



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
**November 5, 2020**

**NO. 625**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020**

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

The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting telephonically and electronically, given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

**Hon. Rex Richardson, President**  
**Hon. Clint Lorimore, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**Hon. Jan Harnik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Hon. Bill Jahn, Imm. Past President**  
Supervisor Luis Plancarte  
Supervisor Don Wagner  
Supervisor Karen Spiegel  
Supervisor Curt Hagman  
Supervisor Linda Parks  
Hon. Alan D. Wapner  
Hon. Peggy Huang  
Hon. Mike T. Judge  
Hon. Ben Benoit  
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker  
Hon. Kathleen Kelly  
Hon. Rey Santos  
Hon. Zak Schwank  
Hon. Larry McCallon  
Hon. Deborah Robertson  
Hon. Ray Marquez

*Long Beach*  
*Eastvale*  
  
*Big Bear Lake*  
  
  
*El Centro*  
*Palm Desert*  
*Beaumont*  
*Temecula*  
*Highland*  
*Rialto*  
*Chino Hills*

**District 29**  
**District 4**  
**RCTC**  
**District 11**  
Imperial County  
Orange County  
Riverside County  
San Bernardino County  
Ventura County  
SBCTA  
TCA  
VCTC  
Air District Representative  
District 1  
District 2  
District 3  
District 5  
District 7  
District 8  
District 10

**OUR MISSION**

*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

**OUR VISION**

*Southern California’s Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

**OUR CORE VALUES**

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*

**Members Present - continued**

Hon. Fred Minagar	<i>Laguna Niguel</i>	District 12
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Michael Carroll	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. Phil Bacerra	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Charles Puckett	<i>Tustin</i>	District 17
Hon. Kim Nguyen	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Trevor O'Neil	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Dean Grose	<i>Los Alamitos</i>	District 20
Hon. Art Brown	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. Ray Hamada	<i>Bellflower</i>	District 24
Hon. Sean Ashton	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. José Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Steve De Ruse	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Steven Ly	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Jorge Marquez	<i>Covina</i>	District 33
Hon. Jack Hadjinian	<i>Montebello</i>	District 34
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Jonathan Curtis	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells	<i>Culver City</i>	District 41
Hon. Paula Devine	<i>Glendale</i>	District 42
Hon. Steven Hofbauer	<i>Palmdale</i>	District 43
Hon. David Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Carmen Ramirez	<i>Oxnard</i>	District 45
Hon. David Pollock	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Tim Holmgren	<i>Fillmore</i>	District 47
Hon. David Ryu	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Joe Buscaino	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63



**Members Present - continued**

Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto	<i>Coachella</i>	District 66
Hon. Hector Pacheco	<i>San Fernando</i>	District 67
Hon. Rusty Bailey	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Marisela Magana	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Mr. Randall Lewis	<i>Business Representative</i>	Ex-Officio Member

**Members Not Present**

Supervisor Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Hon. James Predmore		ICTC
Hon. Miguel Pulido		OCTA
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Hon. Frank Navarro	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	District 9
Hon. Steve Nagel	<i>Fountain Valley</i>	District 15
Hon. Jeannine Pearce	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Gilbert Cedillo	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 48
Hon. Paul Krekorian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49/Public Transit Rep.
Hon. Bob Blumenfield	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 50
Hon. Paul Koretz	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 52
Hon. Nury Martinez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 53
Hon. Monica Rodriguez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 54
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 55
Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 56
Hon. Herb Wesson, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Mike Bonin	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
Hon. John Lee	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 59
Hon. Mitch O'Farrell	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 60
Hon. Lyn Semeta	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. Rita Ramirez	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Eric Garcetti	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large

**Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director  
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer  
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer  
Justine Block, Acting Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel

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Art Yoon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs  
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning  
Erika Bustamante, Acting Chief Financial Officer  
Julie Loats, Chief Information Officer  
Peter Waggoner, Office of Regional Council Support  
Maggie Aguilar, Office of Regional Council Support

### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was confirmed. President Richardson asked Regional Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Richardson opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that there were no public comments received by email. Mr. Duran recognized speakers to provide verbal public comment.

Haig Kartounian, Southern California Edison, commented on the Charge Ready 2 program, recently approved by the California Public Utilities Commission. He stated that Charge Ready 2 will serve to expand infrastructure for electric vehicle (EV) chargers, deploying approximately 38,000 EV chargers over the next four years. In closing, he noted that efforts will be focused on disadvantaged communities and multi-family dwellings, supporting air quality and climate benefits.

Brian Sheridan, Coalition for Clean Air, commented on California Clean Air Day, scheduled for October 7, 2020, and SCAG's recognition of the occasion. He spoke about the importance of championing air quality, considering the ongoing fire season.

Mr. Duran confirmed that there were no other public comment speakers. President Richardson closed the Public Comment Period.

### **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

### **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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1. Resolution No. 20-625-1 Regarding Acceptance of Office of Traffic Safety Grant Funds to support the Active Transportation Safety and Encouragement Campaign

President Richardson introduced Erika Bustamante, Acting Chief Financial Officer, to provide a report. Ms. Bustamante explained that SCAG applied to the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for pedestrian and bicycle safety funds to support the Go Human campaign. SCAG was awarded the funds and the resolution would authorize SCAG to conduct a fifth round of safety outreach and programming throughout the region.

A MOTION was made (Robertson) to approve Resolution No. 20-625-1 authorizing SCAG to accept Office of Traffic Safety grant funds to support the Go Human Campaign. Motion was SECONDED (Jahn). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

**FOR:** ASHTON, BACERRA, BAILEY, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BOYLES, BROWN, BUCKNUM, BUSCAINO, CARROLL, CURTIS, DE RUSE, DEVINE, FINLAY, GAZELEY, GROSE, HADJINIAN, HAGMAN, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HOFBAUER, HOLMGREN, HUANG, JAHN, JUDGE, KELLY, LORIMORE, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MINAGAR\*, NGUYEN, O'NEIL, PACHECO, PARKS, PLANCARTE, POLLOCK, PUCKETT, C. RAMIREZ, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, RYU, SAHLI-WELLS, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, SPIEGEL, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (57)

**AGAINST:** NONE (0)

**ABSTAIN:** NONE (0)

While the voting results were being reviewed, Regional Councilmember Fred Minagar, Laguna Niguel, District 12, informed SCAG staff that he was experiencing technical difficulties and intended to vote "For" the motion for Agenda Item No. 1. The vote for Regional Councilmember Minagar\* is annotated above.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval Items

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting - September 3, 2020
- 3. Approval for Additional Stipend Payments
- 4. 2021 Meeting Schedule of Regional Council and Policy Committees

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5. SCAG Partnership with the MSRC for the Last Mile Freight Program
  6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contact No. 20-057-C01, Electric Vehicle Charging Station Study
  7. Contract Amendment that Exceeds 30% of the Contract's Original Value: Contract No. 18-002-SS1, PC Law Group, Amendment No. 5
  8. Contract Amendment that Exceeds \$75,000: Contract No. 19-001-C01, Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework, Amendment No. 3

Receive and File

9. Updates on Regional Data Platform (RDP)
10. October 2020 State and Federal Legislative Update
11. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999
12. CFO Monthly Report

Regional Councilmember Peggy Huang, TCA, asked for a correction to Agenda Item No. 2, Minutes of the Meeting - September 3, 2020, to reflect President Richardson's comments regarding the RHNA Litigation Subcommittee. At the September 3, 2020 meeting, President Richardson committed to working with SCAG staff and Regional Councilmember Huang to call a meeting of the RHNA Litigation Subcommittee prior to December. President Richardson asked staff to reflect these comments in the minutes. President Richardson then shared a brief update of the status RHNA Litigation Subcommittee and its convening.

Regional Councilmember Sean Ashton, Downey, District 25, asked to discuss Agenda Item No. 4, 2021 Meeting Schedule of Regional Council and Policy Committees. He asked about the "dark month" vacation period and proposed that the dark month be moved from August to July, aligning with the Fourth of July holiday.

Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey provided background information on SCAG's meeting schedule and the tradition of a dark month in August. He stated that it is up to the Regional Council to determine the dark month.

President Richardson directed staff to reevaluate the 2021 Meeting Schedule of Regional Council and Policy Committees and return the item to the Regional Council.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that at the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) meeting on September 30, 2020 there was discussion about meeting dates and times of the EAC. Regional Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, elaborated that the discussion was over holding the EAC meeting the day before Regional Council meetings.

Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Riverside County, reiterated Regional Councilmember Ashton's comment, and she noted that she has noticed lower attendance during the July meeting.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, commented that some Regional Councilmembers are also members of the Clean Power Alliance, which begins its meetings at 2:00pm on Regional Council meeting day, and this may cause a conflict depending on the Regional Council meeting start time.

President Richardson recapitulated that staff should consider the dark month, the EAC meeting date and the Regional Council meeting start time in their reevaluation of 2021 Meeting Schedule of Regional Council and Policy Committees and return to the Board for further direction at the next regular meeting.

A MOTION was made (Jahn) to approve the Consent Calendar, Item Nos. 2-3; 5-12, and to continue Item No. 4 to the next meeting. Motion was SECONDED (Huang). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

**FOR:** ASHTON, BACERRA, BAILEY, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BOYLES, BROWN, BUCKNUM, BUSCAINO, CARROLL, CURTIS, DE RUSE, DEVINE, FINLAY, GAZELEY, GROSE, HADJINIAN, HAGMAN, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HOFBAUER, HOLMGREN, HUANG, JAHN, JUDGE, KELLY, LORIMORE, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MINAGAR, NGUYEN, O'NEIL, PACHECO, PARKS, PLANCARTE, POLLOCK, PUCKETT, C. RAMIREZ, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, RYU, SAHLI-WELLS, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, SPIEGEL, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (57)

**AGAINST:** NONE (0)

**ABSTAIN:** MINAGAR (Abstained from Agenda Item No. 2 only)

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

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Mr. Randall Lewis, Business Representative, provided a business report outlining updates, trends and thoughts for action. He stated that the for-sale housing market is very strong, due to low interest rates under three percent. There is particular growth in the suburbs. He noted high lumber prices, affecting home builders and projects. The rental market is strong for apartments, but there is beginning to be pain on the property owners in paying mortgages. Retail tenants continue seeing mixed results, with groceries and home improvements stores performing very well but movie theaters and gyms performing very poorly. The industrial market was red hot and there was a great demand for distribution centers.

Mr. Lewis explained changes in housing design demand, with a shift towards larger houses in consideration of continued work-from-home and a trend of more detached units. Townhome and single-family rentals were also in high demand. In terms of employment, Mr. Lewis predicted further layoffs, noting recent layoffs by airlines. Robotics and artificial intelligence may also impact jobs in years to come. He spoke about a K-shaped economic recovery, with disproportionate impact on lower-income jobs. He noted movement for companies and employees to lower-cost areas due to “tele-everything,” adding to the importance of constructing housing in the SCAG region. In closing, Mr. Lewis commented on the benefit of collaborating with the business community, and he acknowledged SCAG staff’s work with the business community over past months.

Regional Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, asked Mr. Lewis if cost of housing is the cause of movement being seen. Mr. Lewis elaborated that housing, talent and lifestyle are considered in moves, and he noted that companies also consider price of electricity and labor when moving. Regional Councilmember Finlay asked about Proposition 22 and how this affects rideshare companies. President Richardson noted that the Regional Council has not taken a position on the proposition.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Rex Richardson discussed the RHNA Subcommittee and stated that, based on the Regional Council’s request on May 7th, 2020, he is not re-appointing ex-officio (non-voting) members. He appointed the following members to the RHNA Appeals Board: representing Imperial County, Hon. Jim Predmore and Hon. Bill Hodge; representing Los Angeles County, Hon. Margaret Finlay and Hon. Rex Richardson; representing Orange County, Hon. Wendy Bucknum and Hon. Peggy Huang; representing Riverside County, Hon. Russell Betts and Hon. Rey Santos; representing San Bernardino County, Hon. Jim Mulvihill and Hon. Deborah Robertson; and representing Ventura County, Hon. Carmen Ramirez and Hon. Mike Judge.

President Richardson announced the appointments of the following members to the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice: Robert Apodaca, California Community Builders; Hon. Megan Beaman-Jacinto, City of Coachella; Castulo de la Rocha, AltaMed; Efrain Escobedo, California

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Community Foundation; Hon. Margaret Finlay, City of Duarte; David Forgues, California State University, Fullerton; Douglas Haynes, University of California, Irvine; Hon. Mark Henderson, City of Gardena; Hon. Jan Harnik, City of Palm Desert; Randal Hernandez, Verizon; Hon. Peggy Huang, City of Yorba Linda; Hon. Jed Leano, City of Claremont; Andrew Masiel, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians; Linda Nguyen, Wells Fargo; Thomas Parham, California State University Dominguez Hills; Hon. Carmen Ramirez, City of Oxnard; Hon. Rex Richardson, City of Long Beach; Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Local Initiatives Support Coalition; Sup. Luis Plancarte, Imperial County; Denita Willoughby, Southern California Gas Company; and Micah Weinberg, California Forward.

President Richardson then provided an update on the first meeting of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice, which was held on September 24, 2020. He reminded members that the Regional Council adopted a resolution that acknowledges systemic racism as a human rights and public health crisis and commits SCAG to taking action toward becoming a more equitable and just region. President Richardson stated that the first meeting was joined by an active and diverse group of leaders from various industries, including nonprofits, businesses, healthcare, labor, education and members of the Regional Council representing every county in the SCAG region. The Special Committee will help inform SCAG's response toward the advancement of social justice and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices related to ending racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthening engagement to protect and expand community voices and working in partnership with others to better serve our communities of color through planning efforts. He commented that the Special Committee received a presentation from Charles T. Brown, the Founder/Managing Principal at Equitable Cities regarding "Arrested Mobility," which poignantly identifies the specific mobility barriers that Black and Indigenous People of Color experience. He stated the next meeting was scheduled for November.

President Richardson continued by reviewing Virtual County Tours held during the months of August and September. A session was conducted for each county in the SCAG Region as a response to the first phase of his workplan, "A Framework for Recovering and Reimagining a Resilient Region." The Virtual County Tours involved a diverse number of stakeholders, including transportation commissions, businesses/economic partnerships, community-based organizations, educational institutions, among others. He noted that input received will help inform opportunities for future SCAG engagement and strengthen the foundation for plans and policy. He thanked staff and members for their participation and assistance in identifying presentations.

Lastly, President Richardson mentioned ongoing air quality issues related to fires and presented a Clean Air Day Proclamation in support of the upcoming California Clean Air Day on October 7. He noted that SCAG's regional planning effort has been supporting the significant air quality improvement over the past decades. Despite the progress, millions of our residents continue to suffer from poor air quality. In conclusion, he noted that there are resources available on the California Clean Air Day website ([cleanairday.org](http://cleanairday.org)) for both organizations and individuals.

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Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, commented on the Ventura County General Plan, which includes a goal of planting two million trees. She noted a tree-planting initiative on Clean Air Day for schools and colleges in Ventura County.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Kome Ajise shared that SCAG has received awards from the American Planning Association California Chapter for best practice and public outreach. Also, the Los Angeles Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) had recognized SCAG as Employer of the Year. The Orange County Chapter of WTS had recognized SCAG with the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award.

Mr. Ajise added that, given CARB's Advanced Clean Air rule, SCAG had partnered with the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) and accepted a \$10 million grant for implementation of Last-Mile Freight Program. He recognized Regional Councilmembers who were part of MSRC and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S**

Regional Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7, commented on high-speed rail developments in San Bernardino County and noted concern about an intermodal facility planned to be moved to Colton. Regional Councilmember McCallon commented on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and anticipated effects on nearby communities, including traffic, air quality and noise. He elaborated on equity issues within these communities. He noted that the project is not included in Connect SoCal. In conclusion, he asked for this matter to be taken up at a future Policy Committee meeting.

President Richardson acknowledged Regional Councilmember McCallon's request and Executive Director Kome Ajise commented on SCAG's ongoing involvement with various parties over high-speed rail mitigation. Transportation Committee Chair Cheryl Viegas-Walker also acknowledged discussion on the topic that occurred at the Transportation Committee meeting earlier in the day.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

Regional Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, thanked Planning Director Sarah Jepson for her assistance in compiling information for a presentation made to the California Association of Retired Americans.

### **ADJOURNMENT**



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President Richardson adjourned the Regional Council meeting at 2:04 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]