



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

President
Cindy Allen, Long Beach

First Vice President
Ray Marquez, Chino Hills

Second Vice President
Jenny Crosswhite, Santa Paula

Immediate Past President
Curt Hagman
County of San Bernardino

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive/Administration
Cindy Allen, Long Beach

Community, Economic, &
Human Development
David J. Shapiro, Calabasas

Energy & Environment
Rick Denison, Yucca Valley

Transportation
Mike T. Judge, Ventura County
Transportation Commission

MEETING OF THE

LEGISLATIVE/ COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

***Tuesday, November 18, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.***

To Attend In-Person:

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

To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:
<https://scag.zoom.us/j/84376025323>

To Attend and Participate by Phone:
**Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 843 7602 5323**

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: <https://scag.ca.gov/meetings-leadership>.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 236-1895. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



Instructions for Attending the Meeting

To Attend In-Person 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 B Meeting Room on the 17th floor starting at 8:30 a.m.

To Attend by Computer: Click the following link: <https://scag.zoom.us/j/84376025323>. 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: 843 7602 5323**, 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 Monday, November 17, 2025** 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 **Monday, November 17, 2025** 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.
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.



LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Cindy Allen City of Long Beach - City Hall 411 W. Ocean Boulevard., 11 th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802	Wendy Bucknum Murrow Development Consultants 16800 Aston, Suite 200 Irvine, CA 92606	Jenny Crosswhite City of Santa Paula - City Hall 970 E. Ventura Street Santa Paula, CA 93060
Margaret Finlay 2221 Rim Road Duarte, CA 91008	Mark E. Henderson City of Gardena – City Hall Management Information Center 1700 W. 162nd Street Gardena, CA 90247	Laura Hernandez City of Port Hueneme - City Hall 250 N. Ventura Road Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Fred Jung City of Fullerton - City Hall 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832	Patricia Lock Dawson City of Riverside - City Hall 7th Floor Conference Room 3900 Main Street Riverside, CA 92522	Ray Marquez 15922 Old Carbon Road Chino Hills, CA 91709
Gil Rebollar SCAG Imperial County Regional Office 1503 N. Imperial Ave. Suite 104 El Centro, CA 92243	David J. Shapiro City of Calabasas - City Hall 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302	Donald Wagner County Administration North 400 West Civic Center Drive 6th Floor Conference Room 601 A Santa Ana, CA 92701
Alan Wapner City of Ontario – City Hall Conference Room 2 303 East B Street Ontario, CA 91764	Thomas Wong City of Monterey Park – City Hall 320 West Newmark Avenue Monterey Park, CA 91754	

* Under the teleconferencing rules of the Brown Act, members of the body may remotely participate at any location specified above.



LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA

LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee *Members – November 2025*

1. **Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson**
LCMC Chair, Riverside, RC District 68
2. **Hon. Margaret Finlay**
LCMC Vice Chair, Duarte, RC District 35
3. **Hon. Cindy Allen**
Long Beach, RC District 30
4. **Hon. Wendy Bucknum**
Mission Viejo, RC District 13
5. **Hon. Ulises Cabrera**
Moreno Valley, RC District 69
6. **Hon. Jenny Crosswhite**
Santa Paula, RC District 47
7. **Sup. Curt Hagman**
San Bernardino County
8. **Hon. Jan C. Harnik**
RCTC Representative
9. **Hon. Mark Henderson**
Gardena, RC District 28
10. **Hon. Laura Hernandez**
Port Hueneme, RC District 45
11. **Hon. Fred Jung**
Fullerton, RC District 21
12. **Hon. Ray Marquez**
Chino Hills, RC District 10
13. **Hon. Gil Rebollar**
Brawley, RC District 1
14. **Hon. Suely Saro**
Long Beach, RC District 29
15. **Hon. David J. Shapiro**
Calabasas, RC District 44
16. **Sup. Donald Wagner**
Orange County



LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA

- 17. Hon. Alan Wapner**
SBCTA Representative
- 18. Hon. Thomas Wong**
Monterey Park, RC District 34



LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Policy B Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
8:30 AM

The Legislative/Communications and Membership 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 Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair)

PRESENTATION

(The Honorable Monique Limón, Senator, D-Santa Barbara)

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 CALENDAR

Approval Items

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Minutes of the Meeting – October 21, 2025 | PPG. 8 |
| 2. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships | PPG. 14 |
| 3. LCMC 2026 Calendar of Meetings | PPG. 15 |

INFORMATION ITEMS

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 4. Community Development Block Grant Discussion – Road to Housing Act
<i>(David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, SCAG)</i> | PPG. 18 |
| 5. SB 375 Modernization Update
<i>(Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, SCAG)</i> | PPG. 23 |



LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA

6. 2026 Policy Priorities Look Ahead
(Francisco Barajas, Legislative Affairs Supervisor, SCAG)

PPG. 34

CHAIR UPDATE

(The Honorable Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair)

POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION UPDATE

(Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT



AGENDA ITEM 1

MINUTES

Southern California Association of Governments
November 18, 2025

LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (LCMC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (LCMC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.igq2.com/Citizens/>.

The Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) 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

Cindy Allen	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Ulises Cabrera	<i>Moreno Valley</i>	District 69
Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Jan Harnik		RCTC
Mark Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Laura Hernandez	<i>Port of Hueneme</i>	District 45
Fred Jung	<i>Fullerton</i>	District 21
Gil Rebollar	<i>Brawley</i>	District 1
Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
David J. Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Donald Wagner		Orange County
Alan Wapner		SBCTA
Thomas Wong	<i>Monterey Park</i>	District 34

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Margaret Finlay (Vice Chair)	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Patricia Lock Dawson (Chair)	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Ray Marquez	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jan Harnik called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and called upon Hon. Donald Wagner, Orange County, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present.

PRESENTATION

(The Honorable Kent Calvert, Congressman (CA-41) – Appropriations Update)

There were no public comments for the presentation.

Chair Harnik introduced Congressman Ken Calvert, who then presented an overview of his work and priorities in Congress. During Congressman Calvert's presentation, he emphasized his commitment to promoting economic growth, addressing California's long-term water needs, and advancing bipartisan reforms in environmental permitting to support infrastructure development.

He pointed out the alignment between his priorities and the committee's focus. Committee members expressed their appreciation for his enduring support and advocacy for the region.

Congressman Calvert also provided updates on the ongoing budget process, expressing hope that all appropriations bills could be passed before Christmas but underscored the urgent need to resolve the current government funding impasse. He concluded by sharing that he continues to engage in discussions with Senate leaders, including Senator Susan Collins, to reach a bipartisan resolution soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Harnik opened the Public Comment Period for items not listed on the agenda and outlined the instructions for public comments. She noted that this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction not listed on the agenda.

SCAG staff confirmed that no public comments were submitted via email to ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov or any raised hands. Seeing and hearing no public comment speakers, Chair Harnik closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEM

There were no prioritized agenda items.

CONSENT CALENDAR**Approval Item**

1. Minutes of the Meeting – September 16, 2025
 2. SCAG Memberships & Sponsorships
-

Receive and File

3. End of Session Update
4. 2025 Demographic Workshop Recap Report
5. Federal Appropriations Update

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar.

Chair Harnik opened the floor to the committee members for questions or comments.

There were no comments for the consent calendar.

A MOTION was made (Bucknum) to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 5. The MOTION was SECONDED (Shapiro) and APPROVED by a majority roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Allen, Bucknum, Cabrera, Crosswhite, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Jung, Rebollar, Saro, Shapiro, Wagner, Wapner and Wong (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

ACTION ITEM

6. S. 2651 (Scott & Warren) – ROAD to Housing Act of 2025

There were no public comments for Item No. 6.

Mr. David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, provided the committee with an overview of U.S. Senate Bill 2651, the bipartisan Renewing Opportunity to the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025. This bill was introduced by Senators Tim Scott and Elizabeth Warren, who serve as Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. The committee passed the bill unanimously in July 2025, and it was subsequently approved on the Senate floor as an amendment to the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill is currently awaiting the House-Senate conference process to reconcile differences between their respective NDAA's.

The ROAD to Housing Act is a bipartisan package of 40 provisions aimed at increasing housing supply and affordability by reforming existing programs and creating new ones under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mr. Angel noted that eight provisions of the bill directly support implementation of SCAG's Connect SoCal plan. These included:

- Award bonus points for housing projects in federally designated Opportunity Zones.
- Allowing HUD to delegate NEPA environmental reviews to state and local governments.
- Creating a \$1 billion Innovation Fund to award flexible funding to locals who have increased housing production.
- Award bonus points to Capital Investment Grant (CIG) applicants for transit projects located in areas with pro-housing policies.
- Create a pilot program within HOME to assist locals in converting idle commercial to housing.
- Permanently reauthorizing the PRICE Grant Program to support manufactures housing preservation.
- Permanently authorize the Disaster Recovery CDBG and streamline reviews to expedite disaster recovery.
- Reauthorize and modernize the HOME program, including expanding eligible activities.

Mr. Angel emphasized that this bill represents the first major bipartisan housing package in decades, with broad support from organizations such as the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Because it closely aligns with SCAG's Connect SoCal plan and the agency's federal legislative platform, the staff recommended adopting a support position.

Chair Harnik opened the floor to the committee members for questions or comments.

Committee members engaged in a robust discussion. During the discussion, the committee members raised questions regarding the bill's implications for local jurisdictions, funding allocations, and implementation impacts.

A MOTION was made (Bucknum) to adopt a support if amended position noting concerns around the proposed CDBG Pilot Program. The MOTION was SECONDED (Wagner) and APPROVED by a majority roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Allen, Bucknum, Cabrera, Crosswhite, Harnik, Hernandez, Jung, Rebollar, Saro, Shapiro, Wagner, Wapner and Wong (13)

NOES: Henderson (1)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION UPDATE

There were no public comments on division updates.

Javiera Cartagena, the Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer, provided the committee with an update on her division. She shared information about a recent demographic workshop, thanking all who attended and noting that an evaluation prepared by the Media and Public Affairs Department was included in the report for review. The event survey officially closed the previous Friday, gathering a total of 103 responses. After recalculating with the final numbers, the evaluation scores remained unchanged and were deemed final.

Ms. Cartagena also corrected a minor error from last year's report, clarifying that the 2023 Net Promoter Score (NPS) was 58, not 55. This year's NPS was 68, which is ten points higher than last year, indicating significant improvement and surpassing the government sector's high-performance threshold of 53. Attendees rated their overall satisfaction with the event at 4.6 out of 5, reflecting a highly positive reception of the workshop's content and value.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Harnik noted that, apart from additional information requested regarding Agenda Item 6, no additional topics were suggested by the committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Harnik took a moment to share a brief reflection and encouraged everyone to remain kind and gracious toward their colleagues and others. She concluded by stating that she had no further announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Harnik adjourned the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee meeting at 9:44 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE]

//

Legislative / Communications and Membership Committee																	
2025-2026																Total Mtgs Attended YTD	
MEMBERS		Representing	MAY	JUN	JUL (Dark)	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC (Dark)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		
1	Allen, Cindy	Long Beach, RC District 30	1	0	D	1	1	1		D						4	
2	Bucknum, Wendy	Mission Viejo, RC District 13	1	1			1	1	1								5
3	Cabrera, Ulises	Moreno Valley, RC District 69	1	1			1	0	1								4
4	Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1	1			1	1	1								5
5	Finlay, Margaret (Vice Chair)	Duarte, RC District 35	0	1			1	1	0								3
6	Hagman, Curt	San Bernardino County	1	1	A	0	1	0		A						3	
7	Harnik, Jan C.	RCTC	1	1			0	1	1								4
8	Henderson, Mark	Gardena, RC District 28	1	1			1	1	1								5
9	Hernandez, Laura	Port Hueneme, RC District 45	1	1			1	0	1								4
10	Jung, Fred	Fullerton, RC District 21	1	1			1	1	1								5
11	Lock Dawson, Patricia (Chair)	Riverside, RC District 68	1	1	R	1	0	0		R						3	
12	Marquez, Ray	Chino Hills, RC District 10	1	1			1	1	0								4
13	Rebollar, Gil	Brawley, RC District 1	1	0			0	0	1								2
14	Saro, Suely	Long Beach, RC District 29	1	1			1	1	1								5
15	Shapiro, David J.	Calabasas, RC District 44	1	1			1	1	1								5
16	Wagner, Donald P.	Orange County	0	1	K	1	1	1		K						4	
17	Wapner, Alan	SBCTA	1	0			1	1	1								4
18	Wong, Thomas	Monterey Park, District 34	1	1			1	1	1								5



AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
November 18, 2025

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Jorge Zavala, Legislative Affairs Analyst
213-630-1414, zavala@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve up to \$7,500 to maintain SCAG's membership in 1) Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priority 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) is asked to approve up to \$7,500 to maintain membership 1) Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC).

BACKGROUND:

Item 1:	Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors		
Type:	Membership	Amount:	\$7,500

The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) brings national attention to expanding U.S. freight transportation capabilities and working toward solutions for this growing national challenge. CAGTC works with and through its members to raise awareness with the public and Congress on the need for sufficient funding for trade corridors, gateways, intermodal connectors, and freight facilities. This visibility is especially important as Congress works on surface transportation policy reauthorization and Transportation-Housing & Urban Development (T-HUD) appropriations bills. CAGTC will be instrumental in assisting SCAG to advocate for long-term solutions that prioritize freight investment. Darin Chidsey, SCAG's Chief Operating Officer, serves on the CAGTC Board of Directors.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$300 for Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) membership is included in the approved FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget, and \$7,200 is included in the FY 2026-27 Indirect Cost Budget.



AGENDA ITEM 3

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
November 18, 2025

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Jorge Zavala, Legislative Affairs Analyst
213-630-1414, zavala@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: LCMC 2026 Calendar of Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priority 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff prepared a draft schedule of meeting dates for the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) to coincide with the beginning of 2026. In consultation with Chair Lock-Dawson, staff proposes that the Committee go dark in July, October, and December 2026.

BACKGROUND:

With the foresight of the state and federal legislative calendars, staff proposes a schedule of meeting dates for the Committee's consideration. The LCMC generally meets on the third Tuesday of the month, though staff recommends the following three deviations from that schedule:

- First, staff recommends **moving the May meeting from the third to the fourth Tuesday of the month**. This change will offer more time for the new SCAG President to determine makeup of the LCMC after transitioning into the role at the 2026 General Assembly.
 - Second, staff recommends that the LCMC go **dark for the month of July**. This is because the State Legislature will be out of session for its annual Summer Recess from July 3, 2026, until August 3, 2026.
 - Third, staff recommends that the LCMC go **dark for the month of October**. This is because the State Legislature's last day of session will be August 31, 2026, and will be out of session for their interim recess until 2027. Congress will also likely be in recess, as the members will be focused on the November 2026 Midterm Elections.
-

- Lastly, staff recommends that the LCMC go **dark for the month of December** since the State Legislature would not be in session, and there will likely be little to no activity in Congress.

Another item to note is that staff is planning a Sacramento Legislative Advocacy Summit to be held on Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17, 2026. The 2026 Sacramento Summit will replace the March LCMC, as we will convene the LCMC for select meetings during the Sacramento Summit.

Lastly, while staff recommends that the Committee adopt a calendar of meetings for organizational and planning purposes, SCAG bylaws provide the flexibility to cancel or call an LCMC meeting at the Chair's discretion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the Calendar of Meetings Report is contained in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. LCMC 2026 Calendar of Meetings



2026 Schedule of Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee are scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Note: dates are subject to change.

Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee 2026 Schedule	Date & Time
JANUARY	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	1/20/2026 8:30 AM
FEBRUARY	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	2/17/2026 8:30 AM
MARCH	
Special Meeting – 2026 Annual Sacramento Summit	3/16/2026
Special Meeting – 2026 Annual Sacramento Summit	3/17/2026
APRIL	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	4/21/2026 8:30 AM
MAY	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	5/26/2026 8:30 AM
JUNE	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	6/16/2026 8:30 AM
JULY (DARK)	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	No Meeting
AUGUST	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	8/18/2026 8:30 AM
SEPTEMBER	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	9/15/2026 8:30 AM
OCTOBER (DARK)	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	No Meeting
NOVEMBER	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	11/17/2026 8:30 AM
DECEMBER (DARK)	
Legislative/Communications Membership Committee	No Meeting



AGENDA ITEM 4

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
November 18, 2025

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst
213-630-1422, angel@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: Community Development Block Grant Discussion – Road to Housing Act

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priority 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the October 21, 2025 meeting, the Legislative/ Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) received a report on U.S. Senate Bill (S.) 2651, the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025 (Scott, Tim, R-SC, & Warren, D-MA), which would implement a bipartisan package of 40 provisions related to increasing housing supply, improving affordability, and streamlining federal housing programs.

Following discussion, the committee voted to forward a “support if amended” recommendation for S. 2651 to the Regional Council (RC), directing staff to advocate for the overall bill package and proposed modifications to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) pilot program included in the bill. The item was approved unanimously as part of the RC’s consent calendar at its November 6, 2025, meeting. Since then, staff collaborated with the US Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, and is bringing this item back to the LCMC to provide an update.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2025, the Senate Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs Committee Chair Tim Scott (R-SC) and Ranking Member Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) introduced the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025. The ROAD to Housing Act is a comprehensive, bipartisan housing package that combines 27 previously introduced bipartisan bills and 13 new ones to increase the nation’s housing supply, improve housing affordability, and enhance the oversight and efficiency of federal regulators and housing programs. Overall, the bill contains 40 provisions across eight titles, which propose reforms and funding for existing programs, as well as the creation of new programs under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Senate Banking Committee unanimously passed the bill by a 24-0 vote. It was then amended into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026, which passed on the Senate Floor by a vote of 77 to 20 on October 9, 2025. Since the House of Representatives has already approved its version of the FY 2026 NDAA, which does not contain language for the ROAD to Housing Act, the Senate and House Armed Services Committees will start the conference process to reach a compromise between the two versions of the bill and decide if they will retain the ROAD to Housing Act in the final version of the bill. If the Conference Committee reaches an agreement, both chambers must approve the final version. This process will likely continue through the rest of the year, as the Armed Services Committees seek to strike a compromise before 2026. However, it is unclear how quickly this process will proceed, given the government shutdown.

In addition to having bipartisan support in the Senate, various elected officials, housing and consumer advocacy groups, industry associations, civil rights organizations, and more, have expressed support for the bill package, including the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of REALTORS, American Planning Association, National Association of Home Builders, National Apartment Association, and the Bipartisan Policy Center Action, among others.

Staff previously presented the ROAD to Housing Act to the LCMC at the October 21, 2025, meeting, which forwarded a recommendation to the Regional Council to adopt a “support if amended” position on the bill. The position was approved unanimously by the Regional Council as part of the consent calendar.

As staff previously provided a summary of the provisions most relevant to SCAG – those that align with the agency’s Connect SoCal plan – this report will focus on Section 206, which contains the Build Now Act, that would create a CDBG pilot program. This provision raised concern among LCMC members during the October 2025 meeting.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Established in 1974, the CDBG program is one of HUD’s longest-standing initiatives, providing funding for local community development activities with the primary goals of supporting low- and moderate-income communities, preventing neighborhood decline, and addressing urgent community needs following natural disasters or emergencies. CDBG is a formula program that allocates approximately 70 percent of total funding to “entitlement” jurisdictions, including “metropolitan cities,” which are cities with populations above 50,000, and “urban counties,” which are counties with populations above 200,000, excluding the population of metropolitan cities within the county. Funding is allocated directly to “entitlement jurisdictions” based on a formula that considers population, poverty, overcrowding, total housing units, and population growth.

Remaining funding is allocated to states by HUD using similar formulas, which then determine how to allocate funding to their smaller “non-entitlement” cities with populations too low to receive a

direct allocation from HUD. State allocation processes typically involve a competitive grant process, as seen in California. CDBG funding is very flexible, with eligible activities including housing rehabilitation, public facility improvements, economic development, public services, and property acquisition and demolition, among others.

S. 2651 – ROAD to Housing Act Section 206: Build Now Act

Title 2 – Building More in America

Section 206: Build Now Act

This provision includes language from the bipartisan Build Now Act, initially introduced by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and John Kennedy (R-LA), which outlines a framework for adjusting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations for eligible jurisdictions based on housing growth metrics, with the goal of incentivizing jurisdictions to increase housing supply. Eligible jurisdictions would include any metropolitan city or urban county that currently receives CDBG funding, excluding those that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Median home values below the national median AND median rents at or below the 60th percentile among eligible jurisdictions;
- Vacancy rates above the national average;
- Experienced a major emergency or natural disaster in the last year; or
- Do not have control over zoning and permitting ordinances.

Specifically, jurisdictions with a “housing growth improvement rate” (or growth rate) at or above the median for all eligible jurisdictions, excluding outliers, would receive a bonus to their CDBG allocations. In contrast, eligible jurisdictions with rates below the median would have their allocations reduced by a flat 10 percent. The reductions would be placed into a separate funding pot to allocate the bonuses for high-performing jurisdictions, based on their share of the total housing units among all eligible high-performing jurisdictions.

The “housing growth improvement rate” measures the increase in a jurisdiction’s housing growth over the past decade. It is determined by dividing the “current annual growth rate” by the “prior annual growth rate.” The “current annual growth rate” represents the average yearly increase in housing units during the most recent five-year period, while the “prior annual growth rate” reflects the average yearly increase during the preceding five years. HUD would be required to inform eligible jurisdictions whether their growth rate is at, above, or below the median within 60 days of the ROAD to Housing Act being signed into law. However, adjustments would not begin until the next full fiscal year after enactment. Thus, if the bill is signed into law before the start of FY27 on October 1, 2026, adjustments would not begin until the start of FY28 on October 1, 2027, and would continue annually through FY42.

After engaging with staff from the National League of Cities (NLC) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), both organizations shared more information regarding their concerns about the proposed changes to the CDBG program. However, they emphasized that the total benefits of the ROAD to Housing Act for local governments far outweigh concerns about the CDBG proposal. Both groups have worked to educate members of Congress on the issue. However, no members have expressed interest in amending the provision so far.

The NLC believes the current language includes adequate safeguards to protect jurisdictions from CDBG cuts that face housing production setbacks due to circumstances beyond their control. The USCM noted that the bill also provides resources, such as the \$1 billion Innovation Fund, which could help offset potential losses tied to the CDBG provision. Both organizations agreed that opportunities to amend the provision are limited and that the negative impacts of the CDBG provision do not justify slowing the momentum of the ROAD to Housing Act.

SCAG staff will continue to work with NLC and USCM to prioritize the passage of the bill while monitoring opportunities to refine the CDBG provision without jeopardizing the bill's overall progress. The USCM urged SCAG membership to advocate for the ROAD to Housing Act, despite concerns over the CDBG provision.

Prior Committee Action:

SCAG staff brought S. 2651, the ROAD to Housing Act of 2025, to the LCMC's meeting on October 21, 2025, with a recommendation for "support." Following staff presentations, LCMC members asked various questions, and staff responded to each, stating that this bill would streamline federal NEPA review by allowing states and local governments to use their own environmental review procedures to satisfy federal requirements, rather than modifying state environmental review processes. Next, staff clarified that the intent of the bill is not to weaken local land use authority by requiring, but to reward jurisdictions that voluntarily implement pro-housing policies and demonstrate measurable increases in housing production by updating program guidelines and creating new programs. Next, staff noted that there was no formal opposition to the ROAD to Housing Act at the time of the presentation. Finally, staff provided background on the federal Qualified Opportunity Zone (QOZ) program.

After staff addressed those questions, the committee inquired about the USCM's concerns related to the Build Now Act provision of the bill, which would make changes to the CDBG program, as noted in their support letter for the ROAD to Housing Act. Staff shared an update on the USCM's concerns related to that provision, noting that the USCM had briefed members of Congress on this issue and was working to identify any remaining opportunities to amend this portion of the bill. After sharing this update, LCMC members expressed a desire for SCAG to coordinate with the USCM, the NLC, and our congressional delegation to amend this portion of the bill to remove or reduce the penalty.

Following the discussion noted above, the LCMC voted 13 to 1 to recommend that the RC adopt a “support if amended” position on S. 2651, the ROAD to Housing Act, with direction for staff to engage on the CDBG issue identified by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and specifically to advocate to reduce or eliminate this section from the bill.

The Regional Council subsequently unanimously approved the LCMC’s recommendation to support the ROAD to Housing Act, if amended, as part of the consent calendar at its meeting on November 6, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with S. 2651, the ROAD to Housing Act – Follow-Up, is in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.



AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments

November 18, 2025

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Francisco Barajas, Legislative Affairs Supervisor
213-630-1400, barajasf@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: SB 375 Modernization Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priority 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), will provide an overview of ongoing discussions at the state and regional levels to identify and address the modernization of SB 375 (Steinberg).

BACKGROUND:

SB 375 (Steinberg) required the state's 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets related to the use of cars and light duty trucks. Adopted in 2008, the bill set reduction targets for 2020 and 2035, which were determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

While the bill led to several improvements in the regional transportation planning process, including better integration of housing, land use and transportation, increased public involvement in the planning process, and an overall improved quality of life and climate outcomes, there have been significant changes that have occurred in the past 15 years that have directly impacted the effectiveness of the SB 375 program, including state requirements relating to Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), altered travel patterns and land use preferences resulting from the global pandemic, and introduction and passage of subsequent legislation.

As 2035 approaches, discussions at the state and regional levels have increasingly focused on how best to incorporate housing and transportation goals within the framework of GHG emissions reduction. In August of 2025, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) launched the California Sustainable Communities Task Force (SCTF), a broad coalition of stakeholders seeking to take on a longer-term policy and governance framework needed to achieve the outcomes envisioned

by SB 375, regional transportation plans, state housing laws, and state climate policy. While the task force will touch on regional planning issues, its primary focus is on strengthening implementation strategies and developing durable structures that will guide sustainable community outcomes well into the future. A copy of the press release noting the task force participants has been included as an attachment to this report.

Simultaneously, the Big 4 MPOs – including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and SCAG – have been engaging in ongoing discussions to reform and strengthen the policy framework governing SB 375. To support this effort, the Big 4 MPOs retained the services of Darrell Steinberg, the original author of SB 375, to help guide these conversations.

The work of the MPOs includes exploring potential reforms to SB 375, clarifying the roles of state agencies, and tackling near-term funding constraints – all with the aim of accelerating GHG emissions reductions through the creation of a more cohesive structure. A copy of a document outlining current draft policies being discussed is attached to this report.

Darin Chidsey, SCAG's Chief Operating Officer, will join the Legislative/ Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) to provide an update on these efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the SB 375 Modernization Update is within the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. SB 375 Framework_Big 4 MPOs
2. CalSTA California Sustainable Communities Task Force
3. PowerPoint Presentation - 202511_LCMC_SB 375 Update

Three Strategies to Update Regional Planning under SB 375

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are tasked with developing robust regional transportation plans (RTPs) that support federal, state, and local goals. The addition of Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCSs) with the passage of SB375 in 2008 improved the quality of RTPs and reframed how MPOs serve their member communities. The structure of SB 375 must now evolve to match California's newer affordability, housing, climate, and transportation objectives. Currently, MPOs should be equipped to refocus more of these resources on actions that implement state and local policy goals to:

- Improve transportation access for all people to jobs and daily needs as well as efficient movement of goods
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation sector
- Develop fiscally constrained and realistic transportation plans that meet federal and state requirements
- Support land-use patterns that conserve land and affirmatively further fair housing
- Increase investment in sustainable infrastructure that supports resilient regional economies that create opportunity for everyone

Strategy 1: Further Improve Process Integrity

- a) **Target Transparency.** When setting targets, ARB should publish its methodology, fleet make up, and budget assumptions. It should also estimate how much of the reduction will come from state actions and how much will come from MPO strategies. This includes the extent to which the electrification of the fleet will be "credited." Similar transparency should apply to the adoption of the SCS/APS Guidelines.
- b) **Consistency in Air Quality Modeling.** The calculations for GHG emissions should be based on the same assumptions as those used for federal air quality conformity. Air quality analysis that demonstrates consistency and accountability in state and regional policy are critical for effective regional planning. Realistic plans require the best available information that reflects new research, updated trends, and new legislation.

Strategy 2: Align State Planning Goals and Policies

- a) **Move to a "Four Plus Four" RTP/SCS Cycle.** Nearly four years of work goes into developing a the RTP/SCS. It's expensive. Revise the process to allow a full scenario-based plan every eight years (the same cycle as RHNA) and focus on a strategy and implementation report during the interim non-RHNA update (which still must meet federal air quality conformity standards). This would free substantial resources to focus on plan implementation.

- b) **Coordinate State Policies Early in the Process.** State, regional, and local entities bear a shared responsibility for reconciling different goals related to housing, equity, land use, transportation, climate, and safety. Sometimes, the action that achieves one objective has an unintended effect on the achievement of another. One example is the tension that can exist between strategies to encourage infill development to reduce vehicle miles traveled and policies to disperse housing to areas of opportunity to affirmatively further fair housing. The state should address these issues to provide greater implementation clarity.

Strategy 3: Resources to Execute

- a) **Sustainable (Ongoing) Funding.** MPOs need an ongoing REAP 2.0-like source of funding that could be invested by MPOs (with state oversight) on the key transportation, housing and environmental projects and policies that will accelerate the implementation of the RTP/SCS.
- b) **Priority for State Funding.** The state should broadly prioritize different state funds to elevate key implementation strategies including land use, housing-supportive infrastructure, and transportation projects and policies that are critical for successful implementation of RTP/SCSs.
- c) **Support All GHG-Reducing Projects, Even Those Under an APS.** It's important for regions to attempt to achieve a SCS if there is a feasible way to do so. In some cases, however, a region may not have sufficient resources to fund the strategies that would be necessary to meet the target. Regions that do not have a feasible way to achieve their GHG target but have an ARB-approved Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) should be permitted the opportunity to pursue SB 1 funds for GHG reducing projects.

Secretary Omishakin Launches California Sustainable Communities Task Force

 calsta.ca.gov/press-releases/2025-08-25-ca-transportation-secretary-omishakin-launches-ca-sustainable-communities-task-force

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In a bold move to accelerate climate action solutions, California Transportation Secretary (CalSTA) Toks Omishakin today announced the California Sustainable Communities Task Force (SCTF) – a cross-sector coalition tasked with catalyzing the implementation of California’s climate, housing, equity and transportation goals. Bringing together leaders from every corner of California, the task force will focus on urgent coordinated strategies to deliver on the promise of sustainable, thriving communities. Inclusive, cross-sector participation on the task force includes leaders from state and regional agencies, local governments, transit providers, community-based organizations, housing and environmental advocates, academic institutions and rural and underserved community voices to shape a comprehensive report of policy recommendations. The task force will develop a set of policy recommendations focused on empowering regions throughout California to reduce emissions, align transportation and land use outcomes and further transition California from planning to action on regional Sustainable Communities Strategies.

“This task force is about turning urgency into action,” said Secretary Omishakin. “With Governor Gavin Newsom’s bold climate vision guiding us, California is committed to delivering real, measurable progress. By uniting experts and communities from across the state, California is building practical, scalable solutions that will continue to drive sustainable and inclusive growth.”

Secretary Omishakin has appointed the following members to participate on the Task Force:

- Aaron Hake, Executive Director of Riverside County Transportation Commission
- Alison Hughes, Chief Consultant of California Senate Housing Committee
- Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning of San Diego Council of Governments
- Colin Parent, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel of Circulate San Diego
- Dan Dunmoyer, President and Chief Executive Officer of California Building Industry Association
- Eric Will, Policy Advocate of Rural County Representatives of California
- Hana Creger, Associate Director of Climate Equity of The Greenlining Institute
- James Corless, Executive Director of Sacramento Associated Council of Government
- Jeanie Ward-Waller, Interim Executive Director of ClimatePlan
- Julia Kingsley, Consultant of California Assembly Transportation Committee
- Julie Lo, Deputy Director of Programs of Housing California
- Kate Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of California Forward

- Kiana Valentine, Executive Director of Transportation California
- Commissioner Lee Ann Eager, California Transportation Commission
- Lisa Engel, Chief Consultant of California Assembly Housing Committee Consultant
- Liz O'Donoghue, Resilient Communities Strategy Director of The Nature Conservancy
- Mariela Ruacho, Senior Director of American Lung Association
- Matt Maloney, Metro Planning & Policy Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Mark Neuburger, Housing, Land Use & Transportation Legislative Advocate of California State Association of Counties
- Maura Twomey, Executive Director of Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
- Melissa White, Principal Consultant for the California Senate Transportation Committee
- Michael Pimentel, Executive Director of California Transit Association
- Sabrina Bradbury, Deputy Director of CALCOG
- Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer of Southern California Association of Governments
- Sean Tiedgan, Executive Director of Shasta Regional Transportation Agency
- Sujata Srivastava, Chief of Policy of SPUR
- Dr. Susan Shaheen, Board Member of California Air Resources Board
- Susanna Reyes, Sustainability Policy Director of LA Metro
- Ted Smalley, Executive Director of Tulare County Association of Governments
- Zak Accuardi, Director of Mobility Choices, Climate and Energy of Natural Resources Defense Council

Additionally, representatives from Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission, California Air Resources Board, Department of Housing and Community Development, the Governor's Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation and the California Strategic Growth Council will work collaboratively with CalSTA to participate in and support SCTF. The Task Force will also be supported by expert researchers and academics from UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies and consultant Egon Terplan.

Advancing State Climate and Equity Goals

The creation of the California Sustainable Communities Task Force builds on over a decade of climate planning, including the passage of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008) and the California Air Resources Board's 2022 Scoping Plan, which outlines the state's roadmap to carbon neutrality by 2045.

Key areas of exploration will include:

- Sustainable transportation investments and land use planning
- Transportation system management and pricing strategies
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Funding and authority needed for regional implementation

- Updated success metrics and modeling approaches

“The Sustainable Communities Task Force is a powerful opportunity to bridge policy and practice,” said California Air Resources Board Chair Liane Randolph. “By bringing together diverse voices and aligning our climate, housing and transportation strategies, we can deliver real benefits to communities across California.”

The task force will produce a final report in November 2026 with recommendations for legislative, regulatory and budgetary actions to support implementation of Sustainable Communities Strategies and meet statewide greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled reduction goals.

For information on the California Sustainable Communities Task Force, visit CalSTA's calsta.ca.gov/newsroom.



SB 375 Update

November 18, 2025

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV



SB 375 MODERNIZATION

Opportunities to Improve SB 375

- **SB 375 has improved long-range regional planning**
 - Better integration of land use, housing, and transportation policies
- **However, regional plans are not being implemented fast enough**
 - Sustainable funding streams
 - Supportive actions by state agencies or the legislature
- **A holistic review is needed to identify how best to achieve the suite of state and regional goals**
 - Different goals related to housing, equity, land use, transportation, climate, and safety must be reconciled
 - Action to achieve one objective can have unintended effect on achievement of another

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

SB 375 Modernization Framework

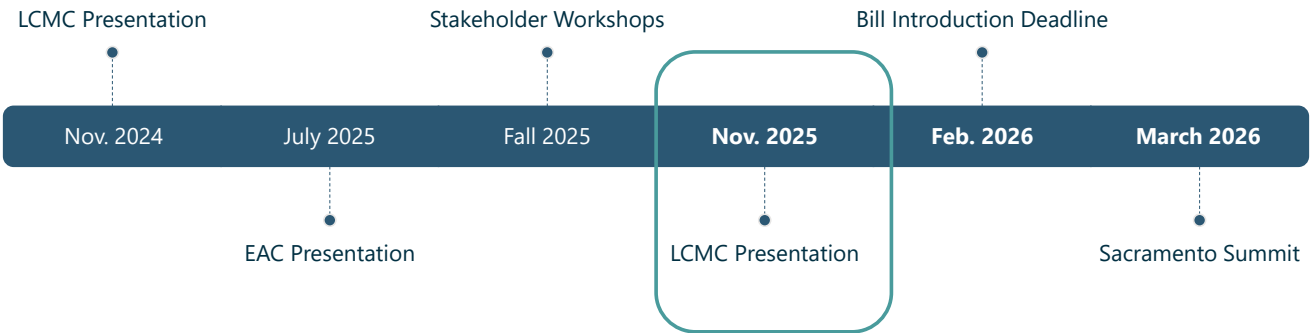
- **Further Improve Process Integrity**
 - Seek transparency in CARB's target setting methodology
 - Seek consistency in air quality modeling for meeting state and federal goals
- **Align State Planning Goals and Policies**
 - Coordinate state policies early in the process
 - Better integrate SCS and RHNA by alternating cycles (8 years)
- **Prioritize Resources to Implement SCSs**
 - Seek sustainable implementation sources (ongoing REAP 2.0-like source)
 - Prioritize state funding for key implementation strategies
 - Support all GHG-reducing projects, even under an APS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

SB 375 Modernization Engagement

- **Identifying improvements**
 - Discussions with CalCOG, MTC, SANDAG, and SBCAG
 - Retained Senator Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg
 - Hosted workshops with climate, environmental, and housing stakeholders throughout the region on need for SB375 modernization

SB 375 Modernization Milestones





DISCUSSION



AGENDA ITEM 6

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
November 18, 2025

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Francisco Barajas, Legislative Affairs Supervisor
213-630-1400, barajasf@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: 2026 Policy Priorities Look Ahead

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priority 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region.

BACKGROUND:

The 2025 legislative session concluded on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Over the course of the session, lawmakers introduced over 2,800 measures, of which more than 900 were transmitted to Governor Newsom for consideration.

As the first year of the two-year legislative cycle concluded, approximately 1,100 measures were designated as “two-year” bills, signifying that they did not advance but may be reconsidered when the Legislature reconvenes in January of 2026. With the second year of the legislative cycle set to commence in January, focus is now shifting toward priority issues for the upcoming year.

SCAG staff will provide an overview of anticipated state policy priorities for 2026, including potential reforms to SB 375 (Steinberg), SB 79 (Wiener), Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) timelines, and prospective state budget requests.

In addition, SCAG staff will outline potential federal policy priorities, including ongoing negotiations related to the Surface Transportation Reauthorization, potential federal budget requests, and planned federal advocacy engagements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the 2026 Policy Priorities Look Ahead is within the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.
