Meeting - April 3, 2024)