

REGISTER FOR SCAG'S 2017 REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Join SCAG for the 52nd Annual Regional Conference and General Assembly, May 4-5, at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert. This two-day conference will convene more than 900 local leaders from throughout Southern California to discuss the question of how to maximize opportunities and meet the challenges of a region that is expected to add 4 million people over the next 25 years. State and local elected officials, CEOs, business and civic leaders, transportation and environment stakeholders and local government staff are encouraged to attend.

The conference is free for elected officials and city managers in the region. A reduced rate is available for students. For all other attendees, a special early bird registration rate will be available until March 31. Register at: scag.ca.gov/ga2017. Stay tuned for program announcements, including keynote speakers and panel topics!

SCAG OFFICERS VISIT SACRAMENTO LEADERSHIP

On Jan. 25, SCAG board officers and executive staff travelled to the state capitol to meet with state legislative leadership and staff to share several of the legislative priorities adopted by the Regional Council. SCAG met with Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de Leon; Senate Minority Leader Jean Fuller; Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jim Beall; Assembly Minority Leader Chad Mayes; Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas; California Secretary of Transportation Brian Kelly; Assembly Transportation Committee Chief Consultant Janet Dawson and Assembly Speaker Transportation Deputies Myesha Jackson and Julius McIntyre.

Among the legislative priorities these board officers addressed with state lawmakers were, first, to ensure that in the future there is a more transparent and equitable distribution of Cap-and-Trade revenues to all areas of Southern California. Additionally, the group reiterated its support of an infrastructure funding fix to cure the state's funding deficit, which ensures equitable funding to Southern California, renewed funding to the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund, return of transportation revenues previously borrowed for non-transportation purposes and firewall of any new revenues from any purpose other than transportation expenditure. Finally, the group shared SCAG's support of various policies in the area of housing that advance incentive-based ways to expedite all housing and affordable housing development.

SCAG COLLABORATES ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH

On Monday, Feb. 6, SCAG will host a test ride and demonstration of a fully autonomous vehicle in downtown Los Angeles, in partnership with the Alliance for Transportation Innovation (ATI21). From 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., local leaders, media and the general public are invited to ride in a completely driverless ten-person shuttle developed by Transdev. The demonstration will take place at the La Kretz Innovation Center, at 525 South Hewitt Street in Los Angeles and presents an exciting opportunity to experience firsthand an emerging mobility technology. To learn more and sign up to attend, visit: <http://bit.ly/2kpkW5g>.

SCAG staff have also met with UCLA professors in January to discuss a potential research collaboration. The goal of this collaboration would be to strategically evaluate the impacts of automated vehicle technology on transportation, land use and emissions in the SCAG region. An official collaborative research proposal will be presented by SCAG staff and UCLA professors at a future SCAG Regional Council meeting.

REGIONAL EARTHQUAKE INITIATIVE GIVES LOCAL LEADERS TOOLS FOR RESILIENCE

On January 31, SCAG held a Regional Earthquake Preparedness Initiative workshop in Ontario to help local jurisdictions strengthen their infrastructure, safety codes and economic resilience. The workshop, which was led by seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones and her new Center for Science and Society, brought together over 100 local city and county leaders for a hands-on experience developing tools to assess, mitigate and prepare for the disruption of a large-scale earthquake. This is the second phase of SCAG's Regional Earthquake Preparedness Initiative, building on an initial series of informational seminars in the Fall of 2016. A second workshop will be held on Monday, Feb. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Carson Center. A limited number of spaces are available. For more information and to RSVP, visit: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Pages/EarthquakeInitiative.aspx>.

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

As reported at last month's Regional Council meeting, SCAG's 2016 Sustainability Planning Grant program received a total of 139 project proposals, requesting approximately \$35.5M, across all project categories – active transportation, green region and integrated land use. The grant program is a multi-year funding program designed to support and implement the policies and initiatives of the 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG staff have evaluated all proposals, and will make a recommendation of top-ranked projects for funding at the Feb. 2 Regional Council meeting. Upon board approval, the grants will go to local jurisdictions to help finance projects ranging from pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to climate action plans to integrated land-use initiatives at the community and county level. Additional details on the award categories, evaluation and recommendations are available on the program's webpage: sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/DemoProjApplication.aspx.

SCAG STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

As reported last month, SCAG is undergoing an update to its Strategic Plan – last adopted in 2009 – to be more responsive to the changing needs of the region. With input and guidance from the President's Strategic Plan Committee, a stakeholder survey assessing SCAG's communications, services and future priorities was sent to a wide range of stakeholders, including Regional Council members, elected officials, business leaders, federal/state agency partners and other partner organizations. We received input and feedback from over 370 individuals, and we thank all who contributed to this effort. The survey results will inform the development of an updated plan, which the President's Strategic Plan Committee plans to present to the Regional Council in April and to the full General Assembly in May. A report summarizing the findings from the survey is available on SCAG's website: <http://bit.ly/2jAP1eo>.

ARB RELEASES PROPOSED EMISSION REDUCTION SCOPING PLAN

On Jan. 20, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) released a Proposed 2030 Target Scoping Plan Update, or Draft Scoping Plan, for a 45-day public review and comment period. The Draft Scoping Plan includes the state's vision, goals and strategies for addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet targets through 2030, and charts a path for California to reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The deadline to submit comments on the Draft Scoping Plan is March 6. ARB will host a series of public board meetings on Jan. 27, Feb. 16-17 and April 27-28 to hear input. ARB is planning to incorporate feedback and release a Second Draft Scoping Plan in the spring of 2017 for consideration and approval. To download the Draft Scoping Plan, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2kOQpLZ>.

DRAFT STATEWIDE HOUSING ASSESSMENT NOW AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

In early January, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) released a Draft Statewide Housing Assessment for public review and comment. Public workshops will be held throughout the state, including one at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles on Friday, Feb. 3, at 1:00 p.m.. The report, titled "California's Housing Future: Challenges and Opportunities," provides an overview of statewide housing needs and strategies to address various challenges. The deadline to submit comments on the draft is March 4. The release of the final Statewide Housing Assessment is expected in Summer 2017. For more information about the Draft Statewide Housing Assessment please visit: <http://bit.ly/2keK4tC>.

UPDATE TO CALENVIROSCREEN TOOL RELEASED

On Jan. 9, the California Environmental Protection Agency released an updated version of the California Communities Environmental Health Screening tool, also known as CalEnviroScreen. This tool can be used to identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of environmental pollution. Version 3.0 of CalEnviroScreen includes several updates and improvements from the last version, released in 2014. CalEnviroScreen enables agencies to prioritize their efforts to serve disadvantaged communities, including facilitating the provision of designated Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds. Version 3.0 shows that the SCAG region is still home to more than two-thirds of the state's disadvantaged populations. For more information on CalEnviroScreen Version 3.0 including the Final Report, summary of results, and an interactive mapping tool, visit: <http://bit.ly/2jT8O9J>.

FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECTS

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership (SRTSNP) is offering free technical assistance for up to five disadvantaged communities in California this year. The technical assistance will support the selected cities in the development of applications for future rounds of the California Active Transportation Program. The selection process is competitive and the Call for Projects opened on Jan. 25. Applications are due Feb. 27 at 5:00 p.m. SRTSNP will work with the selected communities over the course of approximately 18 months, beginning in Spring 2017, to prepare their applications. To download the technical assistance application, visit: <https://goo.gl/TCIEme>. For additional information on the technical assistance program, please contact Bill Sadler, California Senior Policy Manager at SRTSNP at: bill@saferoutespartnership.org. For additional information on the California Active Transportation Program and opportunities to apply for future funding, contact Stephen Patchan at: patchan@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG STAFF PRESENTS RESEARCH AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Several SCAG staff attended the 2017 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., from Jan. 8-12 to share knowledge and present recent projects to the global transportation community. The 2017 meeting, organized around the theme "Transportation Innovation: Leading the Way in an Era of Rapid Change," convened more than 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world and featured more than 5,000 presentations in nearly 800 sessions and workshops. SCAG staff presented several project posters on the topic of safety, as part of a collaborative research project with Cal Poly Pomona's Civil Engineering Department.

In mid-January, SCAG staff also shared knowledge at the 2017 Applied Demography Conference (ADC) in San Antonio, Texas. ADC convenes an international, multidisciplinary group of university scholars, government and private-sector practitioners dedicated to the studies in applied demography. The 2017 meeting brought more than 100 professionals with 80 papers from around the world. SCAG staff presented a paper on "Population Aging and Regional Transportation Finance." For a project abstract and more information on the program, visit: <http://bit.ly/2jt1QMz>.

STAFF COMMISSIONED TO AUTHOR PAPER ON CENSUS DATA

SCAG was recently invited to prepare a commissioned paper for the Applying Census Data for Transportation conference, to be held in November 2017. The conference is hosted by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Transportation Research Board. Last November, the AASHTO's Census Transportation Planning Products Program sought letters of interest for the preparation of four commissioned papers to present at the conference. SCAG was selected to author a paper in the topic area "Workplace Data – Achieving its Potential," examining the myriad uses of workplace data, including current applications and possible uses. In addition to being presented at the conference in November 2017, the paper will be used to assist AASHTO's Census Transportation Planning Products Program in the development of future products.

SCAG CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

On Jan. 17, SCAG hosted a delegation from the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI) for a joint conference on transportation planning. KOTI is one of SCAG's partner agencies in Korea, and the agencies regularly share information and best practices. At the meeting, SCAG staff presented the delegation with information about our travel demand model. KOTI Vice-President Jaehak Oh presented the project, "Robust Transport Investment Decision Making Under Uncertainty" and research fellow Youngho Kim presented his project, "Traffic Speed Forecast System in Seoul Metropolitan Area" to SCAG staff.