



Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Regional Council Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Thursday, April 7, 2022

NO. 641
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The Regional Council (RC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically), given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Clint Lorimore, President	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4
Hon. Jan Harnik, 1st Vice President		RCTC
Sup. Carmen Ramirez, 2nd Vice President		Ventura County
Supervisor Luis Plancarte		Imperial County
Supervisor Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Don Wagner		Orange County
Supervisor Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich		ICTC
Hon. Alan Wapner		SBCTA
Hon. Peggy Huang		TCA
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Ben Benoit		Air District Representative
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2
Hon. Rey Santos	<i>Baumont</i>	District 3
Hon. Zak Schwank	<i>Temecula</i>	District 5
Hon. Frank Navarro	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Deborah Robertson	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8

Hon. Ray Marquez *Chino Hills* District 10

Members Present – continued

Hon. Randall Putz *Big Bear Lake* District 11
 Hon. Fred Minagar *Laguna Niguel* District 12
 Hon. Wendy Bucknum *Mission Viejo* District 13
 Hon. Diane Dixon *Newport Beach* District 15
 Hon. Phil Bacerra *Santa Ana* District 16

Hon. Kim Nguyen *Garden Grove* District 18
 Hon. Trevor O’Neil *Anaheim* District 19
 Hon. Joe Kalmick *Seal Beach* District 20
 Hon. Art Brown *Buena Park* District 21
 Hon. Marty Simonoff *Brea* District 22
 Hon. Frank Yokoyama *Cerritos* District 23
 Hon. Ray Hamada *Bellflower* District 24
 Hon. Sean Ashton *Downey* District 25
 Hon. José Luis Solache *Lynwood* District 26
 Hon. Ali Saleh *Bell* District 27
 Hon. Mark E. Henderson *Gardena* District 28
 Hon. Cindy Allen *Long Beach* District 30
 Hon. Steve De Ruse *La Mirada* District 31
 Hon. Jorge Marquez *Covina* District 33
 Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler *Alhambra* District 34
 Hon. Margaret E. Finlay *Duarte* District 35
 Hon. Steve Tye *Diamond Bar* District 37
 Hon. Tim Sandoval *Pomona* District 38
 Hon. James Gazeley *Lomita* District 39
 Hon. Alex Fisch *Culver City* District 41
 Hon. Paula Devine *Glendale* District 42
 Hon. David J. Shapiro *Calabasas* District 44
 Hon. Laura Hernandez *Port Hueneme* District 45
 Hon. David Pollock *Moorpark* District 46
 Hon. Steve Manos *Lake Elsinore* District 63
 Hon. Michael Posey *Huntington Beach* District 64
 Hon. Elizabeth Becerra *Victorville* District 65
 Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto *Coachella* District 66
 Hon. Marsha McLean *Santa Clarita* District 67
 Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson *Riverside* District 68



Hon. Marisela Nava
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.
Ms. Lucy Dunn

Perris
Pechanga Dev. Corp.
Business Representative

District 69
Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Ex-Officio Member

Members Not Present

Hon. Rex Richardson, Imm. Past President

Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Supervisor Curt Hagman
Hon. L. Dennis Michael
Hon. Tammy Kim
Hon. Leticia Clark
Hon. Steven Ly
Hon. Jonathan Curtis
Hon. Drew Boyles
Hon. Juan Carrillo
Hon. Lorrie Brown
Hon. Gilbert Cedillo
Hon. Nithya Raman
Hon. Paul Koretz
Hon. Paul Krekorian
Hon. Bob Blumenfield
Hon. Nury Martinez
Hon. Monica Rodriguez
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas
Hon. Mike Bonin
Hon. John Lee
Hon. Mitch O'Farrell
Hon. Kevin de León
Hon. Joe Buscaino
Hon. Eric Garcetti

Members Not Present

Long Beach

Rancho Cucamonga
Irvine
Tustin
Rosemead
La Cañada Flintridge
El Segundo
Palmdale
Ventura
Los Angeles
Los Angeles
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Members Not Present

District 29

Los Angeles County
San Bernardino County
District 9
District 14
District 17
District 32
District 36
District 40
District 43
District 47
District 48
District 51
District 52
District 49/Public Transit Rep.
District 50
District 53
District 54
District 55
District 56
District 57
District 58
District 59
District 60
District 61
District 62
Member-at-Large

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning
Carmen Fujimori, Human Resources Director



Javiera Cartagena, Director of Government and Public Affairs
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Michael Houston, Chief Counsel, Director of Legal Services
Jeffery Elder, Deputy Legal Counsel
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Lorimore called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. and asked Regional Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A), President Lorimore announced the meeting was being held both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Lorimore 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. Board Counsel Ruben Duran acknowledged there were no written public comments received by email before or after the deadline for items not listed on the agenda.

Donald Harlan, a stakeholder from Los Angeles, offered public comments pertaining to environmental permitting in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County and expressed his views of SCAG governance matters and funding.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Findings to Continue Holding Virtual Regional Council and Committee Meetings Under AB 361

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

A MOTION was made (McCallon) to (1) ratify the prior actions of the Executive/Administration Committee taken at its February 2, 2022 meeting relating to findings made pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(3); (2) make the following findings required by Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) on the basis of the staff report, which is incorporated by this reference, that (i) a proclaimed state of emergency remains active in connection with the COVID-19 public health crisis, (ii) the RC has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and (iii) state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing in relation to the COVID-19 public health crisis and, further, (3) authorize all legislative bodies of the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG), including the RC, EAC and all committees and task forces established by the RC or SCAG's Bylaws, to utilize remote teleconference meetings pursuant to and in compliance with Brown Act provisions contained in Government Code Section 54953(e).

Motion was SECONDED (Solis). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: ALLEN, ANDRADE-STADLER, ASHTON, BACERRA, BEAMAN JACINTO, BECERRA, BENOIT, A. BROWN, BUCKNUM, DE RUSE, DEVINE, DIXON, FINLAY, FISCH, GAZELEY, GOODELL, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HERNANDEZ, HUANG, JUDGE, J. KALMICK, KELLY, LOCK DAWSON, LORIMORE, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MASIEL, MCCALLON, MCLEAN, MINAGAR, NAVA, NAVA-FROELICH, NGUYEN, O'NEIL, PLANCARTE, POLLOCK, POSEY, PUTZ, RAMIREZ, ROBERTSON, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, SOLIS, SPIEGEL, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (56)

NOES: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: NONE (0)

2. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Draft Comprehensive Budget

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

Donald Hartland offered public comments pertaining to SCAG governance matters and funding.

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

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, briefly stated that the draft FY 23 budget that was before them was developed based on SCAG's multi-year Strategic Plan, which focuses on SCAG's vision and priorities. He explained that SCAG was required by federal and state law to develop an Overall Work Program (OWP) each year. He indicated that after a 30-day public comment review period, the OWP will be submitted to the Regional Council for final approval on May 5. He also stated that the general fund budget and membership assessment will also be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval on May 5. He reported that the proposed budget meets SCAG's primary responsibility requirements and furthers the implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), also known as Connect SoCal. He further noted that the FY 2022-23 draft comprehensive budget also highlights funding support and activities as the agency prepares for the development of Connect SoCal 2024.

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the proposed FY 22-23 budget complies with SCAG's primary responsibility to develop the SCS, the federal transportation improvement program, the annual OWP, and the transportation-related local air quality management plans. She noted that as shown in table 1 of the staff report provided, the budget totals just under \$119.6 million, which is down from \$176.8 million in the current fiscal year. She indicated that the reflected decline is the result of progress made in expending the REAP 2019 funds, which accounts for \$14.7 million of the decline, and the completion of grants with partner transit agencies which accounts for another \$40 million. She reported that not yet accounted for in the budget were the expected REAP 2021 funds which will bring in approximately \$245 million in new revenue for the region. Once fully programmed, the FY23 budget will be approximately \$365 million, nearly a 100% growth or double the current fiscal year budget, and not the 32% decline currently reflected. Ms. Giraldo further reported that on the expenditure side, the largest component of the budget was the OWP which accounts for \$112 million or 94% of the total \$120 million budget. She noted that in January, they had the annual OWP development meeting with Caltrans, FHWA and FTA, and that feedback received from the federal and state agencies was supportive of both the work SCAG accomplished and of the proposed OWP before the RC. She explained that within the staff report, on page 22 of the agenda packet a chart had been provided that details the total budget for each program within the OWP and within the comprehensive budget document starting on page 49 there was narratives on each program that describes the program's objectives and its alignment with SCAG's strategic plan. She also reported that major cost components of the budget include salaries and benefits for SCAG employees which totals \$36.6 million of the proposed budget and the consultant budget, the largest component, totaling \$59.5 million, which includes money set aside for distribution to sub-recipients. She indicated that together these 2 items account for 80% of the total budget. She further explained that total salaries and benefit cost amount of \$36.6 million was just under a \$4 million increase over prior year and noted that this increase was predominately attributed to the addition of 11 permanent and 3 limited terms positions, as outlined in Attachment 2 to the staff report provided, and escalating payments toward the CalPERS unfunded pension liability. She also indicated that the budget also continues to fund SCAG's Merit Pay Program, the continuation of the

Vacation Cash-out pilot program, and the work at SCAG employee benefit. She stated that no new employee benefits are being requested for approval as part of the budget before them. Lastly, she reported that the general fund revenues include membership dues of \$2.3 million and that were calculated in compliance with the methods outlined in the SCAG Bylaws. She highlighted that a detailed breakdown of the membership dues by agency was provided within the comprehensive budget document starting on page 89 of the agenda packet.

Regional Councilmember Jorge Marquez, Covina, District 33, asked if they could take the recommendation on Item Number 2 and the Consent Calendar all in one motion.

Board Counsel Duran stated that it would be allowable, as long as the record was clear that the Regional Council was making a motion to approve item two and the Consent Calendar items three through the appropriate number.

Michael Houston, Chief Counsel and Director of Legal Services, stated that he agreed with Board Counsel but suggested taking public comment on the Consent Calendar since they had not done that yet.

President Lorimore thanked Regional Council Member Marquez for the suggestion. Related to the consent calendar, President Lorimore stated the motion would also include Receive and File items 6 through 12. Additionally, he clarified that there was a typographical error on the agenda and that the minutes in the agenda packet were for February 3rd, not January.

Regional Council Member Sean Ashton, Downey, District 25 seconded the motion.

President Lorimore asked if there was any further discussion, seeing none, he clarified the motion was for Item Numbers 2, 3 through 5 and Receive and File 6 through 12.

The Clerk noted for the record that the motion was made by Regional Councilmember Marquez and seconded by Regional Council Member Ashton.

Board Counsel Duran noted this also included the correction on the minutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Minutes of the Meeting – February 3, 2022
 4. Approval for Additional Stipend Payment
 5. SB 922 (Wiener) - CEQA Exemption for Transit Projects
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Receive and File

6. March 2022 State and Federal Legislative Update
7. Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024
8. Connect SoCal's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) 101
9. 2022 Outlook for Go Human Active Transportation and Safety Program
10. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 External Audit
11. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999
12. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Marquez) to 1) approve the Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY 2022-23) Draft Comprehensive Budget in the amount of \$119,579,605; 2) authorize the release of the Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) to initiate the 30-day public comment period; 3) approve the General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment and transmit to the General Assembly; and 4) approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 5, Receive and File Items 6 through 12 and the correction on the minutes for February 3rd, not January. Motion was SECONDED (Ashton). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: ALLEN, ANDRADE-STADLER, ASHTON, BACERRA, BEAMAN JACINTO, BECERRA, BENOIT, A. BROWN, BUCKNUM, DE RUSE, DEVINE, DIXON, FINLAY, FISCH, GAZELEY, GOODELL, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HUANG, JUDGE, J. KALMICK, KELLY, LOCK DAWSON, LORIMORE, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MCLEAN, MINAGAR, NAVA, NAVA-FROELICH, NGUYEN, O'NEIL, PLANCARTE, POLLOCK, POSEY, PUTZ, RAMIREZ, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, SOLIS, SPIEGEL, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (53)

NOES: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: TYE (1)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lorimore introduced Ms. Lucy Dunn as the new Business Representative who was replacing Mr. Randall Lewis. He provided a brief overview of her background and accomplishments.

Ms. Dunn expressed it was a pleasure to join them all and that it was an honor. She stated that she knew she had big shoes to fill with Randall Lewis because he was an outstanding leader for all of them in business and for the region. She thanked them all for their support.

President Lorimore also announced that Regional Council Member Sean Ashton (RC District 25) would be resigning his council seat, effective March 18, for a work opportunity. He recognized Regional Council Member Ashton's service at SCAG.

Regional Council Member Ashton thank the members for their support and noted it had been an honor to serve. He thanked several members.

President announced the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee appointments as follows: Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1; Luis Plancarte, Imperial County; Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35; Frank Yokoyama, Cerritos, District 23; Peggy Huang, TCA Representative; Donald Wagner, Orange County; Jan Harnik, RCTC; Karen Spiegel, Riverside; Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7; Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County; Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County (Chair); and David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46. He proceeded to announce the Nominating Committee appointments as follows: Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1; Rex Richardson, Long Beach, District 29 (Chair); Marty Simonoff, Brea, District 22; Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore, District 63; Karen Spiegel, Riverside; Alan Wapner, SCBTA Representative David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46. He also announced the Scholarship Committee appointments as follows: Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1 (Chair); Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35; Frank Yokoyama, Cerritos, District 23; Kim Nguyen, Garden Grove, District 18; Kathleen Kelly, Palm Desert, District 2; Ray Marquez, Chino Hills, District 10; David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46.

He also provided an update on the advocacy meeting with Congresswoman Young Kim which consisted of a tour of the Port of Los Angeles to learn about the challenges facing their supply chain, and how SCAG can support this vital industry through convenings. He also announced that he toured the Ontario Airport with Regional Councilmembers Alan Wapner, Dennis Michael, and Ray Marquez and that the tour focused on the FedEx distribution center at the airport and how air cargo and the airport are integrating into the expanding goods movement industry in the Inland Empire. Lastly, he reported that the next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for April 7 at 12:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Ajise welcomed Ms. Dunn to SCAG. He also wished Regional Council Member Ashton well and stated he would be missed. He congratulated President Lorimore on the first RC hybrid meeting and thanked staff for their hard work in putting the meeting together. He also thanked members who were able to join them for the Joint Policy Committee meeting last month as they kicked off the policy development phase of the 2024 Connect SoCal or RTP/SCS. He stated that one of their priorities for the year, as outlined in the President's and SCAG's EAC Strategic Work Plan, was to elevate and expand the elected leadership involvement for regional policy development across all of the committees and to ensure staff has clear direction on the collective priorities, and that those priorities are addressed as they advance the work of developing the regional plan. He stated that based on the JPC discussion and the previous policy action, staff had prepared a Draft Policy Framework that was included in your agenda package as agenda Item 7. He reported that the item was presented at EAC meeting the day before and that it was starting point for conversation on key policy issues. He expressed that they hoped to get member comments and their input so that they can continue to shape the framework such that it allows staff to capture all of the policy input. He noted that the Policy Development Framework will serve as an important guiding document for policy discussions on the plan and their agendas next year. He encouraged the members to review the framework and provide comments. He also provided a brief update on the Regional Data Platform that was launched on February 23 and noted benefits of the platform. He stated that RDP was available through the Regional Hub at <https://hub.scag.ca.gov/>. Lastly, he provided an update on the 2022 Outlook for the Go Human Program and noted that Item Number 9 on the agenda was a report that covers the strategies and resources SCAG is providing to communities to support pedestrian and bicycle safety this year. He highlighted that May was National Bike Safety Month and wanted to draw attention to the availability of these resources and encourage city staff to visit SCAG's website and reach out to our team to discuss opportunities to collaborate.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S

Regional Council Member Trevor O'Neil reported that there was an issue with the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee (CDLAC) which oversees the allocation of tax-exempt bonds that goes towards affordable housing projects. He stated there's an annual cap to the bond issuance that goes towards affordable housing, and that in April CDLAC would be considering changing their scoring system for prioritizing which projects are approved, prioritizing those that are targeted to very low income or homeless housing projects. He stated that this change would make it more difficult to produce affordable housing at other income levels because developers rely on obtaining the 4% low-income housing tax credit which can only be claimed when at least half the project funding comes from them getting financing from these tax-exempt bonds. He indicated that if they can't get the bonds, they can't get the tax credits, and no affordable housing gets built contrary to the state's RHNA goals. He stated that if it was within the purview of their adopted policies, he would like staff to look at this issue and provide comments to CDLAC before they take it up, urging

them not to adopt their proposed changes. He further indicated that if it was more appropriate, he would like to agendize an item for the next Regional Council meeting to discuss and take position and provide direction to staff.

Executive Director Ajise stated they could certainly look into this, but it was the President's discretion as to agendize it.

President Lorimore indicated they would figure out the best place to put this item.

ANNOUNCEMENT/S

Regional Council Member Minagar, Laguna Niguel, District 12, stated he made a request in the past for a comprehensive presentation on Assembly Bill 43 which took effect on January 1, 2022, and asked the status of the presentation.

Ms. Jepson acknowledged the request and stated they were still working on the presentation for the Transportation Committee.

Regional Council Member Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, welcomed Lucy Dunn and expressed excitement for having Ms. Dunn's input and insight. She stated that they appreciated her participation and her accepting this position.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Lorimore adjourned the Regional Council meeting in at 1:28 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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