

### **Second Workshop on CalEnviroScreen Tool at SCAG**

As a follow up to the December 12, 2012 SCAG and Cal/EPA Workshop, a second Workshop was held at SCAG on February 5 to provide an overview of the second public review draft of the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen). The purpose of this tool is to screen the environmental health impacts among California's communities and is intended to be used by Cal/EPA to prioritize and focus resources, including informing the process of identifying communities for investment opportunities pursuant to Senate Bill 535.

Secretary Matthew Rodriguez of Cal/EPA made opening remarks and participated in the remainder of the Workshop. Arsenio Mataka, Assistant Secretary at Cal/EPA, and Allan Hirsch, Chief Deputy Director at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) presented on the second draft CalEnviroScreen tool and Guidance Document and addressed questions from the audience. SCAG President Glen Becerra presided over the Workshop and offered SCAG as a vehicle for future outreach. A [summary of the Workshop](#) and related information is available on SCAG's website.

Cal/EPA staff indicated that their goal is to finalize the first version of the CalEnviroScreen tool around March. Cal/EPA will also designate the communities as required by SB 535 for investment opportunities for the 2013-14 State budget.

### **SCAG Sacramento Legislative Reception**

SCAG, in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Council, hosted its 2013 Sacramento legislative reception February 20 – 21. Key stakeholders from business and labor groups joined SCAG Regional Council members in meetings with state lawmakers and staff to discuss the legislative priorities adopted by the Regional Council. In addition to meeting with state legislative leadership and members of the Southern California delegation, Ana J. Matosantos, California Director of Finance, was keynote to the breakfast reception hosted by SCAG, and Mary D. Nichols, Chairman of the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and Brian Kelly, Acting Secretary, briefed and took questions from SCAG officials on ARB efforts concerning Cap-and-Trade implementation.

### **Public Workshop on Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan**

On February 15, the California Air Resources Board, (ARB) released the draft Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan, which was prepared by the State Department of Finance and ARB. Subsequently, three public workshops were held throughout the State with a panel of representative Administration agencies. At the February 27 workshop held in the state building in Los Angeles, Hon. Pam O'Connor gave testimony on behalf of the Regional Council and in support of the transportation Cap-and-Trade investment principles approved by the Regional Council. The Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities has been coordinating support for a share of Cap-and-Trade revenues goes to sustainable transportation purposes as part of the three-year investment plan due to the legislature in May. A few of the main principles made in the testimony were: 1) auction revenue from fuels should be used to implement the AB 32 regulatory program to reduce GHG emissions from transportation using basing equity, flexibility and innovation factors; 2) every region of the state should receive a fair share of the revenue; and 3) the investment plan should consider the role of MPOs though SB 375 which makes MPOs legally responsible for achieving the transportation GHG reduction through an approved SCS. Comments are due March 7 to ARB and a SCAG letter was transmitted with this date reflecting the Board-approved principles.

Next steps include:

- Early April – revised draft investment plan released
- April 25 – 26 public hearing in Sacramento on revised plan
- May – final investment plan to the legislature
- June – budget decisions for FY 2013-14 by legislature concerning FY 14 Cap-and-Trade revenues

SCAG staff will continue to review new material associated with Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds, keep the Regional Council apprised and work closely with ARB to address concerns of our members and stakeholders.

For further information, please see <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/auctionproceeds.htm>.

### **Professional Recognition and Information Sharing**

SCAG's chief demographer Simon Choi presented papers on research conducted on *Neighborhood Environment and Health Behavior in the Los Angeles Area* and *Projecting Small Area Population Size Components* at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the [Western Region Science Association](#) (WRSA) in Santa Barbara February 25 – 27. SCAG staff was also invited to Chair a Residential Mobility section of the conference. Founded in 1961, WRSA is an international multidisciplinary group of university scholars and government and private-sector practitioners dedicated to the scientific analysis of regions.

### **SCAG GIS Services for Local Jurisdictions**

SCAG continues to grow its GIS Service Program with the addition of several new jurisdictions. SCAG's GIS Services program is a member benefit, whereby SCAG provides GIS training, data sharing, data standardization and other mapping services to member jurisdictions. At last count, there are 83 agencies participating in the program. Kick-off meetings were conducted with the two newest jurisdictions to join the program: the County of Ventura and the City of Thousand Oaks.

This month I am pleased to inform you about a letter received from the City of Canyon Lake. They expressed their appreciation of SCAG's role in developing the City's GIS Program and that it is a significant asset which allows them to better respond to the needs of their residents. I encourage any jurisdiction that is not currently participating in the SCAG GIS Services Program to investigate how this member benefit can assist their community by contacting Frank Wen at 213-236-1854 or [wen@scag.ca.gov](mailto:wen@scag.ca.gov).

### **Approval of California's Latest Emission Factor Model**

On February 22, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld signed a Federal Register notice announcing EPA's approval of the EMFAC2011 model for California. Developed by the California Air Resources Board, [EMFAC2011](#) is the latest version of the EMFAC model (short for Emission FACTor) to be used by California to meet Clean Air Act requirements including state implementation plan development and transportation conformity. The new model, which is based on new and improved data, calculates air pollution emissions for passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, motor homes and buses.

The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register within a few weeks. Six months after the publication of the Federal Register notice, EMFAC2011 will be required to be used statewide for all new regional emissions analyses and carbon monoxide, particulate matter of ten microns or less (PM10) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) hot-spot analyses for transportation conformity determinations in California. Therefore, during October, SCAG will perform transportation conformity analyses for RTP/SCS and FTIP updates using EMFAC2011 until such time as the next version of ARB's EMFAC model is approved by U.S. EPA.

### **Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW)/West Santa Ana Branch Corridor**

On February 7, the Regional Council approved final recommendations for the PE ROW AA study. The Regional Council identified Light Rail Transit, in addition to the No Build and Transportation Systems Management alternatives, as recommended strategies to be carried forward for further study by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). As the owners of the PE ROW, Metro and OCTA have the discretion to proceed into the engineering and environmental phases of project development. The Regional Council also approved recommendations regarding alternative alignments, station locations and project phasing. The Final Report will be available at [www.scag.ca.gov/perow](http://www.scag.ca.gov/perow).