



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE/ COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

***Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend
In-Person & Remotely***
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

To Attend In-Person:
SCAG Main Office – Policy A 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 A 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 Friday, February 13, 2026** 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 **Friday, February 13, 2026** 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	Curt Hagman District Office 14010 City Center Drive Chino Hills, CA 91709	Jan Harnik City of Palm Desert - City Hall 73-510 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260
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
Suely Saro City of Long Beach – City Hall 411 W. Ocean Boulevard Floor 2 – The Rachos Long Beach, CA 90802	David J. Shapiro City of Calabasas - City Hall 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302	Alan Wapner City of Ontario – City Hall Conference Room 1 303 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.

LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee
Members – February 2026

- 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

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 A Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
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)

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 – January 20, 2026	PPG. 8
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Receive and File

2. Federal Update - February 2026	PPG. 15
3. Legislative Tracking Report	PPG. 23

ACTION ITEM

4. REAP 1.0 Codification Bill	PPG. 25
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(David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, SCAG)

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program	PPG. 34
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(Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, SCAG)

6. 2026 Sacramento Summit and Legislative Priorities
(David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, SCAG)

PPG. 38

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
February 17, 2026

LEGISLATIVE/COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (LCMC)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

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.iqm2.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

Patricia Lock Dawson	Riverside	District 68
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
Margaret Finlay (Vice Chair)	Duarte	District 35
Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
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
Ray Marquez	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Gil Rebollar	<i>Brawley</i>	District 1
Sueley 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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and called upon Hon. Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present.

PRESENTATION

(Mr. Dan Dunmoyer, President and CEO of the California Building Industry, 2026 Outlook and Priorities)

There were no public comments for the presentation.

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson introduced Mr. Dan Dunmoyer, President and CEO of the California Building Industry Association (CBIA), who provided an overview of the organization's outlook and priorities for 2026.

He stated that CBIA's guiding principle is "Housing for All" and characterized California's challenges as a housing policy crisis rather than a supply crisis, attributing it to regulatory barriers. Mr. Dunmoyer outlined key legislative priorities, including limiting repetitive plan checks, maintaining consistent state regulations throughout project development, and reforming vehicle miles traveled (VMT) requirements. He concluded by affirming CBIA's commitment to working with state and local partners to reduce barriers and lower housing costs.

Committee members engaged in a robust discussion. During the discussion, the committee raised several questions which were addressed by Mr. Dunmoyer.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson 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 Lock Dawson 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 – November 18, 2025

2. SCAG Memberships & Sponsorships**Receive and File**

3. 16th Annual Economic Update Evaluation Report
4. Federal Update – What to Expect in 2026
5. Legislative Tracking Report

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar.

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson opened the floor to the committee members for questions or comments.

There were no comments for the consent calendar.

A MOTION was made (Finlay) 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, Finlay, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Jung, Lock Dawson, Marquez, Rebollar, Saro, Shapiro, Wagner, Wapner and Wong (18)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAINS: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS**6. State Update – Governor's Budget and What to Expect in 2026**

There were no public comments for Item No. 6.

Mr. David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, began his presentation by announcing the save-the-date for the 2026 Sacramento Summit, scheduled for Monday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Hyatt Centric near the Golden One Arena. He noted the summit format would resemble previous years, with day one featuring lunch, presentations on housing, transportation, and air quality, and an alumni dinner. Day two will focus on legislative priorities, including potential

reforms related to housing, the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), and Senate Bill 375.

Following, staff transitioned to an overview of the state budget, summarizing Governor Newsom's final January budget proposal of his tenure, which outlines a \$348.9 billion spending plan with a projected deficit of \$2.9 billion. This figure contrasts with the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projection, which indicates a significantly larger deficit. The budget has been characterized as a workload budget, showing no major increases or cuts in spending.

SCAG's representatives in Sacramento, Cruz Strategies, then led a discussion that covered the proposed restructuring of housing and homelessness agencies, potential impacts on housing funding and accountability requirements, as well as expected areas of tension between the Governor and Legislature as the budget process unfolds.

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson opened the floor to committee members for questions or comments.

There were no comments for item number 6.

7. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 1.0 Codification Bill Proposal

There were no public comments for Item No. 7.

Mr. David Angel, Senior Legislative Affairs Analyst, provided the committee with information about a proposal being developed in collaboration with the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG). This proposal aims to sponsor legislation that would codify the Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP) 1.0 program, along with a complementary budget request of \$125 million.

Mr. Angel noted that this proposal aligns with the organization's state legislative platform. He provided background on REAP 1.0, explaining that it was established through the 2019 state budget with a \$250 million allocation. This amount was split evenly between local jurisdictions and regional agencies administering the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), including SCAG.

He described how SCAG utilized its \$47 million allocation to support local housing element development, establish a dedicated housing department, and implement programs such as the Housing Policy Leadership Academy and grants to community-based organizations for advancing housing planning and engagement. According to Mr. Angel, the region witnessed significant housing activity between 2020 and 2023, partly supported by REAP investments.

He emphasized the importance of renewing and codifying REAP 1.0 before the upcoming seventh RHNA cycle. The staff proposed a two-pronged approach involving both legislative codification and a

separate budget request. Mr. Angel outlined current efforts to develop draft bill language, ongoing discussions with potential legislative sponsors, and early expressions of support from legislative staff and regional partners.

He concluded by stating that additional details and a recommended action would be presented at a future meeting, and he invited feedback and questions from the committee.

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson opened the floor to the committee members for questions or comments.

Committee members engaged in a robust discussion. During the discussion, the committee raised several questions which were addressed accordingly.

CHAIR UPDATE

There were no public comments for the Chair Update.

Chair Patricia Lock Dawson provided a brief update and expressed her appreciation to the SCAG staff for organizing a successful regional housing summit for the Inland Empire, which includes San Bernardino and Riverside counties. She noted that the summit was very successful, featuring valuable information and strong engagement from attendees. Participants appreciated the recognition of the unique housing challenges faced by the Inland Empire and the discussion of tailored solutions to address these issues. The Chair thanked the staff for their efforts and expressed interest in reviewing the survey feedback from participants. The update concluded without any further remarks.

POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION UPDATE

There were no public comments for division updates.

Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer, provided a brief report highlighting the strong attendance at the annual Southern California Economic Update held the previous month. She noted that a full recap report was included in the agenda packet. The event, moderated by former Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, featured presentations on the economic benefits and opportunities associated with the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Ms. Cartagena explained that, although the event was scaled down and held at SCAG's offices for the second consecutive year, interest remained robust, with substantial media coverage across television, radio, online platforms, and print outlets both in Southern California and nationally. She reported that the 2025 event achieved an estimated audience reach of over 158 million, with an approximate media value of \$927,000.

Ms. Cartagena also updated the group on the Public Participation Plan, mentioning that the draft released for public comment in September received around 43 responses. Staff reviewed and incorporated this feedback into a proposed final draft, which is scheduled for consideration by the

EAC Committee in February. If approved, the draft will advance to the Regional Council for adoption. She emphasized that this plan is a crucial early step in developing the next Connect SoCal Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Ms. Cartagena expressed her gratitude to the Chair for providing leadership in bringing SCAG to the Inland Empire for a recent housing workshop and conveyed interest in replicating or partnering on similar events throughout the region. She concluded by outlining upcoming agenda items, which include a referral of a high-speed rail update to the Transportation Committee, a request to agendize a discussion on the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) programs at the February LCMC meeting, as well as a forthcoming comprehensive update on the Sacramento Summit.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the announcements, Committee Member Jan Harnick suggested that it would be beneficial to receive input from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), either through a presentation or a written report. She noted that previous remarks from an LAO representative had been useful in providing context for planning. Chair Patricia Lock Dawson agreed and stated that staff would investigate opportunities to invite the LAO to a future meeting or the upcoming Sacramento Summit.

Chair Lock Dawson then announced that the City of Riverside's State of the City address would take place on January 28 and invited members to attend. Ms. Harnick also mentioned a recent earthquake that occurred in the Coachella Valley, which serves as a reminder of the importance of preparedness. Chair Lock Dawson acknowledged the event and expressed appreciation that members were safe.

Committee Member Ulises Cabrera announced that the City of Moreno Valley has recently opened the largest and newest bicycle pump track in Southern California, emphasizing its role in promoting active transportation and mobility for residents of all ages.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Patricia Lock Dawson adjourned the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee meeting at 9:53 a.m.

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

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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		1	1	1	1		1					6
2	Bucknum, Wendy	Mission Viejo, RC District 13	1	1		1	1	1	1		1					7
3	Cabrera, Ulises	Moreno Valley, RC District 69	1	1		1	0	1	0		1					5
4	Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1	1	D	1	1	1	1	D	1					7
5	Finlay, Margaret (Vice Chair)	Duarte, RC District 35	0	1		1	1	0	1		1					5
6	Hagman, Curt	San Bernardino County	1	1		0	1	0	0		1					4
7	Harnik, Jan C.	RCTC	1	1		0	1	1	0		1					5
8	Henderson, Mark	Gardena, RC District 28	1	1		1	1	1	1		1					7
9	Hernandez, Laura	Port Hueneme, RC District 45	1	1	A	1	0	1	1	A	1					6
10	Jung, Fred	Fullerton, RC District 21	1	1		1	1	1	1		1					7
11	Lock Dawson, Patricia (Chair)	Riverside, RC District 68	1	1		1	0	0	1		1					5
12	Marquez, Ray	Chino Hills, RC District 10	1	1		1	1	0	1		1					6
13	Rebollar, Gil	Brawley, RC District 1	1	0	R	0	0	1	1	R	1					4
14	Saro, Suely	Long Beach, RC District 29	1	1		1	1	1	0		1					6
15	Shapiro, David J.	Calabasas, RC District 44	1	1		1	1	1	1		1					7
16	Wagner, Donald P.	Orange County	0	1	K	1	1	1	1	K	1					6
17	Wapner, Alan	SBCTA	1	0		1	1	1	1		1					6
18	Wong, Thomas	Monterey Park, District 34	1	1		1	1	1	1		1					7

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

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

Subject: Federal Update - February 2026

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

Kome Ajise

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Congress approved a five-bill minibus on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, concluding the FY26 appropriations process for all but one remaining bill. The final bill, addressing funding for Homeland Security, was passed as a Continuing Resolution (CR), but authorized funding only through Friday, February 13, 2026. Manatt represents SCAG in Washington, D.C. and has provided the attached report detailing federal updates, including funding levels from the recently passed FY26 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill, Congressional actions related to the next surface transportation policy bill, nominees, housing updates, and FEMA reform.

BACKGROUND:

Manatt represents SCAG's interests in Washington, D.C. and has provided the attached report to the Legislative/ Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) providing high level updates on policy priority areas relevant to SCAG undertaken by Congress as of the writing of this report. Updates include the status of FY26 appropriations bills, Congressional actions related to the next Surface Transportation Reauthorization, nominees, housing updates, and FEMA reform.

Potential Opportunities for Federal Legislative Outreach

SCAG is currently working on finalizing the details of our annual California Congressional Transportation Reception, held in collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/ Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ ABAG). The reception is scheduled for the week of May 18, coinciding with Infrastructure Week in Washington, D.C.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the staff report on the Federal Update – February 2026 is contained in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Manatt - SCAG LCMC Federal Update_ February 2026

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
February 2026 LCMC Meeting – Federal Updates

FY26 Appropriations Update

- On February 3rd, Congress approved a five-bill minibus ([H.R. 7148](#)) to conclude most of the FY26 appropriations process. The Senate passed the measure on January 30th with a bipartisan, [71-29](#) vote, and the House passed the measure on February 3rd with a [217-214](#) vote. Said minibus included the following bills:
 - Transportation-HUD
 - Labor-HHS-Education
 - Defense
 - National Security-Department of State
 - Financial Services-General Government
- Congress also passed a short-term, continuing resolution (CR) for the Homeland Security bill that extends current funding through February 13th to allow for further negotiations on guardrails for ICE. While the Homeland Security bill was originally included in the minibus, it was ultimately removed due to strong concerns with funding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and additional immigration enforcement operations.
- With federal funding for DHS set to expire on Friday, February 13th, negotiations between Democratic and Republican lawmakers remain stalled. Last week, House and Senate Democratic leaders presented a list of ten guardrails aimed at restricting ICE and CBP operations in exchange for their support of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. Those ten requests include:
 1. **Targeted Enforcement** -DHS officers cannot enter private property without a judicial warrant.
 2. **No Masks** -Prohibit ICE and immigration enforcement agents from wearing face coverings.
 3. **Require ID** -Require DHS officers conducting immigration enforcement to display their agency, unique ID number and last name.
 4. **Protect Sensitive Locations** -Prohibit funds from being used to conduct enforcement near sensitive locations, including medical facilities, schools, child-care facilities, churches, polling places, courts, etc.

5. **Stop Racial Profiling**-Prohibit DHS officers from conducting stops and searches based on an individual's presence at certain locations, their job, their spoken language and accent or their race and ethnicity.
6. **Uphold Use of Force Standards** -Place into law a reasonable use of force policy, expand training and require certification of officers.
7. **Ensure State and Local Coordination and Oversight** -Preserve the ability of State and local jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute potential crimes and use of excessive force incidents.
8. **Build Safeguards into the System** - Make clear that all buildings where people are detained must abide by the same basic detention standards that require immediate access to a person's attorney to prevent citizen arrests or detention. Allow states to sue DHS for violations of all requirements. Prohibit limitations on Member visits to ICE facilities regardless of how those facilities are funded.
9. **Body Cameras for Accountability, Not Tracking**-Require use of body-worn cameras when interacting with the public and mandate requirements for the storage and access of footage. Prohibit tracking, creating or maintaining databases of individuals participating in First Amendment activities.
10. **No Paramilitary Police** -Regulate and standardize the type of uniforms and equipment DHS officers carry during enforcement operations to bring them in line with civil enforcement.

- Senate Republicans are expected to initiate procedural steps today to advance another continuing resolution to prevent a shutdown at midnight on Friday, February 13th. If Congress fails to act this week, a lapse in DHS funding could extend through late February, as lawmakers are scheduled to recess the week of February 16th.
- The tables below provide information on funding included for DOT and HUD programs in the final, FY26 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill:

Department of Transportation (DOT)

DOT Program	FY25 Enacted	FY26 House	FY26 Senate	FY26 Final
BUILD (previously known as RAISE) (In addition to IIJA Advanced Appropriations)	\$345 million	\$0	\$250 million	\$145 million
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	\$20.081 billion	\$23.296 billion	\$22 billion	\$22.2 billion
FAA Contract Tower Program	\$205.37 million	\$279 million	\$279.2 million	\$279.2 million
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	\$62.991 billion	\$64.366 billion	\$63.3 billion	\$64.3 billion
FHWA Highway Formula Funding (<i>authorized by IIJA</i>)	\$60.095 billion	\$62.657 billion	\$62.657 billion	\$62.657 billion
FHWA Highway Infrastructure Grants	\$340.5 million	\$1.369 billion	\$1.136 billion	\$2.395 billion
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	\$16.603 billion	\$14.91 billion	\$16.89 billion	\$16.5 billion
Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program (<i>in addition to IIJA Advanced Appropriations</i>)	\$0	\$0	\$62.2 million (<i>capital construction grants</i>)	\$30 million (<i>capital construction grants – limited eligibility</i>)
FTA Transit Infrastructure Grants	\$45.568 million	\$97.266 million	\$140.857 million	\$211.4 million
FTA Capital Investment Grants Program (<i>in addition to IIJA Advanced Appropriations</i>)	\$2.205 billion	\$53.74 million	\$1.95 billion	\$1.7 billion
FTA Transit Infrastructure Formula Funding (<i>authorized by IIJA</i>)	\$14.279 billion	\$14.642 billion	\$14.642 billion	\$14.642 billion
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	\$2.925 billion	\$3.123 billion	\$2.9 billion	\$3.637 billion

Fed-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail	\$75 million	\$0	\$75 million	\$65 million
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)	\$100 million	\$538.4 million	\$151.52 million	\$137.42 million
Maritime Administration (MARAD)	\$900 million	\$828 million	\$874 million	\$917 million
Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)	\$50 million	\$123.47 million	\$75 million	\$103.3 million

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD Program	FY25 Enacted	FY26 House	FY26 Senate	FY26 Final
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$32.1 billion	\$31.26 billion	\$33.7 billion	\$34 billion
Public Housing Fund - Capital Fund	\$3.2 billion	\$2.286 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$3.2 billion
Public Housing Fund - Operating Fund	\$5.475 billion	\$4.975 billion	\$4.87 billion	\$4.67 billion
Choice Neighborhoods Initiative	\$75 million	\$0	\$40 million	\$25 million
Manufactured Housing Improvement and Financing Program	\$10 million	\$0	\$10 million	\$0
Homelessness Assistance Grants	\$4.051 billion	\$4.158 billion	\$4.5 billion	\$4.4 billion
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	\$505 million	\$505 million	\$529 million	\$529 million
Project Based Rental Assistance	\$16.9 billion	\$16.726 billion	\$17.8 billion	\$18.543 billion
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	\$3.4 billion	\$3.3 billion	\$3.1 billion	\$3.3 billion

HOME Investment Program	\$1.25 billion	\$0	\$1.25 billion	\$1.25 billion
PRO Housing Grant Program	\$100 million	\$0	\$60 million	\$50 million

Transportation Updates

House Introduces the BASICS Act to Increase Resources for Local Communities to Improve Roads and Bridges

- On Monday, February 9th, Reps. Kristin McDonald Rivet (D-MI-08) and Rob Bresnahan (R-PA-08) [introduced](#) the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act.
- This bill amends multiple DOT programs – including the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and Bridge Formula Program created in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – to ensure local governments have increased resources to make infrastructure improvements for roads and bridges.
- The BASICS Act is supported by multiple organizations, including but not limited to: National League of Cities (NLC), U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), National Association of Counties (NACo), Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), and National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). The introduction of the BASICS Act comes as local governments continue to advocate for increased resources going directly to local entities in the next surface transportation bill.

Senate Commerce Committee Advances DOT Policy Nominees

- On Tuesday, February 3rd, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee advanced a slate of transportation nominees, including:
 - Ryan McCormack, nominee for Department of Transportation (DOT) Undersecretary for Policy.
 - Daniel Edwards, nominee for Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.
- McCormack is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Staff at DOT and served as Legislative Director for Secretary Duffy while he was a member of Congress.

Edwards has served in senior leadership for multiple companies in aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), as well as served in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves for 23 years.

- Both nominations were advanced with a 21-7 vote. Their nominations now head to the Senate for a full vote.

Housing Updates

House Passes the Housing for the 21st Century Act This Week

- On Monday, February 9th, the House [voted to pass](#) the Housing for the 21st Century Act ([H.R. 6644](#)), the comprehensive, bipartisan housing package, under suspension of the rules. It passed 390-10, with 33 members not voting.
- The Housing for the 21st Century Act was introduced and advanced by the House Financial Services Committee late last year after the Senate's ROAD to Housing Act ([S. 2651](#)) was not included in the final, FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- The Housing for the 21st Century Act has several similar provisions to the ROAD to Housing Act, with key distinctions including provisions for reauthorization of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, expansion of CDBG to support construction of new housing, and more.

FEMA Reform

President Trump Extends FEMA Review Council

- On Friday, January 23rd, President Trump signed an executive order – entitled [Continuance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council](#) – to extend the FEMA Review Council through March 25, 2026 . The Council was previously set to be terminated by January 30th under Executive Order 14180 ([Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)).
- The purpose of the FEMA Review council is to provide recommendations to the President and Congress on reforming the nation's disaster response programs and operations. The Council was set to present its recommendations in December 2025, but its meeting was abruptly canceled with no explanation.

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL****From:** Jorge Zavala, Legislative Affairs Analyst
213-630-1414, zavala@scag.ca.gov**Subject:** Legislative Tracking ReportA handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kome Ajise".**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive and File

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Legislative Tracking Report is provided to keep the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) apprised of the bills in Sacramento that have a nexus to the Regional Council's adopted Legislative Platform. This report also contains an update on key legislative deadlines.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG's Legislative Tracking Report serves as a resource for the Committee to remain informed on bills moving through the legislative process in Sacramento. The report tracks 75 measures with a nexus to the Regional Council's adopted 2025-26 State and Federal Legislative Platform.

Governor Newsom presented his fiscal year 2026-2027 budget proposal during his final State of the State speech, and legislators have begun informational budget hearings with a focus on key areas of healthcare, housing, and transportation.

The proposed \$349 billion state spending plan has significant uncertainty built in as state revenues remain volatile. Notably, the budget proposal includes trailer bill language for a new \$200 million rebate program for electric vehicles and a restructuring of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program. The Governor also unveiled a fiscal relief plan for Bay Area transit operators experiencing financial hardship.

SCAG is already tracking 75 measures early in the session. SCAG's state bill tracking document, containing information on all 75 measures, can be found at www.scag.ca.gov/legislation, under the "Legislative Tracking" tab.

As the Session progresses, staff will continue to provide an updated calendar of legislative deadlines and bill tracker reports with the most relevant and pressing bills. The table below highlights recent and upcoming legislative deadlines:

Date	Deadline
January 5, 2026	Legislature Reconvened for 2025-2026 Legislative Session
January 19, 2026	Governor announced FY 26-27 Budget
January 23, 2026	Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel
February 20, 2026	Last day for bills to be introduced
March 26, 2026	Spring Recess begins upon adjournment
April 6, 2026	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess
June 15, 2026	Budget must be passed by midnight

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the Legislative Tracking staff report is contained in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

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

Subject: REAP 1.0 Codification Bill

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kome Ajise".

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) forward a recommendation to the Regional Council (RC) to support and serve as a bill sponsor of the effort to codify the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 1.0 grant program and support and sponsor the complementary \$125 million budget request to fund the program.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priorities 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region. 5: Secure and optimize diverse funding sources to support regional priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Last month, staff provided a presentation on efforts to explore sponsoring legislation to codify REAP 1.0 into state law, coupled with a separate but complementary \$125 million state budget request to support a new round of funding for the program. This research effort was undertaken in partnership with the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG).

As a follow-up, staff is bringing this item back to the committee, as “unbacked” legislative language has now been secured. Staff are now working with our state lobbyists, Cruz Strategies, LLC, to identify the best bill sponsor for this effort. Today’s report represents an update on these efforts.

In addition, staff recommends that the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) forward a recommendation to the Regional Council (RC) that SCAG support and serve as a bill sponsor of this effort and the complementary \$125 million budget request.

BACKGROUND:

Last month, staff provided background and a presentation on SCAG's efforts to sponsor a REAP 1.0 codification bill. Since then, staff have secured the “unbacked bill language,” which is draft legislative text for the proposal. As mentioned last month, staff are finalizing conversations with Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache (D-Lynwood), who has expressed interest in serving as the bill

author and the champion for the complementary budget request. The unbacked bill language is attached to this report.

Summary of provisions in the official REAP 1.0 Codification bill language:

The REAP 1.0 bill proposes codifying the 2019 REAP 1.0 framework in the Health & Safety Code, where state housing program authorities administered by HCD are typically located. The unbacked bill language is substantially similar to the summary included in last month's staff report, and mirrors the original REAP 1.0 program, with some improvements. Below is a section-by-section summary of the proposal, containing minor, but no significant differences relative to the summary contained in last month's staff report:

Section 1 - Regional Early Action Planning Fund

This section would establish the Regional Early Action Planning Fund in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) would allocate funds to support planning activities that enable preparation for the 7th and subsequent RHNA cycles.

Section 2 – Eligible Entities & Allocation

This section states that (a) councils of governments and (b) other regional entities responsible for allocating RHNA would be the two types of entities eligible to receive funding from this program. Entities could apply for funding up to 39 months before the next housing element due date, in line with the deadline for HCD to meet and consult with COGs regarding their total housing need. Further, funds would be distributed on a population basis, using the Department of Finance's most recent estimates. Direct allocations to jurisdictions are not included in this program; however, COGs/regional entities may suballocate to local jurisdictions.

Section 3 – Eligible Uses & Reporting

This section outlines the eligible uses of this funding and includes annual and final reporting requirements that mirror the language in the original REAP 1.0 program.

- Activities that support the development, improvement, or implementation of RHNA methodology for the 7th and subsequent cycles;
- Suballocations to jurisdictions for planning and infrastructure efforts that accelerate housing production, consistent with state priorities;
- Technical assistance, planning, temporary staffing, or consultants for local planning and zoning, including activities related to updating or implementing a jurisdiction's housing element, application processing, and other production-accelerating actions;
- Administrative costs up to 5 percent;

- Activities to establish a regional or countywide housing trust, or to allocate funds to an existing regional or countywide housing trust, for planning/pre-development activities that facilitate production; and
- Other activities, determined in consultation with HCD, that support regional or local housing planning priorities.

Eligible uses for jurisdictions receiving suballocations include: (1) technical assistance for permitting processes/tracking/tools; (2) establishing regional or countywide housing trust funds; (3) infrastructure planning (water, sewer, transit, roads, facilities); (4) feasibility studies; and (5) temporary staffing/consultants for those activities.

Prior Committee Action

At the LCMC's January 20, 2026, meeting, staff provided an initial presentation and update on efforts to explore whether the agency should sponsor a bill to codify the REAP 1.0 program, with a complementary \$125 million budget request. After the presentation, committee members expressed general support for the proposal but asked why it excluded restoring the funding pot that provided allocations directly to local jurisdictions.

Staff will provide a verbal update at the February meeting as a follow-up to that discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with REAP 1.0 Codification Bill is in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Unbacked REAP 1.0 Codification Bill Text

85698

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An act to add Chapter 3.16 (commencing with Section 50515.11) to Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to housing.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3.16 (commencing with Section 50515.11) is added to Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 3.16. REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING

50515.11. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) The regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) is a core component of the state's housing planning framework and establishes the basis for local housing element law obligations.

(b) Regional governments perform essential functions in implementing RHNA, including methodology development, public engagement, and distributing regional housing need to local jurisdictions.

(c) RHNA responsibilities have increased in complexity and scope, and regional governments require consistent and adequate resources to fulfill these responsibilities.

(d) Funding provided through the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program (Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 50515)) demonstrated that targeted investments in regional planning activities support local housing element implementation and advance state housing goals.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide councils of governments, regional entities, and jurisdictions with resources to support the seventh and subsequent RHNA cycles.

50515.12. For purposes of this article:

(a) "Council of governments" means a single-county or multicounty council created pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code that is responsible for allocating regional housing need under Sections 65584, 65584.04, and 65584.05 of the Government Code.

(b) "Jurisdiction" means a city, county, or city and county.

(c) "Regional entity" means a regional government that is not a council of government that is responsible for allocating regional housing need pursuant to Sections 65584, 65584.04, and 65584.05 of the Government Code.

(d) "Regional housing need assessment" or "RHNA" means the existing and projected need for housing for each region, as determined by the department pursuant to Section 65584.01 of the Government Code.

50515.13. (a) The Regional Early Action Planning Fund is hereby established in the State Treasury for the purpose of providing councils of governments, regional entities, and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including grants for planning activities to enable those entities to meet the seventh and subsequent cycles of the regional housing need assessment.

(b) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be made available to the department for allocation in accordance with this chapter.

50515.14. (a) The department shall allocate funds from the Regional Early Action Planning Fund to each council of governments or regional entity responsible for allocating regional housing need, pursuant to Sections 65584, 65584.04, and 65584.05 of the Government Code, in accordance with this section.



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(b) A council of governments or regional entity may apply for funds, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, beginning 39 months prior to the next applicable housing element due date pursuant to Section 65588 of the Government Code.

(c) Funds shall be distributed by the department on a population basis based on the most recent population estimates posted on the Department of Finance's internet website.

(d) An application shall include, at minimum and in a form and manner prescribed by the department, all of the following information:

(1) An allocation budget for the funds provided pursuant to this section.

(2) Amounts to be retained by the council of governments or regional entity, and any suballocations to jurisdictions.

(3) An explanation of how proposed uses will increase housing planning and facilitate local housing production.

(4) Identification of current best practices at the regional and statewide level that promote sufficient supply of housing affordable to all income levels, and a strategy for increasing adoption of these practices at the regional level, where viable.

(5) An education and outreach strategy to inform jurisdictions of the need and benefits of taking early action related to housing need, as quantified by the regional housing need assessment.

(e) The department shall review an application submitted pursuant to this section within 30 days, otherwise the application shall be deemed approved. Upon approval of an application for funds pursuant to this section, the department shall award the moneys for which the council of governments or regional entity, as applicable, qualify.

50515.15. (a) A council of governments or regional entity may expend funds awarded pursuant to Section 50515.14 for any of the following purposes:

(1) Activities that support the development, improvement, or implementation of the methodology for the seventh and subsequent RHNA cycles, to further the objectives described in subdivision (d) of Section 65584 of the Government Code.

(2) Suballocating moneys directly and equitably to jurisdictions in the form of grants for planning that will accommodate the development of housing and infrastructure that accelerates housing production in a way that aligns with state planning priorities, and housing, transportation, equity, and climate goals.

(3) Providing jurisdictions with technical assistance, planning, temporary staffing, or consultant needs associated with updating local planning and zoning documents, including any activity related to updating or implementing a jurisdiction's housing element, expediting application processing, and other actions to accelerate additional housing production.

(4) Administrative costs necessary to implement this section, which may be up to 5 percent of an entity's total award.

(5) Activities to establish a regional or countywide housing trust, or to allocate a portion of funds to an existing regional or countywide housing trust, for the purpose of supporting planning, predevelopment, or other activities that facilitate the production of housing consistent with this chapter.

(6) Activities, determined in consultation with the department, that support regional or local housing planning priorities consistent with this chapter.



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(b) A jurisdiction that receives a suballocation of funds pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) shall only use that suballocation for housing-related planning activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Technical assistance in improving housing permitting processes, tracking systems, and planning tools.

(2) Establishing regional or countywide housing trust funds for affordable housing.

(3) Performing infrastructure planning, including for sewers, water systems, transit, roads, or other public facilities necessary to support new housing and new residents.

(4) Performing feasibility studies to determine the most efficient locations to site housing consistent with Sections 65041.1 and 65080 of the Government Code.

(5) Covering the costs of temporary staffing or consultant needs associated with the activities described in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (a).

(c) A council of governments or regional entity receiving funds shall submit annual reports to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The reports shall include information on expenditures and suballocations to jurisdictions.

(d) A council of governments or regional entity shall submit a final report to the department upon expenditure of all funds, or as otherwise required by the department. The final report shall include information on outcomes achieved, including the corresponding impact on housing within the region.

(e) The department may publish a summary of information received pursuant to this section on its internet website.

(f) The department may monitor expenditures and activities of an applicant, as the department deems necessary, to ensure compliance with program requirements.

(g) The department shall issue guidelines to implement this chapter. The adoption, amendment, or repeal of guidelines authorized by this subdivision is hereby exempted from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).



LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.

as introduced, Solache.

General Subject: Local government assistance: Regional Early Action Planning Fund.

Existing law, the Planning and Zoning Law, requires each county and each city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and specified land outside its boundaries, that includes, among other specified mandatory elements, a housing element. That law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with each council of governments, to determine the existing and projected need for housing in each region and further requires the appropriate council of governments, or the department for cities and counties without a council of governments, to adopt a final regional housing need plan that allocates a share of the regional housing need to each city, county, or city and county, as provided. Existing law establishes the Local Government Planning Support Grants Program, administered by the department, for the purpose of providing regions and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including grants for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to meet the sixth cycle of the regional housing need assessment, as provided.

This bill would establish the Regional Early Action Planning Fund in the State Treasury for the purpose of providing councils of governments, regional entities, and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including grants for planning activities, to enable those entities to meet the 7th and subsequent cycles of the regional housing need assessment. The bill would require the department to allocate funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, from the Regional Early Action Planning Fund to each council of governments or regional entity responsible for allocating regional housing need that applies and qualifies for those moneys, as specified. The bill would authorize a council of governments or regional entity to expend funds awarded for certain purposes, including for activities that support the development, improvement, or implementation of the methodology for the 7th and subsequent regional housing needs assessment cycles, and for providing jurisdictions with technical assistance, planning, temporary staffing, or consultant needs associated with updating local planning and zoning documents, as provided. The bill would require a jurisdiction that receives a suballocation of funds to only use that suballocation for housing-related planning activities, as provided. The bill would authorize the department to monitor expenditures and activities of an applicant, as the department deems necessary, to ensure compliance with program requirements.

Existing law, the Administrative Procedure Act, sets forth the requirements for the adoption, publication, review, and implementation of regulations by state agencies.

This bill would require the department to issue guidelines to implement the above-described provisions and would exempt those guidelines from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.



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Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

From: Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
213-236-1836, chidsey@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Congestion
Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

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:

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) were both first authorized in 1991 through the enactment of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), with increased levels of funding through each subsequent surface transportation reauthorization, including most recently through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law in 2021. In its role as the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for the selection of projects funded through both programs in the SCAG region. SCAG administers the programs in partnership with the county transportation commissions.

Future levels of federal funding for both STBG and CMAQ, like other federal funds, are subject to congressional reauthorization. This report provides background on the history of the program and alignment of these resources with regional priorities adopted by the Regional Council in Connect SoCal.

BACKGROUND:

The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program is a federal transportation funding source for projects that preserve and improve the conditions and performance of highways, bridges, and public roads; pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure; and transit capital projects. The program was first authorized in 1991 through the passage of ISTE. The most recent surface transportation reauthorization, IIJA, authorized \$72 billion for the STBG program over five years.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program is a federal funding source for transportation projects and programs to reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet “National Ambient Air Quality Standards” for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (nonattainment areas) and for former nonattainment areas that are now in compliance (maintenance areas). CMAQ was also first authorized in 1991 through ISTEA. The IIJA authorized \$13.2 billion for the CMAQ program over five years.

Federal Performance Management & Performance-Based Programming

While ISTEA significantly enhanced the role of MPOs by allocating federal funds through regional planning processes, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP 21) further extended the responsibility of MPOs by requiring the use of quantitative metrics in transportation planning to better align federal investments with federal priorities, including prioritizing projects through development and administration of the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). As authorized, in areas with populations over 200,000 (i.e. Transportation Management Areas or TMAs), the MPO is also responsible for the selection of projects using STBG and CMAQ funds, typically through a call for project nominations, followed by a review and evaluation of the proposed projects’ ability to achieve mobility improvements, increase safety outcomes, and attain pollution reduction alongside other priorities established by the region in the RTP.

In California, state legislation was passed in 1992, delegating project selection responsibilities to the relevant counties, specifically in the six-county Southern California region (affecting Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties). In doing so, STBG and CMAQ funds were sub-allocated to counties based on their population, a practice that was determined to be inconsistent with principles of federal performance-based programming and in violation of federal law.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

During SCAG’s 2022 federal certification review, required of MPOs every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a corrective action requiring a review of the CMAQ and STBG project selection processes in the Southern California region. In summary, FHWA and FTA found that the SCAG region and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) were not meeting the federal criteria for these programs by allocating the funds based on population.

In response, SCAG developed a compliance action plan to address the corrective action in collaboration with Caltrans and the Southern California region’s six county transportation commissions (Imperial County Transportation Commission, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, Ventura County

Transportation Commission). Using the FHWA and FTA approved compliance action plan as a foundation, SCAG developed program guidelines for each subsequent call for project nominations.

The guidelines were developed to align local, regional, and federal priorities. Key guideline provisions included the following:

- Prioritization of project categories implementing the RTP, Connect SoCal, which is SCAG's long-range, comprehensive plan for the Southern California region, organized around mobility, communities, environment, and economy;
- Recognition of the historical role of the county transportation commissions, establishing performance-based county targets and priorities, including county-specific project prioritization frameworks that considers county-level plans, policies, and objectives;
- Authorization to program funds in SCAG's annual overall work program for regional planning and programs; and
- Assurance that selected projects advance progress in meeting federal performance management goals and are consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Since the implementation of SCAG's distribution process, several benefits have been noted, including:

- Expanded access to all eligible agencies (e.g., cities, counties, transit agencies, and federally recognized tribal governments) for STBG and CMAQ funds;
- Alignment with federal policies, including federal STBG and CMAQ guidelines, air district coordination, and air quality analysis review;
- The ability for qualifying agencies to access the larger regional pool of apportionments for critical projects, which would otherwise exceed several years of apportionments at the county-level or other sub-allocation level;
- Leveraging SCAG's resources to improve project delivery and leveraging available funding, ensuring Regional Transportation Plan implementation, and improved coordination with Caltrans and federal partners (i.e., FHWA and FTA).

STATUS:

SCAG has administered two funding cycles in compliance with federal law since the issuance of the corrective action. Funding awards have been generally consistent with historical shares for each of the counties. The next cycle is subject to Federal Reauthorization, which will determine the structure

and level of funding available across all federal transportation programs. SCAG has been working in partnership with MPOs across the country to increase funding available, strengthening core formula programs like STBG and CMAQ, to improve regional and local access to these dollars. This is supported by our board approved reauthorization priorities, including preservation of critical dedicated formula funding, adjusted for inflation, to continue the timely delivery of infrastructure projects without interruption.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the staff report on the STBG and CMAQ programs is contained in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

To: LCMC - Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee

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

Subject: 2026 Sacramento Summit and Legislative Priorities

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL**

Kome Ajise

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:

SCAG's annual Sacramento Summit will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17, 2026, in Sacramento. The SCAG delegation, generally composed of members of the Executive-Administration Committee (EAC) and Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC), will meet with state legislators and their staff to communicate the region's legislative priorities. Typically, meeting requests are submitted to legislative leadership, members of the policy committees most relevant to SCAG's core planning work, and newly elected legislators from the SCAG region.

To ensure an exciting and relevant Sacramento Summit, staff recommends the content focus on the following themes and topics: (1) SB 375 Reform Bill; (2) REAP 1.0 Codification Sponsor Bill; and (3) Housing Policy Update.

For the February 2026 LCMC meeting, staff welcome any additional feedback relating to the annual Sacramento Summit.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG's annual Sacramento Summit will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17, 2026, at the Hyatt Centric Sacramento Hotel and the State Capitol.

The SCAG delegation, generally composed of members of the Executive-Administration Committee (EAC) and Legislative/ Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC), will meet with state legislators and their staff to communicate the region's legislative priorities. Typically, meeting

requests are submitted to legislative leadership, newly elected legislators from the SCAG region, and members of the following committees most relevant to SCAG's core planning activities:

- Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
- Assembly Budget Committee
- Senate Transportation Committee
- Assembly Transportation Committee
- Senate Housing Committee
- Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee
- Senate Environmental Quality Committee
- Assembly Natural Resources Committee

To ensure an exciting and relevant Sacramento Summit, staff recommends the content focus on the following themes and topics: (1) SB 375 Reform Bill; (2) REAP 1.0 Codification Sponsor Bill; and (3) Housing Policy Update.

For the February 2026 LCMC meeting, staff welcome any feedback relating to the annual Sacramento Summit.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the LCMC receive this informational update on the Sacramento Summit and Legislative Priorities and provide any feedback on the planned Sacramento Summit.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with the 2026 Sacramento Summit and Legislative Priorities staff report is contained in the Indirect Cost budget, Legislation 810-0120.10.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation - 2026 Sacramento Summit Overview

2026 Sacramento Summit Overview

February 17, 2026

David Angel, Sr. Legislative Affairs Analyst

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

SACRAMENTO SUMMIT

- **Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17, 2026**
- **Same Format as 2025**
 - Two half days
 - Starts in the afternoon on day one and ends in the afternoon on day 2
- **Hyatt Centric Sacramento Hotel**





Schedule



Monday, March 16, 2026		
Event	Location	Time
Lunch	Hyatt Centric – Baby Ballroom	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Tuesday Panel Session	Hyatt Centric – Baby Ballroom	1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
SCAG Alumni Dinner	Il Fornaio	6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Tuesday, March 17, 2026		
Event	Location	Time
Administration Breakfast	Hyatt Centric – 7 th Street PDR	8:00 am – 9:30 am
Legislative Breakout Meetings	Swing Space	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lunch	Caltrans Basement *tentative*	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Additional Meetings	Swing Space	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Main Legislative Priorities:

1. SB 375 Reform Bill
2. REAP 1.0 Codification Bill



Additional Priorities/Updates:

3. Housing Policy



Targeted State Legislators:

- Legislative Leadership
- Budget & Fiscal Review Committees
- Housing Committees
- Transportation Committees
- Environmental Quality/Natural Resources Committees



Thank you

Questions?