



AGENDA ITEM 2
REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
Hybrid (In-Person and Remote Participation)
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
April 6, 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). A VIDEO AND 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), 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
Hon. Carmen Ramirez, 2nd Vice President		Ventura County
Hon. Jorge Marquez, Chair CEHD	<i>Covina</i>	District 33
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Sean Ashton, Chair, TC	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Art Brown, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Kathryn Barger, President’s Appt.		Los Angeles County
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President’s Appt.	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Donald P. Wagner, President’s Appt.		Orange County
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Rex Richardson, Imm. Past President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Chair, LCMC		SBCTA

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

The Honorable Clint Lorimore called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. President Lorimore 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. The Board Counsel Ruben Duran acknowledged there were no written public comments for items not listed on the agenda.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of 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.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet. A recording of the meeting, including the presentations, can be found on SCAG's website.

A MOTION was made (Ramirez) that the Executive Administration Committee (EAC): (1) 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 EAC 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, (2) authorize all legislative bodies of the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG), including the EAC, RC 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 (McCallon) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Viegas-Walker, Wagner, and Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

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

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, briefly stated that the framework for developing the budget was rooted in 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 percent 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 EAC. She explained that within the staff report, on page 17 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 44 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, which includes the employee technology allowance, the one-time home office setup stipend, and the transit pass reimbursement program, all of which were approved by the EAC and the Regional Council as part of

the budget amendment. 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 a detailed breakdown of the membership dues by agency was provided within the comprehensive budget document starting on page 84 of the agenda packet. She highlighted that the dues were calculated in compliance with the methods outlined in the SCAG Bylaws.

EAC members asked questions regarding the unfunded pension liability and the consultant budget.

Ms. Giraldo briefly reported that unfunded pension liability was at about \$48 million and that it would be about 10 years before pension payments actually peak and they would see a reduction. With respect to the consultant budget, Ms. Giraldo reported that staff would be working on future budget iterations to clearly show account balances within the general budget the distinction between how much is going to sub recipients versus how much is going to consultant contracts. She noted that there were several agencies that SCAG awards to or will actually do the procurements for and so that budget remains within consultants. She also indicated that of the \$59.5 million consultant budget, about half of that was going to sub recipients for the MSRC program, the Last Mile Freight program, and REAP 2019.

Executive Director Ajise emphasized that all of the consultant's expenditure that they see in the budget is work that's going to one city or county for a project that is SCAG related.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet. A recording of the meeting, including the presentations, can be found on SCAG's website.

A MOTION was made (Brown) that the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) recommend that the Regional Council: 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; and 3) Approve the General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment and transmit to the General Assembly. Motion was SECONDED (Barger) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Viegas-Walker, Wagner, and Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting – February 2, 2022
4. SB 922 (Wiener) - CEQA Exemption for Transit Projects

Receive and File

5. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 External Audit
6. 2022 Outlook for Go Human Active Transportation and Safety Program
7. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999
8. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Pollock) to approve Consent Calendar, Items 3 through 4; Receive and File Item 5 through 8. Motion was SECONDED (Ashton) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Viegas-Walker, Wagner, and Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEM

9. Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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

Executive Director Ajise provided a brief introduction of Item Number 9 and noted that last year the EAC convened a Strategic Planning Session. He explained that one action that was identified in that session was the need to create a policy development framework for Connect SoCal. 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 explained that Connect SoCal was the primary policy document that guides their regional planning activities and the work at SCAG, so it was important to make sure that they develop a process. He explained that to kick off this process, SCAG hosted a Joint Policy Committee (JPC) last month to set the stage for the issues that they would be looking at and to bring some of their key partners to talk about opportunities they see for the region and to address regional challenges. He stated that based on the JPC discussion and the Regional Council's previous policy actions, staff had prepared a Draft Policy Framework for Connect SoCal 2024. He indicated that this was really to begin the conversation on key policy issues to be addressed in the plan update and where the policy committees will focus on these issues as part of the framework. He stated that staff was now seeking the EAC's feedback on the Draft Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2024. He noted that in April, staff intends to bring a discussion on the Draft Policy Framework back to each of the committees to gain further input on their priorities and the work program specific to each committee, and then staff plans to return to the EAC and RC in June for further direction and action on the framework. He emphasized that this was a living document, and they would revise and adjust as the planning process unfolds. He expressed appreciation for the EAC and the Board interest in establishing and developing a shared understanding upfront to make sure their work and the items they bring before them are guided by policymakers.

Ms. Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning, provided an overview of the basic structure of the document and the areas staff was seeking feedback on. She indicated that the first piece that this draft policy framework lays out was the draft plan vision and goals for Connect SoCal 2024, which would look very familiar to the members as it captures the same goals and vision as previous plans but typically includes updates and further evolution from previous plans. She also noted that the plan includes series of draft goals that aim to align and promote mobility, more livable communities, a healthier environment, and a stronger economy. She stated that the next section of the report included key policy priority areas and that much of their work would be taking a look at what was in the plan in the past and refining and enhancing strategies. She also reported that the main policy priority areas that staff had identified their continued work on were: 1) the core vision of the plan, in order to better align land use and transportation planning to achieve their goals; and 2) Key Connections, which have a stronger emphasis on how they leverage technology to further strengthen their goals, and that were really critical in helping them achieve a higher greenhouse gas reduction target. She also noted that they also looked at new emerging issues like equity, resilience, and economy that they would want to bring forward for further discussion as part of this plan

development process. She further reported that the final section of this framework was what they were calling the policy leadership and outlook section. She highlighted the three policy committees at SCAG, which were the main policy bodies and outlined the key policy priorities that staff would be bringing forward to each of the committees and seeking guidance on. She noted that they would also use the Joint Policy Committees as needed to look at pertinent cross functional issues and seek coordinated actions and recommendations as needed. Lastly, she outlined a series of new special Connect SoCal subcommittees that align with the emerging issues that had been identified. The subcommittees were: 1) Next Generation Infrastructure, looking at all of the investments they anticipate coming to the region, how they align that with the goals that were set forth in the inclusive economic recovery strategy, as well as some of the new federal and state policies that are really looking towards how they leverage investments to also enhance and address climate issues; 2) Resilience and Conservation; and 3) Restorative Justice, to further advance the ideas that were put forward around racial equity and how to enhance their environmental justice practices. In closing, she stated that the goal was to bring this early to the committee to get their feedback.

Regional Councilmember Peggy Huang, TCA, asked where water fits in the framework. Ms. Jepson stated they had conversations about water being integrated in multiple parts of the planning process and had talked about it in terms of sustainable development and how they continue to grow the communities with more limited water resources. She stated that in their program environmental document, they looked at the impacts of the plan on water resources and indicated that one of their key connections in the last plan was on housing supportive infrastructure and really looking at the broader resource needs that have to be in place in order to support the level of housing production that they were aiming for in the region. She noted that water related issues would be in several different committees and several different parts of the conversation.

First Vice President Jan Harnik, RCTC, stated that she could see the water issue being addressed in the subcommittee on Resilience and Conservation. She also asked staff to provide examples of what resilience looks like. Executive Director Ajise indicated that it was the ability to be able to bounce back from impacts in the economy or physical, in terms of weather or disaster. He stated thinking ahead and building capacity to withstand these impacts was once element of resiliency.

Regional Council Member David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46, made comments relating to the water discussion and stated that he definitely agreed that it was something that Energy and Environment Committee should be tasked with.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet. A recording of the meeting, including the presentations, can be found on SCAG's website.

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer reported that staff had completed the preparation of the next year FY23 budget and Annual Comprehensive Financial Statements for the past fiscal year. She indicated that they continue to pursue new opportunities to bring funding to the SCAG region and that there was four active grant applications which included 1) a \$1.2 million OTS grant to fund the continued investment and evolution of the Go Human campaign; 2) a partnership with UC Santa Barbara that was a grant application that was submitted to seek \$270k in funding for the university to be used for evaluating new methods for soliciting informed public opinion on housing issues in the SCAG region; 3) a grant application that was submitted to the Department of Energy for about \$108k in funding for Year 2 of the Clean Cities network outreach, education and performance tracking program; and 4) that staff was working on the advance funding application to be submitted to HCD for REAP 2021 funds. She also reported that the Controller position had been filled by Mr. Emad Gewaily, CPA. Lastly, she informed the EAC that Ms. Kana Sato-Nguyen, who had been working as the Acting Budget and Grants Manager, had accepted the position on a permanent basis.

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 noted that Mr. Lewis had been a good counselor to her in this process. 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.

Lastly, President Lorimore reported that the next EAC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Ajise expressed appreciation for Ms. Dunn joining SCAG. 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/> or that the agencies could reach out to SCAG's Local Information Services Team (LIST) to provide technical assistance on the use of the tool and on the Local Data Exchange. Lastly, he



provided an update on the 2022 Outlook for the Go Human Program and noted that Item Number 6 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.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Lorimore adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 4:02 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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