



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WESTSIDE CITIES COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Date: April 14, 2022**  
12:00 PM Meeting  
1:15 PM Adjourn

**Hosted by:** City of Culver City  
**Location:** Mike Balkman Council Chambers  
9770 Culver Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232

## **AGENDA**

Public comment on any agenda item may be made during the consideration of that item. All comments on items not listed on the agenda may be made during the time allotted on the agenda to the public. Members of the public may comment by raising a hand and being recognized by the Chair. Speakers shall confine their comments to three minutes per speaker. Unless otherwise noted in the Agenda, the public may only comment on matters that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) or items listed on the agenda

### **IN-PERSON MEETING**

The WSCCOG Regular Board Meetings will resume in-person beginning with the first meeting in April. *All meeting attendees and members of the WSCCOG Board and staff will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, during the meeting.*

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Members of the Public who wish to watch the meeting or make public comments at the meeting live must attend in-person as the meeting will not be broadcasted live. Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Board must provide comments in-person at the meeting or submit an email with their written comments limited to 1,000 characters to [riley@estolanoadvisors.com](mailto:riley@estolanoadvisors.com) by no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. \*Note: E-Comments received after 12:00 p.m. will be forwarded to the Board and posted on the COG's website at [www.westsidecities.org/meeting](http://www.westsidecities.org/meeting) as part of the official meeting record. The email address will remain open during the meeting for providing public comment during the meeting. Emails received during the meeting will be read out loud at the appropriate time during the meeting provided they are received before the Board takes action on an item (or can be read during general public comment). Please contact Winnie Fong at [winnie@estolanoadvisors.com](mailto:winnie@estolanoadvisors.com) or (323) 306-9856 and Riley O'Brien at [riley@estolanoadvisors.com](mailto:riley@estolanoadvisors.com).

# AGENDA

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

## 2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS (2 min)

## 3. ACTION ITEMS (20 min)

### A. [Approval of February 10, 2022 Draft Meeting Notes](#)

**Recommended Action:** Approve the February 10, 2022 draft meeting notes.

### B. [WSCCOG Regional Director to the League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division](#)

**Recommended Action:** Consider nominations and appoint the WSCCOG Primary Representative as the Regional Director to the League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division.

### C. [SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee Representative](#)

**Recommended Action:** Consider nominations and appoint the WSCCOG Primary Representative to the SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee.

### D. [Metro Westside/Central Service Council Representative](#)

**Recommended Action:** Consider nominations and appoint the WSCCOG Primary Representative to the Metro Westside/Central Service Council.

### E. [Metro Subregional Equity Program \(SEP\) Guidelines](#)

**Recommended Action:** Approve the Metro Subregional Equity Program (SEP) guidelines and authorize the WSCCOG Executive Director to request any clarifications on, or revisions to, the SEP Guidelines based on ongoing conversations among Metro staff, COG staff, and member jurisdiction staff.

### F. [Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program Study](#)

**Recommended Action:** Approve the consultant team recommended by SCAG and the Proposal Review Committee (PRC) for the Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program study under the WSCCOG Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program.

### G. [WSCCOG Homelessness Strategic Work Plan](#)

**Recommended Action:** Adopt the WSCCOG Homelessness Strategic Work Plan.

## 4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (15 min)

- A. Executive Director Meetings with WSCCOG Board Members
- B. Rotation of WSCCOG Treasurer

5. **TRANSPORTATION** (5 min)
  - A. Measure M Multi-Year Subregional Program (MSP) Update
  - B. I-405 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) Initial Project Evaluation List
  
6. **HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING** (15 min)
  - A. [SCAG letter to the State - Request for Informational Hearing on the Status of Housing Element Updates](#)
  - B. [WSCCOG Regional Early Action Plan \(REAP\) Program Updates](#)
  - C. [Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Final Report and Recommendations](#)
  
7. **LEGISLATION** (5 min)
  - A. [League of California Cities Update](#)
  
8. **INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 min)
  - A. [Regional Climate Change Event](#)
  
9. **FUTURE MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS** (2 min)
  - A. Future Meeting
    - i. Thursday, June 9, 2022 (Location TBD)
  - B. Future Agenda Items
    - i. WSCCOG Boardmember Requests for Future Agenda Items
    - ii. WSCCOG Annual Meeting - Election of new COG Governing Board Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer); appointment of Committee Members; and adoption of the annual budget and work plan.
  
10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (6 min)
  
11. **ADJOURN**

Written materials distributed to the Board within 72 hours of the Board meeting are available for public inspection immediately upon distribution at the WSCCOG office 801 S. Grand Ave. #530, Los Angeles, CA 90017, during normal business hours. Such documents will also be posted on the WSCCOG website at [www.westsidecities.org](http://www.westsidecities.org) and will be made available at the meeting.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact WSCCOG Project Director Winnie Fong at 323-306-9856 or [winnie@estolanoadvisors.com](mailto:winnie@estolanoadvisors.com) at least three days prior to the meeting.



**DRAFT MEETING NOTES**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022  
12:00 NOON

VIRTUAL MEETING

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Beverly Hills:** Mayor Robert Wunderlich (WSCCOG Vice Chair). Staff: Gabriella Yap, Cindy Owens.
- Culver City:** Councilmember Alex Fisch (WSCCOG Secretary). Staff: Shelly Wolfberg, Helen Chin, Lauren Marsiglia, Jane Chan.
- Santa Monica:** Mayor Sue Himmelrich, Councilmember Phil Brock. Staff: Jason Kligier, Stephanie Venegas.
- West Hollywood:** Mayor Pro Tem Sepi Shyne (WSCCOG Chair). Staff: Hernan Molina, David Fenn, Corri Planck, Andi Lovano, Yvonne Quarker.
- City of LA:** District 5 Staff: Jay Greenstein. District 11 Staff: Eric Bruins. LADOT: Rubina Ghazarian. Analyst's Office: Steve Luu
- County of LA:** Supervisorial District 2 Staff: Karishma Shamdasani.
- WSCCOG:** Staff: Cecilia Estolano (WSCCOG Executive Director), Winnie Fong, Riley O'Brien. Legal Counsel: Lauren Langer.
- Other:** Patrick Chandler, Matthew Marquez, Jackie Su, Jody Litvak, Cory Zelmer (Metro); Sarah Patterson (SCAG); Josh Kurpies (Office of Assemblymember Richard Bloom); Jeff Kiernan (League of California Cities); Denny Shaw (South Coast AQMD); Kay Hartman (Palms Neighborhood Council)

**1. WSCCOG REGULAR BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Sepi Shyne (WSCCOG Chair) called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS**

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Authorization to Conduct Teleconferencing Meetings under AB 361**

Lauren Langer (WSCCOG Legal Counsel) recommended moving forward with the authorization to conduct teleconferencing meetings under AB 361. This is the same authorization used during the December 2021 WSCCOG Board Meeting.

Councilmember Alex Fisch (City of Culver City) moved to adopt the staff recommendation, and Councilmember Phil Brock (City of Santa Monica) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**B. Approval of December 9, 2021 Draft Meeting Notes**

Mayor Robert Wunderlich (City of Beverly Hills) moved to approve the meeting notes, and Councilmember Brock (City of Santa Monica) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**C. Metro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Streets and Freeway – WSCCOG Primary Representative**

Cecilia Estolano (WSCCOG Executive Director) noted that WSCCOG staff previously released a call for letters of interest for the Metro TAC Streets and Freeway subcommittee. Estolano explained that WSCCOG staff received one letter of interest from Andrew Maximous, a Mobility & Traffic Engineering Manager at Culver City, whose qualifications are outlined in his letter in the agenda packet.

Mayor Wunderlich (City of Beverly Hills) moved to approve the nomination of Andrew Maximous, and Councilmember Fisch (City of Culver City) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**D. Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project Public Scoping Comment Period**

Estolano provided background information on the staff recommendation, explaining that Metro's Sepulveda Transit Corridor is one of the largest and most important transportation projects impacting the WSCCOG subregion. Estolano noted that the WSCCOG Board of Directors voted in 2021 to support an underground alignment with a station at UCLA. In the months following that decision, WSCCOG staff and member jurisdiction staff continued to discuss and track the project's planning process leading to the February 11, 2022, deadline for comments on the project scoping period.

Estolano described the updated staff recommendation for WSCCOG staff to submit a comment letter affirming the WSCCOG's support of a project alignment with a UCLA station and a seamless connection to the Metro D Line (Purple). Estolano also clarified that the comment letter would not take a position on possible grade separation plans due to interest in a variety of approaches among member jurisdictions.

Staff member David Fenn (City of West Hollywood) noted that some transit advocates on social media expressed confusion regarding the WSCCOG staff recommendation and suggested minor changes to the statement. Specifically, Fenn suggested clarifying that the WSCCOG supports a station on the UCLA campus. Estolano agreed with this suggestion and clarified that the staff recommendation would read as follows: "The Westside Cities COG supports a Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project alignment with a station *at the UCLA Campus and* that facilitates a seamless connection to the Metro D Line (Purple)."

During the public comment period, Kay Hartman, Treasurer of the Palms Neighborhood Council, expressed concern about Metro's Alternative 6 given the lack of a connection to the Expo/Sepulveda E Line (Expo) station, which would allow for seamless transfer to the Culver City Line 6 bus to LAX. Hartman also expressed support for a project mode that is interchangeable with other Metro lines and expressed concern about a "mix-and-match" approach.

Mayor Wunderlich (City of Beverly Hills) moved to approve the staff recommendation as amended by West Hollywood staff member David Fenn, and Councilmember Fisch (City of Culver City) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**E. WSCCOG Ballona Creek Bike Path Extension Support Letter**

Estolano described the updated WSCCOG staff recommendation to withdraw this item because the WSCCOG already expressed support for the by project by listing the Ballona Creek Bike Path Extension on the WSCCOG unfunded Strategic Project List submitted to Metro in 2021. Estolano noted that WSCCOG staff chose to withdraw the item after coordinating with Councilmember Fisch (City of Culver City) and added that the WSCCOG will support the project in other ways.

**F. WSCCOG Letter to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Homelessness**

Winnie Fong (WSCCOG Project Director) described the Blue Ribbon Committee on Homelessness, which was established in late 2021 to study the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)'s governance structure and to provide recommendations on improving the agency's efficiency. Throughout January and February of 2022, WSCCOG staff has worked with member jurisdiction staff in the WSCCOG Homelessness Working Group to draft a letter to the Blue Ribbon Committee with recommendations on funding, public engagement, data sharing, governance, and accountability procedures.

Mayor Sue Himmelrich (City of Santa Monica) moved to approve the staff recommendation, and Councilmember Fisch (City of Culver City) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Estolano described several upcoming openings for Board-appointed positions representing the WSCCOG. These include positions for elected officials to represent the WSCCOG at the League of California Cities, the SCAG Community, Economic, and Housing Development (CEHD) Committee, the SCAG Transportation Policy Committee, and the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee. Staff member Hernan Molina (City of West Hollywood) noted that Mayor Lauren Meister (City of West Hollywood) is interested in continuing as the SCAG CEHD representative from the WSCCOG. Estolano also described an upcoming opening on the Metro Westside/Central Service Council, although the current representative, Francisco Gomez of West Hollywood, has expressed interest in staying on the council.

**5. TRANSPORTATION UPDATES**

Estolano noted that staff has been facilitating ongoing discussions with the Transportation Working Group on a preliminary draft list of projects for the SEP funding. Estolano described how the jurisdictions have expressed the need for flexibility in the SEP allocation plan, as the WSCCOG subregion's transportation priorities may change over

time. Several members also recommended that we prioritize SEP funds for projects that lack a clear and/or stable funding source.

Estolano added that WSCCOG staff is requesting additional time to fully develop a prioritized list of projects. In addition, Estolano noted that Metro is developing policy guidelines for the SEP program and will be asking the COGs for input. WSCCOG staff will work with the WSCCOG Transportation Working Group and report to the WSCCOG Board with any updates on Metro's SEP guidelines.

Estolano continued the transportation updates by describing the status of Metro's Multi-Year Subregional Program (MSP) annual update. Estolano noted that the agenda packet includes Metro's projected cashflow and unallocated balance for FY 2024 through 2026, which estimates \$9.7 million for the WSCCOG subregion's Active Transportation and 1st/Last Mile Connection Program. Fehr and Peers is currently working with each member jurisdiction to identify any budget shortfalls, propose any modifications to existing projects on the current MSP list, and to add new projects where funding allows. WSCCOG staff will provide an update at the next WSCCOG Board meeting, which may include a proposed list of MSP project list amendments before submittal to the Metro Board.

## **6. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATES**

Winnie Fong (WSCCOG Project Director) provided an update on the WSCCOG Subregional Homelessness Plan. To provide context for new WSCCOG Board members, Fong described how the Subregional Homelessness Plan process began in 2019 but was placed on hold to address the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, WSCCOG staff revisited the plan and realized that priorities may have shifted due to the pandemic. Therefore, WSCCOG staff met with the Homelessness Working Group to begin updating the plan. WSCCOG staff intends to use the plan as a guiding document to conduct activities and convenings with the WSCCOG Homelessness Working Group to achieve common goals and implement the actions outlined in the plan. The plan will be an evolving document that WSCCOG staff and the Homelessness Working Group can amend to reflect priorities that may change over time. To continue this planning effort, WSCCOG staff would like the WSCCOG Board to review the staff report and determine whether to formally adopt it at the next meeting.

Cecilia Estolano (WSCCOG Executive Director) added that a formal review of this plan by the WSCCOG Board would provide very helpful guidance to staff working to address homelessness across the subregion. Mayor Sue Himmelrich (City of Santa Monica) expressed agreement with the plan's focus on behavioral health but suggested that the plan should specifically address increasing psychiatric bed capacity. Mayor Himmelrich cited a Rand Corporation study estimating the need for and shortages of psychiatric bed capacity throughout California.

Fong continued the housing and homelessness updates by describing the launch of the first Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) project with the Arup consultant team for the Westside Development Constraints Cost and Land Use Regulation Policy Actions study. In addition, on December 21st, SCAG released the RFP for the another REAP project on the feasibility and development of a Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program. The deadline for proposal submissions was January 31, 2022.

SCAG reported that only one proposal was submitted for the newer REAP project. WSCCOG staff advised SCAG to extend the RFP deadline to encourage more proposals to be considered as expressed by the WSCCOG Board at the December 2021 meeting.

WSCCOG staff would like to minimize any extensions to the procurement timeline as the funds encumbered for this project must be used for a completed project by June 2023. The WSCCOG and SCAG will ensure that the consultant is allowed adequate time to complete the tasks outlined in the RFP.

Estolano added that SCAG's bench of housing consultants has been inundated with requests for REAP projects. Mayor Himmelrich (City of Santa Monica) suggested partnering with other COGs on RFP to obtain more responses and asked who has bid on RFPs for other COGs. Estolano and Fong clarified that this is SCAG's process and that they cannot disclose responses. However, Estolano noted that they can urge SCAG to consider partnering with other COGs. Councilmember Alex Fisch (City of Culver City) emphasized the supply chain constraints and acknowledged the challenge of spending the REAP funds effectively.

## **7. LEGISLATION**

Jeff Kiernan (League of California Cities) noted that next Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, is the deadline for the introduction for new state legislation. Kiernan noted that relatively few bills have been introduced, so they expect many new bills to be introduced by the February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline. Kiernan added that Governor Newsom recently signed a new bill requiring paid sick leave for up to 80 hours between January and September, with reimbursement available for private employers but not public employers.

Kiernan continued by describing the League's support for various aspects of the proposed state budget, which would include \$2B for affordable housing and \$8B for homelessness. Kiernan also noted that the budget includes a proposed gas tax holiday that may impact fuel revenues for cities, but the League worked with the governor's office to amend the proposal to replace cities' revenue that would result from the tax holiday.

Kiernan concluded by discussing the California Business Roundtable ballot measure, for which the Roundtable is collecting signatures for \$7.50 per signature to accompany a \$1.6M contribution. Kiernan urged the WSCCOG to consider formally opposing this ballot measure.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cecilia Estolano (WSCCOG Executive Director) announced that Form 700 will be due in the coming weeks. Mayor Sue Himmelrich (City of Santa Monica) noted that there may be increased flexibility for multiple jurisdictions to submit Form 700 within a single document. Lauren Langer (WSCCOG Legal Counsel) was not aware of any updates at this time but clarified that Form 700 jurisdictions may differ from the jurisdictions in which each Board Member was elected.

Staff member Patrick Chandler (Metro) announced his departure from his current role in Metro Community Relations, as he is transferring to Metro Media Relations. Riley O'Brien (WSCCOG Analyst) thanked Chandler for his help in providing Metro-related updates to the Transportation Working Group each month.

Josh Kurpies from Asm. Bloom's office announced rent and mortgage relief programs available through HousingIsKey.com and CAmortgagerelief.org respectively. Kurpies also provided the following data on state rental assistance provided thus far to each jurisdiction as of Feb 8, 2022:



- Beverly Hills
  - 677 households = \$15,957,446
- Culver City
  - 302 households = \$4,086,713
- Santa Monica
  - 1,649 households = \$25,619,214
- West Hollywood
  - 1,232 households = \$18,589,580
- Los Angeles County
  - 85,062 households = \$1,052,088,588

**9. FUTURE MEETING LOCATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Estolano noted that the April WSCCOG Board Meeting may occur in-person. In that case, the meeting would be held in Culver City. Estolano added that she will conduct one-on-one meetings with each jurisdiction in March regarding strategic planning of WSCCOG activities.

**10. E-PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**11. ADJOURN**

The WSCCOG Board adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

DRAFT



**DATE:** April 11, 2022

**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board

**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff

**SUBJECT:** WSCCOG Regional Director to the League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division

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### **Recommended Action**

Consider nominations and appoint the WSCCOG Primary Representative as the Regional Director to the League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division.

### **Background**

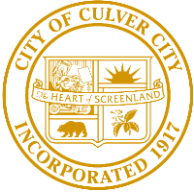
The WSCCOG is calling for letters of interest from elected officials of the WSCCOG member cities to serve as the WSCCOG Regional Director Representative to the League of California Cities (League) Los Angeles County Division. The current representative is Mayor Sue Himmelrich (City of Santa Monica). The term for the incoming Regional Director will commence in May 2022 upon the WSCCOG Board's approval on April 14, 2022. The League allows the COGs to set the term limits. WSCCOG has not established the term limits for the COG Regional Director so the representatives can serve as long as they are interested.

The Los Angeles County Division is made up of 86 cities within Los Angeles County and provides members with the opportunity to exchange ideas and information and share the advantages of cooperative advocacy. The Regional Director will regularly participate in the monthly Legislative Committee and Board of Directors meetings, which usually meets monthly via conference call. The Regional Director is also invited to attend the General Membership meetings and Divisions events, but it is not mandatory to attend.

The WSCCOG released the call for eligible candidates in February 2022 and encouraged candidates to send a letter of interest to the WSCCOG by April 1, 2022. The WSCCOG received a letter from interests from Councilmember Göran Eriksson (City of Culver City) and Councilmember Phil Brock (City of Santa Monica) (refer to attachments for the letter correspondence and the candidates' qualifications).

### **Attachments**

- A. Letter of Interest – Councilmember Göran Eriksson (City of Culver City)
- B. Letter of Interest – Councilmember Phil Brock (City of Santa Monica)



# CITY OF CULVER CITY

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CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA 90232-0507  
CITY HALL Tel. (310) 253-6000  
FAX (310) 253-6010

**DR. DANIEL LEE**  
MAYOR

**ALBERT VERA**  
VICE MAYOR

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
**GÖRAN ERIKSSON**  
**ALEX FISCH**  
**YASMINE-IMANI MCMORRIN**

March 23, 2022

Ms. Winnie Fong  
Principal  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
801 South Grand Avenue, Suite 530  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
winnie@estolanoadvisors.com

**Subject: Letter of Interest - COG Regional Director to the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division**

Dear Ms. Fong:

I'm writing to express my interest in being appointed the COG Regional Director to the League of California Cities, Los Angeles Division. During the past several years, it's been a pleasure serving as Culver City's Alternate Board Member to the Westside Cities Council of Governments. I've also had an opportunity to participate in the Independent Cities Association and was named President last fall. I currently serve on the National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Since being elected to the City Council of the City of Culver City in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, it has been my desire to enhance my service not only to Culver City but also to the region and to the state. I feel fortunate to have been able to devote my time to the aforementioned regional and national boards and would welcome the opportunity to serve the League of California Cities as COG Regional Director in the Los Angeles Division.

I would be honored to be considered for nomination for this position. Please feel free to contact me at (310) 753-3565, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Göran Eriksson  
Council Member

cc: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
John M. Nachbar, City Manager



## Council Member Phil Brock

March 29, 2022

Dear Members of the Westside Council of Governments,

I want to express my interest in serving on the League of California Cities as the WSCCOG Regional Director Representative. My experience serving as a Santa Monica City Council Member, combined with almost fourteen years as a Commissioner and Chair of the Recreation & Parks Commission and four years as an Arts Commissioner, provides a unique insight into many of the issues that affect our cities. In addition, I have decades of additional community experience which will enable me to be an effective representative of the WSCCOG.

As a Santa Monica City Council Member, I have been committed to providing residents with transparency and common sense in government, protecting their pocketbooks, and enhancing the character and diversity of our beachside city. I led the fight to successfully landmark seven blocks of courtyard and garden apartments to preserve needed housing for renters in Santa Monica. In serving on the Civic Auditorium Working Group, I led the fight to convert an unused parking area into a much-needed lacrosse and soccer field for the use of our high school and community. As Chair of the Recreation & Parks Commission, I was a strong advocate for the most extensive park expansion in our city's history. I served as President of the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners & Board Members. I was honored to be the outstanding California Recreation & Parks Commissioner of the Year and our Commission as the outstanding Commission in the state during my term. As a SMMUSD Advisory Committee Chair, I advocated for more physical education and recreational opportunities for all children in the district.

As a City Council Member, my focal points are economic recovery and expansion, protection and expansion of our Section 8 and POD programs, protecting all renters, and providing residents, workforce, and visitors with a safe, clean Santa Monica. Importantly, making sure that Santa Monica's "ship of state" is stable has been a top priority after the turbulence faced these past two years. I have authored legislation to provide increased protection to residents, including a revised lobbyist ordinance, roadway protections, noise ordinances for residential neighborhoods and our parks, and focused on much-needed assistance for our unhoused population.

Westside Council of Governments  
March 29, 2022

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As a community volunteer, I served as President and Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis International, an Elks Trustee, President of the Boys and Girls Clubs Council, Vice-Chair of the Salvation Army, and provided servant leadership to charitable endeavors throughout the WSCCOG area. I was honored as the Santa Monica Volunteer of the Year and Santa Monica's Citizen of the Year during this past decade. I have previously served as the national leader of trade organizations in my professional work.

We face crucial decisions in our communities as we wrestle with numerous challenges to facilitate the affordable and market-rate housing needs of both existing and future residents of our region. The League of California Cities is the unified forum for our municipal interests and is invaluable to our WSCCOG communities. I would be honored to serve my community as the WSCCOG Regional Director Representative to the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division, and expand on the excellent work that continues to be done by WSCCOG.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 310 560-3071.

Best,



**PHIL BROCK**  
Council Member



**DATE:** April 11, 2022

**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board

**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff

**SUBJECT:** SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee Representative

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### **Recommended Action**

Consider nominations and appoint the WSCCOG Primary Representative as the Regional Director to SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee.

### **Background**

The WSCCOG calling for letters of interest from elected officials of the WSCCOG member cities to serve as the WSCCOG representative the SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Policy Committee. The position is currently held by Mayor Lauren Meister (City of West Hollywood) whose term will end on April 30, 2022. The role of the SCAG CEHD Committee is to study problems, programs and other matters which pertain to the regional issues of community, economic and human development and growth. This committee reviews projects, plans and programs of regional significance for consistency and conformity with applicable regional plans. The CEHD Committee has oversight of the Growth Visioning and Growth Forecasting processes, as well as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, the Intergovernmental Review effort and the monitoring and analysis of the Regional Economy. Members of the CEHD Committee serve a two-year term effective May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2024. The CEHD Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

The WSCCOG released the call for eligible candidates in February 2022 and encouraged candidates to send a letter of interest to the WSCCOG by April 1, 2022. The WSCCOG received a letter from interest from Mayor Lauren Meister to continue serving as the WSCCOG representative on the CEHD committee (refer to attachment for the letter correspondence and the candidate's qualifications).

### **Attachment**

- A. Letter of Interest – Mayor Lauren Meister (City of West Hollywood)



# City of West Hollywood

City Hall  
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.  
West Hollywood, CA  
90069-6216  
Tel. (323) 848-6460  
FAX (323) 848 6562

## CITY COUNCIL

LAUREN MEISTER  
*Mayor*

SEPI SHYNE  
*Mayor Pro Tempore*

JOHN D'AMICO  
*Councilmember*

JOHN M. ERICKSON  
*Councilmember*

LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
*Councilmember*

March 3, 2022

Cecilia Estolano, Executive Director  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
c/o Estolano Advisors, LLP  
VIA EMAIL

Re: **Letter of Interest: Reappointment to the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD) for the Westside Cities Council of Government (WSC-COG), 2022-2024**

Dear Ms. Estolano:

I am writing to you to express my interest in continuing to serve as the WSCCOG's representative to SCAG's CEHD. For more than three years I have served on the committee and actively participated in the review and consideration of critical planning efforts for the SCAG region, including the sixth cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). As you know, in 2019, SCAG, as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), initiated the process to update RHNA for Southern California, and during that process, the CEHD committee played an important advisory role, reviewing the recommendations from SCAG's RHNA subcommittee, and formulating its own recommendations to SCAG's Regional Council. Now that RHNA is behind us, we are expanding our focus on housing opportunities, economic development, and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

Our state's ongoing challenges with lack of affordable housing and the persistent homelessness crisis in our communities require in-depth understanding of these complex issues and current policies. Over the last five years, I have served on the West Hollywood City Council's Subcommittee on Homelessness and worked closely with staff, service providers, and others to find solutions that best meet our community's diverse needs. In addition, I have made community resilience a priority for my mayoral term. Resilience involves many aspects of governance, such as planning, climate action, emergency management, and business continuity. Community resilience is very much tied to SCAG's long-term goals.

The WSCCOG is comprised of vibrant Westside cities, each with its own character, and should have a representative who is cognizant of and sensitive to our cities' differences, similarities, and common goals. For all these reasons, I submit my letter of interest for reappointment to CEHD.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 323-848-6460.

Sincerely,

Lauren Meister  
MAYOR

LM:hgm



**DATE:** April 11, 2022  
**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board  
**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Metro Westside/Central Service Council Representative

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### **Recommended Action**

Consider nominations and appoint the WSCCOG Primary Representative to the Metro Westside/Central Service Council.

### **Background**

On January 25, 2022, WSCCOG staff received an annual letter from Metro requesting our nomination for Metro's Westside Central Cities Service Council by Friday, April 22, 2022. The term for our current representative Francisco Gomez (City of West Hollywood) is scheduled to end on June 30, 2022. Gomez notified the WSCCOG staff that he is still interested in continuing serving as our representative and is planning to submit a letter of interest. Other representatives on the Service Council representing the WSCCOG include Martha Eros, City of Beverly Hills (6/2021-6/2023) and David Feinberg, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus (7/2020 – 6/2023).

The WSCCOG released the call for eligible candidates in February 2022 and encouraged candidates to send a letter of interest to the WSCCOG by April 1, 2022. The WSCCOG received a letter from interest from Gomez to continue serving as the WSCCOG representative on the CEHD committee (refer to attachment for the letter correspondence and the candidate's qualifications).

### **Attachment**

- A. Letter of Interest – Francisco Gomez (City of West Hollywood)





# City of West Hollywood

CITY HALL  
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA  
90069-6216  
(323) 848-6400  
weho.org @wehocity

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES AND RENT  
STABILIZATION

March 29, 2022

Board of Directors  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
448 S. Hill Street, Suite 618  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Westside COG Directors:

My current term as WSCCOG representative to LA Metro's Westside/Central Service Council will end in June. I have served in this position since January 2020. Being a member of the Service Council has allowed me to stay abreast of current developments at LA Metro in terms of planning services and develop relationships with Metro staff that allow me to get information benefiting our communities quickly and easily.

As a Transit Program Administrator for the City of West Hollywood, I have a clear grasp of the Westside's transit issues. As a transit user myself, I am also able to experience firsthand the challenges faced by our transit riding constituency and clearly understand the policies that LA Metro proposes.

I would gladly continue to serve in this capacity should the WSCCOG wish to reappoint me. I hope you will approve my nomination. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Francisco Gomez  
Transportation Program Administrator  
City of West Hollywood



**DATE:** April 11, 2022  
**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board  
**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Metro Subregional Equity Program (SEP) Guidelines

---

**Recommended Action**

Approve the Metro Subregional Equity Program (SEP) guidelines and authorize the Westside Cities COG Executive Director to request any clarifications on, or revisions to, the SEP guidelines to provide specificity on the accumulation of SEP funds and to outline a detailed process on the acceleration of SEP funds.

**Background**

In 2016, Metro established and programmed \$1.2 billion to the Measure M Subregional Equity Program (SEP) to provide equivalent funding to each of the other subregions after the Metro Board allocated funding to a San Fernando Valley transit project. Within this program, the WSCCOG is allocated approximately \$160 million. In May 2020, the Metro Board of Directors directed staff to develop guidelines for a uniform process by which subregional councils of governments (COGs) can elect to use the SEP funding. In October 2021, the WSCCOG Board of Directors voted to allocate 25% (\$40 million) of the WSCCOG SEP funding to the Northern Extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line (Crenshaw North), authorized WSCCOG staff to send a letter to the Central City Subregion suggesting they consider allocating a similar amount towards Crenshaw North, and directed WSCCOG staff to work with the WSCCOG Transportation Working Group to suggest allocations for the remainder of WSCCOG SEP funding.

In early March 2022, Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins and staff shared the draft SEP guidelines with the Subregional COG Executive Directors. The draft SEP guidelines outline a funding allocation and distribution process similar to Metro’s Multi-Year Subregional Program (MSP). According to the draft guidelines, Metro will provide a 5-year SEP funding forecast each year, and each COG will develop a preliminary list of projects with input from member jurisdiction staff and the public. Each COG Board of Directors will then approve this list of projects and direct staff to transmit the COG-approved list to Metro for Metro Board approval. As in the current MSP process, each COG will have an opportunity each year to update the SEP five-year plan.

WSCCOG staff worked with staff from each member jurisdiction to review the draft SEP guidelines and send clarifying questions to Metro staff. WSCCOG staff and the Transportation Working Group convened in March and April to address questions and concerns on the guidelines and to develop a recommendation for the WSCCOG Board to act at the April 14<sup>th</sup> WSCCOG board meeting. Staff from each member jurisdiction expressed general support for these guidelines, but also expressed concerns about the process. These concerns include a lack

of clarity regarding the acceleration of SEP funds, a lack of clarity regarding the ability of subregions to accumulate unused funds for larger infrastructure projects, and concern about Metro using SEP funds for cost overruns on Section 1 of the Westside Purple Line Extension.

WSCCOG staff recommends that the WSCCOG Board approve the Metro Subregional Equity Program (SEP) guidelines and authorize the WSCCOG Executive Director to request any clarifications on, or revisions to, the SEP guidelines to provide specificity on the accumulation of SEP funds and to outline a detailed process on the acceleration of SEP funds.

Attachment:

- A. Metro Subregional Equity Program (SEP) Guidelines (as of March 10, 2022)

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**IX.i SUBREGIONAL EQUITY PROGRAM**

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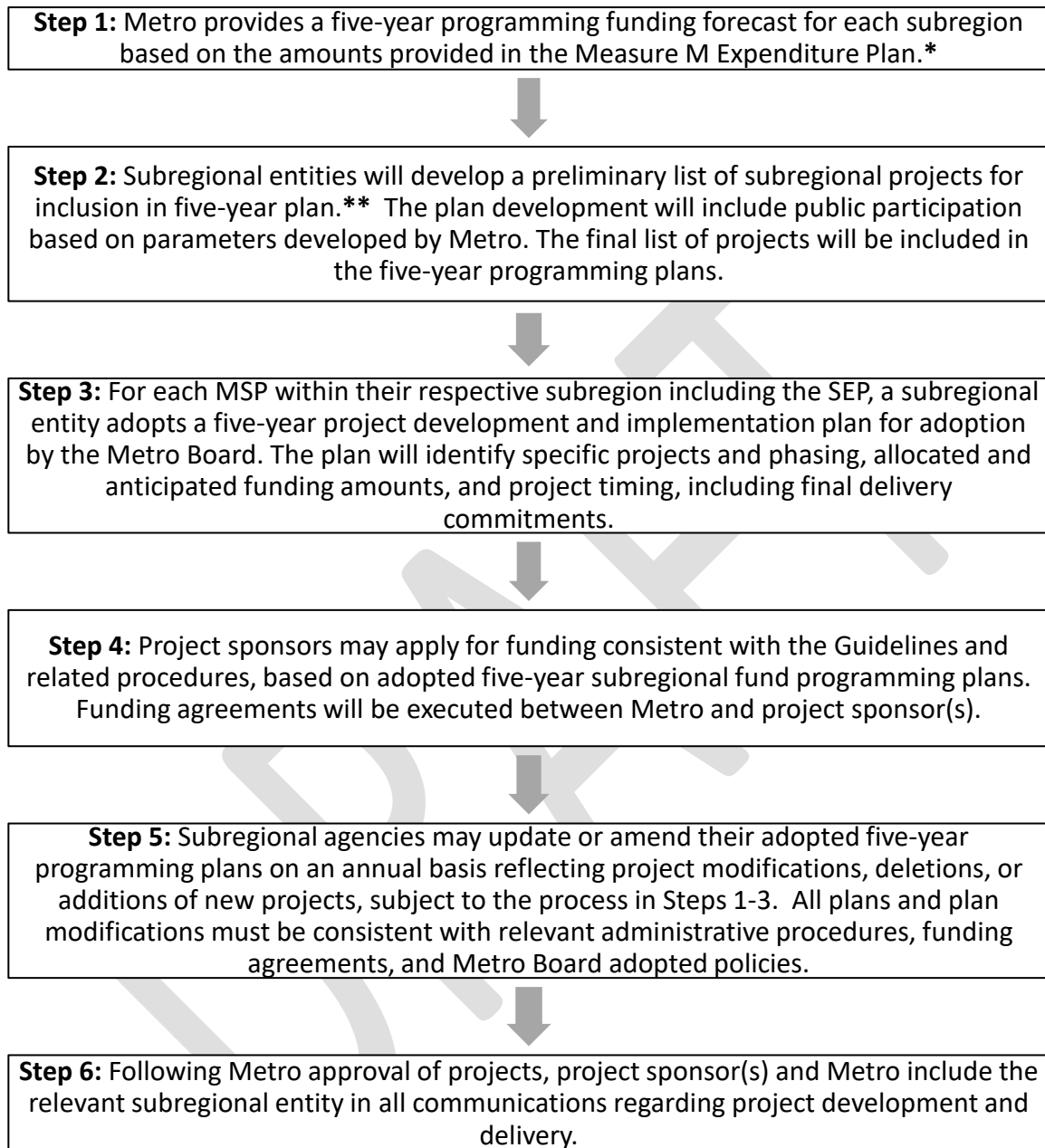
**INTRODUCTION**

The Subregional Equity Program (SEP) is a MSP on row 68 of the Measure M Expenditure Plan. It has Guidelines separate from the MSP Guidelines because the amount of Local, State, Federal, Other and Measure M funding is not specified. A total amount of spending for each subregion is identified, and any spending can be for either transit or highway uses. Projects that subregions submit for this program are subject to the definitions provided in the Ordinance and these Guidelines, and are limited to capital projects.

**Process**

The SEP will go through a subregional program development process similar to the other subregional MSP. The amount of SEP funding available will be consistent with the most recent Long Range Transportation Plan or Short Range Transportation Plan financial forecast presented to the Metro Board, subject to any changes in Metro's financial capacity during the intervening period from the most recent financial forecast and the distribution of SEP funding amounts. It will be adjusted for inflation in accordance with the Ordinance and Board motion 36.1 (Board file #2019-0598). The source of Local, State, Federal, Other, and Measure M funding for the SEP, both transit and highway, will be identified in the financial forecast. Administrative and procedural details for the process may be developed upon the adoption of these Guidelines, in the event it facilitates the functioning of the program. Generally, the development process will follow the steps provided in the following table:

**Table IX.i: Subregional Equity Program Project Development Process**



*\*Metro will announce the funding forecast by year concurrently with the other MSP funding forecasts, and the amounts will extend five years from the date of the announcement and cover the same time period as the other MSP funding forecasts.*

*\*\* Coordination with Metro staff is required to ensure project eligibility, as determined by Metro and the applicable State or federal grant criteria. Administrative review procedures developed specific to each MSP program area (Highways, Transit) will be applied to projects submitted and include plan requirements and eligible use of funds within each MSP program area.*

Resources to support the steps listed in Table IX.i can be drawn from SEP funds (subject to any restrictions on amounts funded from State or federal grants), not to exceed 0.5% of the amounts for any single year determined in Step 1 of Table IX.i. Any additional resources to support the steps in Table IX.i must be drawn from resources under the control of the subregion or its constituent cities.

## **Advancing Funds**

### Metro Staff Recommendation

The amount of SEP funding that has not already been expended or allocated by the Board to another use can be advanced if recommended by Metro staff and adequately noticed to and approved by the respective subregion pursuant to Motion 38.1 (Board file #2020-0356). This motion calls for “Subregional governing body approval of any funding recommendation and use” and “Written notice to the respective Subregional governing body and representative Board offices at least 120 days before Metro recommends the use of SEP funding to ensure adequate time for subregions to understand and approve any funding recommendations.”

Beginning June 17, 2021, Motion 48 (Board file #2021-0435) amends the “Measure R and Measure M Unified Cost Management Policy” to eliminate the SEP from consideration to address project funding shortfalls during construction. Subregions may still choose to make SEP eligible for selected Measure M projects before entering the construction phase.

SEP funding can also be advanced and included in the five-year funding forecast described in Table IX.i. This can occur if Measure M or other local, State, federal, or other funding is made available during the five-year period due to a reduction in funds programmed for a capital project resulting from a decrease in project cost, cancellation or defunding of the project, or provision of other local funds to supplant the funds, as identified and requested by a subregion. In addition, if new local, State, federal, or other funding, that is not already programmed by Metro for another use, is made available, this could be included in the five-year SEP funding forecast and credited against the balance available.

### Request by Subregion

The programming of SEP funds can be considered for acceleration if requested by a subregion and in compliance with existing Board policies, including the Measure M Early Project Delivery Strategy (EPD) from November 2017 (Board file #2017-0686) and the MSP inter-program borrowing provisions in the Measure M Final Guidelines. The EPD requires scoring of proposals to accelerate funds based on factors including the amount of local match and the status of the project in its development process, so long as the acceleration does not negatively impact the funding of other Measure M projects and programs. Metro staff will evaluate the financial impact of any proposed SEP programming and consider the potential use of debt to finance the

SEP that may reduce the immediate cash flow requirement. Metro will accept all proposals by subregions, provide recommendations, and submit the proposals and recommendations to the Metro Board for consideration, which could involve an amendment to the Measure M ordinance.

The subregions may also request SEP funding to deliver a project by borrowing or exchanging, from another MSP that has programmed funding in earlier years, in accordance with the “Cashflow Management” section of the Measure M Final Guidelines. Metro staff will be available to provide technical assistance to the subregions in preparing any proposal to borrow SEP funds.

### **Supplemental Funds Requirements**

If project sponsors are able to fully fund projects identified in their five-year plans, consistent with procedures established within these Guidelines with SEP funds, the project sponsor may proceed to request disbursement of those funds. However, if the project requires supplemental Metro support or funding, including Metro staff resources, then the project must comply with all requirements attached to Metro-sponsored or controlled fund sources and policies, as appropriate. For example, if a project using SEP funds is matched with discretionary fund programs managed by Metro, the project is subject to all evaluation criteria, reporting requirements or other provisions of that discretionary program. There is no minimal additional Metro investment that would prevent additional Measure M policy requirements. The only exception to this rule is the use of Local Return funding from sales tax measures A, C, R or M. Once the Metro supplemental funding request is made, staff will notify project sponsors of policy implications.

Projects and programs utilizing additional assistance or funding are encouraged to comply with the Metro Board adopted Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program and the Prohibition against Discrimination or Preferential Treatment by State and Other Public Entities.

### **READINESS**

The timing of the actual distribution of funds will be determined based on project readiness. The Timely Use of Funds principle applies to the MSP and SEP and requires establishing project readiness to access program funds.

Project readiness will apply to separate phases of a project. Readiness thresholds will be determined for planning, environmental, right of way, and construction and will be defined as appropriate for each funding category as determined by Metro (i.e., Highway, Transit, Active Transportation, etc.).

## **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The SEP funds are subject to the cash flow parameters within these Guidelines. Project sponsors must notify Metro by the last day of February of each year of the amount of subregional funding they plan to use, by project, in the subsequent fiscal year, which for Metro begins July 1. This is needed for Metro budget purposes, and the cash flow expenditure estimate provided may differ from the initial Metro funding forecast or amounts programmed in the funding agreements between Metro and the subregions. When notice is not provided, funding availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis in the subsequent fiscal year.

Per the Cashflow provisions in Section VI, the Metro Board will consider tools that allow for expediting projects within and among subregional programs. Subregional project sponsors can elect to borrow from one MSP fund amount (including the SEP) to accelerate a project in another MSP fund of a different type that may not be available until a later year. This type of inter-program borrowing within the MSP requires approval from Metro and the affected subregion.

## **AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

Use of Measure M funds will be subject to audit and oversight and all other applicable state and local laws.

## **REVISIONS TO PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

These program guidelines may be revised by the Metro Board of Directors at any time.





**DATE:** April 11, 2022

**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board

**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff

**SUBJECT:** Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program Study

---

### **Recommended Action**

Approve the consultant team recommended by SCAG and the Proposal Review Committee (PRC) for the Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program study under the WSCCOG Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program.

### **Background**

On December 21, 2021, SCAG released the request for proposal (RFP) No. 21-047-MRFP 22, SRP-1A WSCCOG REAP Subregional Partnership Project 4 to study the feasibility and development of a Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program. The deadline for the proposal submittals was January 31, 2022. SCAG reported that only one proposal was submitted for this project. WSCCOG staff advised SCAG to extend the RFP deadline to encourage more proposals to be considered as expressed by the WSCCOG Board at the December 2021 meeting.

The WSCCOG reached out to SCAG and the Proposal Review Committee (PRC), which is comprised of the following evaluators: Rachel Kwok, Environmental Planner (City of Santa Monica), Alicen Bartle, Project Development Administrator (City of West Hollywood), Chloe Chen, Associate Planner (City of Beverly Hills), and David Kyobe, Associate Regional Planner (SCAG), to discuss this option.

The PRC evaluated the proposal against a robust evaluation criterion, which scored high based on the evaluation criteria and the PRC determined that an interview was not required. The PRC recommended proceeding with ECONorthwest Consultants based on the firm's experience on similar projects in California related to affordable housing program design and strategy development, key staff qualifications in economics, real estate financing, development, and public financing, and competitive labor rates and overall budget that were under the Independent Cost Estimate for this project.

### **Attachment**

- A. Proposal Review Committee recommendation for ECONorthwest Consultant for Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program



April 7, 2022

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
T: (213) 236-1800  
www.scag.ca.gov

**To: Westside Cities Council of Governments Board**  
**From: Southern California Association of Governments**

**SUBJECT: Proposal Review Committee recommendation for  
ECONorthwest Consultant for Regional Early Action  
Planning (REAP) Westside Subregional Affordable Housing  
Funding Program**

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**Jorge Marquez, Covina**
- Energy & Environment  
**David Pollock, Moorpark**
- Transportation  
**Sean Ashton, Downey**

The Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) is collaborating with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to use funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program to fund a consultant project to explore innovative funding strategies and programs as a framework for forming a potential Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program.

The Westside Subregional Affordable Housing Funding Program RFP was released to SCAG's On-call Services Bench in July 2021, but no bids were received. This RFP was released for a second time on PlanetBids to attract more bids. Only one bid was received, which was from ECONorthwest, a consulting firm that specializes in economics, finance, and planning.

The Proposal Review Committee (PRC) comprised of the following evaluators: Rachel Kwok, Environmental Planner (City of Santa Monica), Alicen Bartle, Project Development Administrator (City of West Hollywood), Chloe Chen, Associate Planner (City of Beverly Hills), and David Kyobe, Associate Regional Planner (SCAG). The PRC evaluated the proposal against a robust evaluation criterion.

The proposal scored high based on the evaluation criteria and the PRC determined that an interview was not required. The PRC recommended proceeding with ECONorthwest Consultants based on the firm's experience on similar projects in California related to affordable housing program design and strategy development, key staff qualifications in economics, real estate financing, development, and public financing, and competitive labor rates and overall budget that were under the Independent Cost Estimate for this project.

The PRC did not recommend extending the RFP submission deadline and does not recommend releasing the RFP for a third time because the PRC is confident that ECONorthwest has the experience, staff qualifications, and capacity to deliver a high-quality final work product. Furthermore, the REAP program guidelines require that funds be expended by June 30, 2023. If the RFP were to be re-competed the project will mostly likely not be meet the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, project completion deadline, therefore SCAG would have to rescind the REAP funds allocated to WSSCOG for this project.

For the aforementioned reasons the PRC recommend that the WSSCOG Board approve ECONorthwest Consultants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Kyobe", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Kyobe  
Associate Regional Planner  
Southern California Association of Governments



**DATE:** April 11, 2022

**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board

**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff

**SUBJECT:** WSCCOG Homelessness Strategic Work Plan

---

### **Recommended Action**

Adopt the WSCCOG Homelessness Strategic Work Plan.

### **Background**

In 2021, the WSCCOG staff resumed activities related to the development of the COG's Regional Homelessness Strategic Action Plan realizing that our priorities may have shifted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WSCCOG staff met with the cities to document updates on the progress of their jurisdictional strategic plans and re-assess new priorities that reflect the realities of the pandemic as well as relief and recovery funds that have followed. The conversations highlighted the cities' shared priorities of expanding rental assistance and other prevention programs, building out behavioral health crisis programs, and continuing to create permanent supportive and affordable housing units. The draft strategic plan has been updated to reflect these priorities and needs (refer to attachment for a summary overview of the report).

The WSCCOG intends to use this Subregional Homelessness Strategic Action Plan as a guiding document to conduct a series of activities and convenings with members of the WSCCOG Homelessness Working Group to collaborate in achieving the goals and implementing the following actions as outlined below for this plan. This plan will be an evolving document that the WSCCOG staff and WSCCOG Homelessness Working Group can amend to reflect priorities that may change over time. The plan includes a set of strategic actions that identifies the lead agency and supporting agencies for each task. An estimated timeline is included for each action for the WSCCOG staff to measure progress over time. WSCCOG staff will provide an annual update to the WSCCOG Board on our activities and progress status of this plan at the end of each calendar year.

### **Attachment**

- A. Summary of the WSCCOG Homelessness Strategic Work Plan



# WESTSIDE CITIES

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Subregional Homelessness Work Plan  
April 14, 2021

1

## Overview of Work Plan

- Purpose is to promote and organize collaboration in achieving its goals and implementing actions as outlined
- “Living” document: working group can amend to reflect priorities that may change over time
- WSCCOG staff will provide an annual update to the WSCCOG Board on our activities and progress status of this plan at the end of each calendar year.



2

## Background & Timeline

- **2019** Ad Hoc Committee forms and begins work
- **2020** COVID-19 Response & Recovery and Racial Justice Reckoning
- **2021** Re-Assessment of CEO-HI Strategies
- **2022** Finalize Homelessness Working Group Work Plan



3

## How to Read Work Plan

### Name of Goal Category

- **Description of Goal**
- **Issue/Needs**
- **Description of Strategy**
- **Key Action Chart**
  - ✓ # of Strategy
  - ✓ Key Action
  - ✓ Lead
  - ✓ Support
  - ✓ Estimated Start Date
  - ✓ Estimated End Date

*\*Some Key Actions are cross-listed if they fall under two Goal Categories*



4

## Subregional Goals



5

## Key Action Types



Advocacy



Information sharing



Meeting with agencies (resource sharing)



6

# Prevention

**Goal:** Increase supports for renters to ensure they can stay in their homes and communities.

**Strategies:**

- 1.1. Continue to Utilize and Expand Key Prevention Programs
- 1.2. Expand Tenant Protections, Outreach, and Supportive Services

**Key Action Example:** Advocate for and support increased, direct, flexible, multi-year county, state, and federal funding to support citywide and County homelessness prevention programs. Additionally, advocate to streamline the pass through of state and federal prevention funds to local jurisdictions and service providers.



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# Behavioral Health

**Goals:**

- a. Expand sub-regional capacity.
- b. Build robust behavioral health alternative crisis response systems.
- c. Expand first responder system capacity.

**Strategies:**

- 2.1. Ensure Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- 2.2. Roll Out the New Behavioral Health Crisis 9-8-8 Program

**Key Action Example:** Convene with DMH, as the regional lead, on the County's in-progress Behavioral Health Crisis 9-8-8 program, to ensure Westside Cities are equitably served by the resource.



8



## Data

**Goal:** Improve data sharing across the subregion to better inform deployment of supportive services and development of housing resources.

**Strategies:**

- 3.1. Promote Access to Data and Improve Regional Data Tracking
- 3.2. Improve Access to Case Management Data with Akido Labs

**Key Action Example:** Advocate and coordinate for all Westside Cities to gain access to HMIS.



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## High Road Career Pathways & Training

**Goal:** Leverage workforce development opportunities to:

- a. Create high road career pathways for unhoused or formerly unhoused individuals.
- b. Improve job quality and support for homeless outreach service workers.
- c. Provide uniform and consistent training for frontline city staff who regularly interface with unhoused residents.

**Strategies:**

- 4.1. Improve Hiring and Employment Retention of Unhoused Residents
- 4.2. Support Outreach Workers

**Key Action Example:** Advocate for the County/LAHSa to improve quality job standards for outreach workers through contracting power, improved funding, and other policies including but not limited to mandating living wages, hazard pay, increased time off, and improved mental health services.



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# Housing

**Goal:** Remove barriers to and increase housing production through innovative development and financing strategies.

**Strategies:**

- 5.1. Develop Regional Actionable Strategies Under the Regional Early Action Program (REAP)
- 5.2. Preserve Existing Affordable Housing
- 5.3. Expand Landlord Participation in Key Re-Housing Programs

**Key Action Example:** Consultant to conduct a subregional framework to affirmatively furthering fair housing in the Westside to address racial discrimination, residential segregation, and social inequities from historic redlining and exclusionary zoning policies. Scope to be determined.



11

# Communications & Policy Advocacy

**Goals:**

- a. Improve coordination and collaboration with public agencies partners at all levels of government.
- b. Standardize a regional communication strategy.
- c. Position WSCCOG to engage on behalf of Member Cities with electeds for district-specific funding and resources.
- d. Advocate for subregional support.

**Strategies:**

- 6.1. Collaborate with Public Agencies and Community Partners
- 6.2. Develop Subregional Communications Strategy
- 6.3. Advocate for Subregional Support

**Key Action Example:** Ensure WSCCOG homelessness webpage has active links to each Member City's homeless/community service homepages.



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## April-June 2022: Next Steps

1. Connect with LAHSA's legislative team to look at upcoming advocacy and funding opportunities
2. Coordinate with DMH/County for rollout of 988
3. Continue to provide public comment and letters where we want to provide input (previous examples: BRCH, Measure H Funding Recs, USICH)





**DATE:** April 11, 2022

**TO:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Board

**FROM:** Westside Cities Council of Governments Staff

**SUBJECT:** Transportation Updates

---

**Metro I-405 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) Update**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, WSCCOG staff, along with staff from several member jurisdictions, attended the fourth meeting of Metro's I-405 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) Advisory Committee. During this meeting, Metro staff presented a draft evaluation of projects to be included in the CMCP, which may qualify those projects for funding through the California Transportation Commission's Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP).

Metro's draft evaluation included many projects on the WSCCOG unfunded Strategic Project List, including bus and bike improvements on Sepulveda Blvd, improvements on other parallel routes such as Purdue Ave, and key multimodal corridors which cross I-405 such as Ohio Ave. WSCCOG staff commented on Metro's draft evaluation spreadsheet and invited Metro staff to provide an update on the process at the April 26, 2022, Transportation Working Group meeting.

**Metro Multi-Year Subregional Program (MSP) Annual Update**

In February and March, the WSCCOG MSP consultant Fehr and Peers reached out to each member jurisdiction to schedule one-on-one meetings on next steps for the MSP annual update process. Fehr and Peers, in collaboration with WSCCOG staff, expect to complete a proposed MSP annual update for approval during the June 2022 WSCCOG Board Meeting, which would enable Metro Board review and approval in the following months.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
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February 2, 2022

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto  
Vice Chair, Housing and Community Development Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 4340  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Wendy Carrillo  
Member, Housing and Community Development Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 5730  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Member, Housing and Community Development Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 5220  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva  
Member, Housing and Community Development Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 4210  
Sacramento, CA 94249

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Human Development  
Jorge Marquez, Covina
- Energy & Environment  
David Pollock, Moorpark
- Transportation  
Sean Ashton, Downey

**RE: Request for Informational Hearing on the Status of Housing Element Updates**

Dear Southern California Members of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), I would like to thank you for your continued leadership in finding solutions to our state’s intractable housing crisis. SCAG shares your commitment to solving this crisis, which is why **we respectfully request that the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee conduct a special, informational hearing on the status of Housing Element updates in the SCAG region.**

As you may know, Housing Element updates for cities and counties in the SCAG region – including the cities and counties you represent – were due to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by October 15, 2021. Statute offers a 120-day grace period which expires on February 11, 2022, and of the date of this letter, only two of the 197 jurisdictions in the SCAG region have a compliant Housing Element certified by HCD.

The cities and counties in the SCAG region are working diligently to identify the sites to accommodate the housing our State needs. **So far, 184 – or 93 percent – have submitted at least their first draft Housing Element update to HCD.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on local government staffing and the ability to conduct meaningful public outreach, the numerous statutory changes in Housing Element law, the delayed guidance from HCD on how cities were to incorporate analysis to demonstrate that they are Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, and a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation that was nearly three times larger than the allocation for the previous planning cycle, nearly every jurisdiction is experiencing a significant delay.

These 184 jurisdictions are making good faith efforts to comply with state housing law, but because they are technically out of compliance, they are ineligible for millions of dollars from state grant programs that support the development of housing. The following programs require a compliant housing element:

- Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program
- CalHOME Program
- Infill Infrastructure Grant Program
- Permanent Local Housing Allocation
- SB 1 Planning Grants
- HCD’s Pro-Housing Designation

Withholding state funding from these 184 cities and counties adversely affects the good actors that have submitted multiple drafts and, in some cases, even adopted a Housing Element that is awaiting final approval from HCD. Conversely, barring access to the remaining thirteen jurisdictions in the SCAG region that have yet to submit the first draft of their Housing Element does nothing to incentivize compliance since it is highly unlikely that they would participate in these pro-housing programs. Without access to these critical programs, the Southern California region will not be able to provide the subsidies needed to build the affordable housing units we so desperately need.

In addition to ineligibility for funding, due to AB1398, which went into effect on January 1, 2022, these same cities working to develop the most progressive Housing Elements in the state’s history will now be required to complete any rezonings identified in their Housing Elements – including the environmental review required under CEQA – by October 15, 2022. This is instead of the regular three-year window allowed under Housing Element statute. Again, this impossible deadline puts cities in a cycle of non-compliance that is counter to the efforts of addressing the region’s housing crisis.

Holding an informational hearing on the status of Housing Element updates would give the Committee an opportunity to understand the progress being made in Southern California and

the barriers to success. The informational hearing could be used to understand the following topics:

- **Status of Housing Element updates.** Of paramount concern is ensuring that Southern California's 197 cities and counties have access to the funding programs that transform their planning documents to actual housing development. Lessons learned from the SCAG region may prove helpful for the 110 cities and counties in the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) region whose Housing Element Updates are due to HCD by January 21, 2023.
- **Impacts of non-compliance on access to state funding for housing programs,** such as those programs listed above.
- **Impacts of AB 1398** (Chapter 385, Statutes of 2021), which requires every jurisdiction in the SCAG region to complete rezonings by October 15, 2022, **if** the city or county does not have a compliant housing element by February 11, 2022.
- **Status of AB 101** (Chapter 159, Statutes of 2019), which requires HCD, in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Research and after engaging in stakeholder participation, to develop a recommended improved regional housing need allocation process and methodology and present that to the Legislature by December 31, 2022.

The SCAG region is committed to a suite of pro-housing programs. This is why SCAG supports a budgetary augmentation for the Infill Infrastructure Grant program and has provided technical assistance in support of applications for the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program. SCAG's Regional Council also voted to support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (Aguiar-Curry), which would allow local jurisdictions to pursue local revenue streams to support their housing programs and used our \$47 million allocation from the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant program, created by AB 101 in 2019, to build pro-housing capacity with cities, counties, and community-based organizations all over Southern California.

As a long-time partner in planning for the State's future housing needs, we thank you for your consideration of SCAG's request to hold an informational hearing. We believe that it is critical that the Legislature intervene as the grace period for updating Housing Elements comes to an end in two weeks. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Gilhooley, State and Federal Legislative Affairs Manager, at (213) 236-1878.

Sincerely,



Kome Ajise  
Executive Director

## Draft - REAP 2021 Program Development Framework

### Overview & Purpose

The REAP 2021 Program Development Framework, or “Framework,” outlines the core objectives, guiding principles, programmatic areas, major milestones and schedule for allocating funds available to SCAG through the Regional Early Action planning Grant Program for 2021 (REAP 2021) or REAP 2.0. Approximately \$600 million is available statewide to support transformative and innovative projects that implement a region’s Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and help achieve goals of more housing and transportation options that reduce reliance on cars. The SCAG region’s formula share is estimated to be \$246 million, of which an initial allocation of 10 percent (10%) of funds are available for outreach to support program development and the full program funding application. REAP 2.0 draft program guidelines are anticipated from HCD in March 2022, with full program guidelines and the application released in Spring 2022. With the full program guidelines and after an extensive engagement effort, SCAG will develop a comprehensive REAP 2.0 Program Application in the latter part of 2022.

The Framework provides the policy direction to support the stakeholder engagement process and resultant development of the full REAP 2.0 Program application, to ensure SCAG’s REAP 2 program aligns with agency goals and policies. It is based on several guiding and adopted policies, including:

- State plans and directives
  - AB140 Trailer Bill Language (July 2021)
  - REAP 2.0 Draft Framework Paper (Nov 2021)
- SCAG adopted plans
  - Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy (2020)
  - Executive Administration Committee Strategic Action Plan (2021)
  - Racial Equity Early Action Plan (2021)
  - Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (2021)
- SCAG 2021 Housing Production Study

Early versions of SCAG’s Framework were presented to the SCAG Policy Committees, Executive Administration Committee (EAC) and the Regional Council. SCAG also got feedback on the Framework from the subregional COG directors and presented the draft to the Regional Housing Working Group and County Transportation Commission (CTC) Planning Directors. This Framework reflects early feedback from these stakeholders and is a draft to guide a more extensive stakeholder engagement process. The Framework may be amended based on feedback and will be presented to the SCAG Regional Council for approval in Summer 2022.

SCAG will apply its advanced funding to implement a comprehensive outreach and engagement strategy in support of development its REAP 2.0 program and the full program application. If allowed by the State ahead of the full program application, SCAG will apply for some its advanced funding to support the Early Action Initiatives further described below and that are part of SCAG’s adopted SCS Implementation Strategy.



## Draft - REAP 2021 Program Development Framework

### Core Program Objectives

- Support transformative planning and implementation activities that realize Connect SoCal objectives
- Leverage and augment the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy to support activities that can be implemented quickly and in line with community-driven, pandemic recovery priorities
- Build regional capacity to deliver housing that realizes 6<sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA goals
- Represent best practices in vehicle miles traveled reduction
- Demonstrate consistency with Equity Early Action Plan
- Promote infill development in Connect SoCal identified Priority Growth Areas

### Guiding Principles

In developing a program to address these core objectives, SCAG work shall be directed by the following guiding principles:

- Funding shall be allocated to three programmatic areas focused on Early Action to implement Connect SoCal 2020, Housing Supportive Infrastructure and a County Transportation Commission Partnership Program.
- Funding opportunities within each program area will balance formula allocations with competitive programs to ensure funding supports critical planning and implementation activities across the region while also prioritizing the most regional impactful projects.
- Early Action Initiatives shall seek to provide immediate benefit to the region through support for transformative *planning* activities that can be implemented quickly to advance strategies in Connect SoCal 2020 and inform the 2024 plan update. Early Action Initiatives shall comprise no more than 10% of the full program budget.
- The Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program and the County Transportation Commission Partnership Program shall serve as the primary vehicle for awarding REAP 2.0 funds and be focused on Connect SoCal 2020 implementation either through the deployment of pilot projects or support for the creation and/or expansion of new funding programs that directly support housing and mobility solutions. The Programs shall include regional initiatives and technical assistance led by SCAG to advance regionally coordinated and significant solutions as well as county-specific or geographically targeted programs that advance best practices reflecting the unique opportunities in the region.
- The Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program and the County Transportation Commission Partnership Program shall include SCAG-led projects as well as the sub-allocation of resources to implementing agencies.
- Funding guidelines will be developed specific to the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program and County Transportation Commission Partnership Program or for any sub-programs for which SCAG would competitively award resources to a partner agency and will seek approval by the SCAG Regional Council. Funds available to each program shall be specified in the program guidelines for approval by the Regional Council.
- At least 80% of the REAP 2.0 funding in the full application will be directed to suballocated or partner-led projects, both formula-based and competitive, across all three programmatic areas to ensure efficient and effective delivery of REAP 2.0 and limit administrative costs to SCAG.

## Draft - REAP 2021 Program Development Framework

- SCAG will work to balance funding allocation according to a number of equity considerations; ensuring that under-resourced jurisdictions are not left out due to lack of capacity and that geographic balance is a consideration in the suballocation of funding.
- No resources beyond those approved to support outreach and program development shall be expended until the Program Development Framework has been approved (after stakeholder engagement) and funding eligibility has been confirmed through the release of REAP 2 Program Guidelines by HCD.

### Program Areas:

The Framework proposes that SCAG's REAP 2.0 funds will be administered across three (3) programmatic areas. Further development of programs and guidelines within each program area would occur once the State has provided complete program guidelines (anticipated Spring 2022) and through the stakeholder engagement process:

1. **Early Action Initiatives:** SCAG will expand some existing programs in the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy to support cities in implementing Connect SoCal.
  - **Sustainable Communities Program (SCP):** The Call for Projects provides resources to local jurisdictions to conduct GHG/VMT reducing planning activities and demonstration projects throughout the SCAG region. SCAG is seeking to implement Call #4, the Call for Equity, Civic Engagement and Environmental Justice focused on under-resourced communities.
  - **Go Human:** SCAG is seeking to expand local resources and toolkits to help cities, counties and communities-based organizations promote safe walking and biking
  - **Regional Data Platform:** Local general plans provide the legal underpinning for land use decisions and set the vision about how a community will grow, reflecting community priorities and values while shaping the future. SCAG's RDP provides data and planning templates and tools to help local jurisdictions update and align various elements of their general plans to advance sustainable planning at the local and regional level. SCAG seeks to partner with subregional agencies and other partners to expand support and training for local jurisdictions to use the RDP as well as provide additional features and functions to help further align local efforts with regional goals through performance dashboarding features.
  - **Sub-regional plans or studies:** Support a number of partnerships and studies centered on core SCS implementation strategies.
2. **Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program** - The Housing Supportive Infrastructure program builds on the concepts put forward in the *Key Connections* in Connect SoCal 2020, as well as current work funded through the REAP 1 program, as well as LEAP and SB2. This program would have 4 main priority areas:
  - **Utilities to support housing development:** Identify transformative programs to invest in the utilities (sewer, gas, electric, broadband) needed to environmentally clear, entitle and ultimately build the housing needed to meet the region's 6<sup>th</sup> cycle RHNA goals, and in the Priority Growth areas identified in Connect SoCal.

## Draft - REAP 2021 Program Development Framework

- **Housing Trust Funds:** Invest in subregional housing trust funds to leverage efforts to deliver affordable housing
  - **Preservation of expiring covenants and naturally occurring affordable housing:** Target existing affordable housing with expiring covenants and/or housing that is naturally affordable without covenants and develop programs to extend covenants and preserve these units as affordable.
  - **Technical Assistance:** Through the outreach process, SCAG will identify additional technical assistance needs for cities, counties and other partners. These may include programs to:
    - i. Help public agencies use their surplus land for affordable housing development
    - ii. Continue land use planning efforts that will support implementation of 6<sup>th</sup> cycle Housing Elements
    - iii. Ensure that the region can secure grant funding in support of affordable housing development.
- 3. County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program:** SCAG will develop a new partnership program with the region's six County Transportation Commissions, to fund the development of plans, programs, pilot projects, and even some signature GHG/VMT reducing capital projects. Regional guidelines will be developed upon the release of the State's guidelines in February of 2022 with the intent to align with Key Connection strategies included in Connect SoCal and advance new concepts for reducing VMT. Key Connections focus on advancing expanded mobility ecosystems and management strategies using innovative policy and/or technology to realize regional planning goals, and account for 30% of the GHG reduction needed to meet SCAG's SB 375 requirements. Examples include shared mobility, congestion pricing studies and pilots, universal basic mobility pilots, transit recovery and integration pilot projects, dedicated lanes and other tactical transit solutions to improve transit travel time and reliability, micro-transit and other mobility-on-demand services providing first/last mile connections, or VMT Mitigation Bank. Staff has initiated some early outreach with CTC staff to gauge opportunities for partnerships and anticipates continued dialogue in developing a regional program. Some early concepts identified to date by CTC staff include extending or expanding student transit pass programs, deployment of mobility hubs, electric carshare programs, seed funding to support VMT mitigation banking and credit programs, etc.

### **Major Milestones and Schedule:**

Based on the latest information from the State, the table below shows the REAP 2021 program development process and associated schedule:

**Draft - REAP 2021 Program Development Framework**

	2021			2022											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grant Program Deadlines and Milestones		Framework Document from State Released		Advance Application Released		Draft Guidelines to be Released by State	State Review of SCAG's Advance Application	State Approval of Advance Application/Full Guidelines to be Released by State							Full Application Deadline: 12/31/22
Outreach & Engagement	COG Listening Sessions, Subregional Surveys, Development of Advance Application					Outreach & Engagement work: Consultant and staff						Full Application Developed Using Outreach Results			
Program Development	Staff Present Draft Framework to Policy Committees					Advance Application to be Submitted to State	Revised Draft Framework Presented to EAC (Info Item)	Framework Developed Further and Refined Based on Stakeholder Feedback Engagement Process	Final Framework to be Presented to EAC/RC for Approval and Adoption Updates to be Provided to Policy Committees					Staff reports on Outcome of Outreach and Engagement and presents recommendations to Policy Committees and RC	Full Application to be Submitted to State
CTC Partnership Program						CTC Partnership Working Group Formed: Draft Guidelines, Establish Formal Process for Execution of CTC Program			Draft CTC Guidelines Released	Final Guideline Approval, Issue Call for Projects and Select CTC Partnership Projects. TC/RC Approvals					
Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program							Housing Policy Forum	One-on-One Sessions with Housing Trust Funds Open City/County Listening Sessions Focus Groups	Report on preliminary findings, potential calls for projects (CEHD/EAC/RC)	Utilities Industry Forum + issue RFI Call for Projects Based on Listening Sessions	Staff to Report Findings from Industry Forum (CEHD/EAC)			Initial Program Guidelines (CEHD/EAC)	

## **Background**

REAP 2021 was established through AB 140 (July 2021) as part of the mid-year budget revise for the State's FY 21-22 budget. Approximately \$600 million is available statewide to support transformative and innovative projects that implement a region's Sustainable Communities Strategy and help achieve goals of more housing and transportation options that reduce reliance on cars. With funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the State will allocate \$246 million to SCAG, of which an initial allocation of 10 percent of funds are available now, pending approval of SCAG's early application. SCAG will develop programs to disperse these funds throughout the region in support of transformative planning that promotes the core program objectives of REAP 2.0: (1) implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) portion of Connect SoCal; (2) housing development that realizes 6<sup>th</sup> cycle housing element goals; (3) reduction of Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT); and (4) Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). Note that while the program continues with the REAP name, REAP 2021 has a broader focus of eligible programs and activities than REAP 2019. The REAP 2021 funds have a broader set of objectives and can be spent on both planning and capital projects. SCAG also refers to REAP 2019 as REAP 1.0 and REAP 2021 as REAP 2.0. REAP 2021 funds must be obligated by June 2024 and expended by June 2026.

HCD has stated that draft program guidelines will be released by February 2022 and final program guidelines will be available by Spring 2022. Throughout 2022 SCAG will be conducting outreach to a broad array of stakeholders to identify programs and partners and develop the complete REAP 2021 application, due to the State by December 2022.

While the program guidelines for REAP 2021 have not yet been released, SCAG has developed a draft framework to guide its program development activities and stakeholder engagement.

## **Goals and Objectives**

SCAG will develop and implement the REAP 2.0 program through a comprehensive outreach program that will support both program development and continue through implementation. Feedback from stakeholders will be incorporated in the final REAP program application, will help identify partnership opportunities and will establish priorities for transformative planning and implementation activities that reflect a balance of regional needs and geographical equity. The outreach program will employ a variety of methods to reach a wide range of SCAG stakeholders and ensure that SCAG includes disadvantaged and underserved communities. SCAG will work in concert with other MPOs, public agencies, subregional COGs and community-based partners to consider the potential for joint activities and coordination.

All of this work will be developed in line with SCAG's May 2021 adopted Racial Equity Action Plan, with strategies to ensure that our efforts, materials and programs reference and actualize our commitment to equity and equitable participation. SCAG is committed to ensuring that we have broad representation in our various efforts to solicit information and feedback, particularly from communities that are harder to reach, may be under-resourced and/or represent SCAG's Communities of Concern, EJ and disadvantaged communities, and tribal communities. The outreach will also follow SCAG's adopted [Public Participation Plan](#), which outlines in depth SCAG's various strategies and engagement tools.

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

SCAG's Planning and Government and Public Affairs (GPA) Divisions will work in concert to maximize stakeholder outreach and incorporate feedback into the final REAP 2.0 application and program implementation. SCAG has identified two Community Engagement Specialists to lead the outreach and engagement activities at the program-wide level, as well as support department staff in the program-specific level engagement and program development. The Community Engagement Specialists will serve as the point of contact to the public and will manage all consultant contracts with REAP 2.0 outreach related scopes of work. The Community Engagement Specialists will regularly communicate with regional partners and stakeholders on the outreach programs progress and manage the activities identified in this plan.

### **Target Stakeholders**

The community engagement efforts will both inform and engage a range of constituents and stakeholders throughout the six-county region, as identified in SCAG's Public Participation Plan.

SCAG seeks to ensure that diverse populations are involved in the regional planning process. Equity will serve as a guiding principle; we will ensure that members of disadvantaged and underserved communities are reached by employing traditional and innovative outreach methods. To ensure effective and meaningful communication, the outreach team will need to develop an understanding of the target audience's commonly spoken languages, cultural sensitivities, access to technology, and preferred communications.

Target stakeholders for the REAP 2021 program include:

- Advocacy groups (environmental, housing & transportation)
- City managers
- Community development representatives
- Community-based organizations
- Educational community and institutions
- Elected officials
- Financial sector representatives
- General public
- Governmental and public agencies
- Health and wellness representatives
- Housing trust funds
- Housing developers (non-profit and for-profit)
- Land use experts
- Minority and low-income populations
- Neighborhood and community groups
- Non-profit organizations
- Organizations serving rural area residents
- Philanthropy
- Planners
- Public and private transportation operators

- Subregional organizations
- Technology vendors
- Transportation planning agencies
- Tribal Governments
- Utility providers

### **Applying Past Outreach to Program Development**

In recent years, SCAG has completed several projects related to the core program objectives of REAP 2.0. SCAG will build on past work by pairing the past program outreach outcomes with new and innovative outreach activities outlined throughout this plan. SCAG will apply outreach from the following programs to our REAP 2.0 program development: SCS/RTP development and implementation strategy (adopted 2020), Housing Production Study (completed in 2021), Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy (adopted in 2021), the Racial Equity Action Plan (Adopted in 2021) and the REAP 1.0 program (developed 2020-21, ongoing implementation). These programs have allowed for feedback on how SCAG engages with the public, identification of priority projects, and identification of existing efforts across the region.

### **Outreach Materials & Website**

Visual and written content that convey key information about the REAP 2.0 program and SCAG’s approach to development of the program will be developed for online engagement, newsletters, social media, and websites. These materials may include fact sheets, FAQs, PowerPoint presentations, comment cards, maps, charts, infographics, timelines, surveys and other related resources. To build relationships and trust, the complexity of the information and materials presented to the community should be presented in language that is easy to understand. Materials will be translated upon request.

A dedicated website will be developed for the REAP 2.0 program. The above-referenced program materials will be included on the website, along with links to Staff Reports and other policy committee materials.

Ongoing program updates will also be issued by regular email blasts. SCAG will ensure that all interested parties receive these updates.

### **Early-Stage Framework Development Outreach**

Based on the REAP 2021 Trailer Bill language, SCAG staff drafted a program framework as a starting place to guide conversations with stakeholders and overall program development. Early outreach to targeted stakeholders on the draft framework took place from October 2021 through February 2022. During this time SCAG coordinated with internal staff and regional partners to solicit feedback and update the framework as new REAP 2.0 program information was released from the State. Some notable outreach activities and accomplishments during this time include:

- SCAG issued a survey to Subregional COGs and hosted two listening sessions to learn more about Subregional COG priorities and begin identifying potential opportunities for partnership. Based on feedback, SCAG is requesting funding in its advance application to support outreach and engagement partnership opportunities for the Subregional COGs and will schedule one-on-one meetings to further discuss staffing support, as appropriate.
- SCAG staff presented the draft programmatic areas to SCAG Policy Committees in October 2021 and incorporated feedback in the draft framework.
- SCAG conducted informal meetings with utility providers and other trade associations to identify Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program initiatives and partnership opportunities. These meetings helped SCAG identify the concept of an Industry Forum and soliciting a Request for Information (RFI) as the best approach to program development.
- SCAG staff presented a program overview and outreach update to the Regional Housing Working Group.
- SCAG staff conducted several informal meetings with each of the region's county transportation commissions (CTCs), assessing potential projects in the pipeline as well as new developments that could be fostered with new REAP 2.0 funding. Further discussions were held during formally scheduled CTC planning director meetings to better gauge potential project types and associated costs.
- SCAG staff conducted numerous informal industry briefings to better understand the technology landscape specific to the potential for development and implementation of various transformative transportation strategies. More formally, SCAG issued an RFI in August of 2021 to solicit information about technology requirements to support a Mobility Wallet Pilot Program. SCAG staff will be using the responses to help formulate the initial groundwork necessary to support REAP 2021 funded pilot initiatives.

### **Program Development Outreach Plan**

Using the draft framework as a starting place for discussion, throughout April - June 2022, SCAG will plan and host REAP 2.0 program wide outreach to capture stakeholder feedback and further refine the program specific areas that will drive the full program application.

#### *Virtual Information Sessions*

SCAG will host two virtual information sessions in early April for SCAG staff to present a PowerPoint presentation of the draft framework and host a question-and-answer segment. During the virtual sessions, participants will be encouraged to submit a comment card, which will be made available during the session, through the project website, and by email. Through the comment cards we hope to gather stakeholder input on priority program areas, suggested changes and framework aspects that they would like to remain the same.

#### *Framework Workshop*

SCAG will post the draft framework to the program website in late March. There will be an open-comment period at the time the framework is posted and throughout late April.



The comments received during the public comment period will be compiled, summarized and made available on the program website. SCAG will host a workshop to share what we heard from the comments and how they will be incorporated. This workshop will also include an opportunity for stakeholders to participate in an open discussion on the projects within the program areas and how to prioritize these projects.

#### *SCAG Policy Committee Engagement*

SCAG staff will bring the final framework and the public comment period summary to SCAG's policy committees. Before moving forward to program area specific outreach, SCAG staff will recommend that the policy committees adopt the framework.

#### *COG One-On-One Meetings*

SCAG will conduct one-on-one meetings with Subregional COGs in March and April 2022 to identify COG needs, partnership opportunities and the level of participation desired by each COG for development of the REAP 2021 program. These meetings build upon surveys and listening sessions with the COGs issued early in the year.

#### *Tribal Engagement*

SCAG will facilitate informal one-on-one meetings and up to two virtual convenings to provide early-on engagement with tribal leaders to gather input and facilitate the determination of an ongoing tribal engagement program. These meetings and convenings will serve to share the draft framework and get feedback on tribal program methods of engagement, format of engagement and topic areas.

### **Framework Core Objectives & Program Development**

Following SCAG's Policy Committees' adoption of the REAP 2021 Program framework, from June to October 2022, SCAG will conduct various program-wide and program-area specific outreach and engagement activities to get stakeholder feedback on program development. These engagement activities include presentations, surveys, virtual convenings, focus groups, and listening sessions.

#### *SCAG Policy Committee Engagement*

SCAG staff will engage SCAG's Policy Committee's on the core objectives and projects that will be included in the proposed final application. SCAG will share feedback received during stakeholder engagement and will seek their approval on the work program to include in the final REAP 2021 application.

#### *Presentations and Special Events*

SCAG will provide presentations and feedback at regularly scheduled meetings and special events of stakeholders. This may include providing presentations, hosting roundtables, providing event speakers and participating in panels. Thus far, SCAG has committed to hosting a roundtable to share proposed REAP 2.0 programs and seek feedback from attendees at ULI-LA's annual Urban Marketplace entitled "Advancing Equity Through Infrastructure". This is a unique event where attendees can meet with industry and civic leaders to learn about the latest housing and real estate trends, and opportunities essential to successful development projects.

### *Public Opinion Survey*

SCAG will advise and facilitate activities to assess public opinions on SCAG's REAP 2021 projects, initiatives, and messages. This could be done via surveys, polling, focus groups or other methods. This research would allow SCAG to get feedback from the public on a range of REAP 2021 related issues and to monitor change in attitudes and public confidence in political and civic leadership over time, and importantly to ensure support for the transformative planning and implementation activities funded by the REAP 2021 program.

### *Tribal Engagement – Leadership Summit*

Based on the tribal feedback provided during the early one-on-one meetings and virtual convenings, SCAG will host a tribal leadership summit to learn about ongoing efforts across the region and identify priorities and areas where SCAG can provide technical assistance and, where applicable, direct programmatic support. Based on the feedback provided during the outreach process, SCAG will develop a Regional Tribal Action Plan that outlines an ongoing tribal engagement program, with a summary and recommendations to help prioritize SCAG's work program and identify transformative planning and implementation activities related to tribal needs, to include in the final REAP 2.0 application. Activities will also follow SCAG's Tribal Engagement Consultation Policy.

### *Program Specific Outreach*

In addition to the program wide outreach, staff will pursue additional engagement to develop the programs within the specific program areas identified in the REAP 2.0 Program Framework.

### *Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program – Targeted Outreach*

#### Virtual Focus Groups

SCAG will host fully interactive virtual focus groups of stakeholders to share information on the REAP 2.0 program and seek feedback on core programmatic concepts driving the development of the housing supportive infrastructure program. These focus groups will be organized to seek feedback from targeted cohorts that reflect a particular stakeholder group, with effort to ensure broad participation and representation from organizations that represent disadvantaged communities. The focus groups can also identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration. The focus group sessions will include short presentations from SCAG providing an overview of the program and will allow participants to provide feedback structured by discussion questions.

Potential Stakeholder Groups:

- Cities and Counties
- Community Based Organizations (with an emphasis on organizations working in DACs)
- Developers (Housing – both non-profit and for-profit)

- Housing Financing Sector (including traditional lending/equity as well as CDFIs and other intermediaries)
- Utility providers
- Land Use Experts
- Housing Trust Funds
- Philanthropy

#### City/County Listening Sessions

SCAG will host a series of listening sessions open to staff of SCAG’s member cities and counties, with a focus on those working on land use planning, housing and related departments such as public works. This will be an opportunity for planning staff to learn more about the REAP 2021 program and provide feedback on core objectives and prioritization of projects. The listening sessions will be organized geographically and will allow for open dialogue. SCAG will make extended efforts to ensure that staff from cities and counties with a larger proportion of Disadvantaged Communities participate.

#### One on One Meetings

As part of developing the housing supportive infrastructure program core objectives, SCAG will conduct limited one-on-one meetings with utility providers, subregional COGs and housing trust funds. The focus of these meetings is to understand efforts across the region that fall within key identified program areas and to figure out how to align program guidelines to facilitate and expand these efforts. To prepare for these meetings, SCAG staff will generate summaries of the targeted sectors. For example, SCAG will develop an inventory of utility providers in the area along with a summary of any existing programs or investments that support housing development. SCAG will also generate a list of housing trust funds in the region and their current status.

#### Industry Forum and Request for Information and Proposals

To support development of the utility infrastructure program, SCAG will hold an Industry Forum and follow it with a Request for Information (RFI) or a Request for Information and Proposals (RFIP) to solicit concepts, partnerships and potentially proposals for transformative projects that address sustainable utility infrastructure, infill housing development and reduction of VMT. Based on the responses to the RFI/RFIP, SCAG will either craft program guidelines for a second phase solicitation or enter negotiations to fund proposals that were solicited.

#### Housing Forum (Convening 2 Leadership Academy)

Under the REAP 2019 contract with consultant, LeSar Development, SCAG is offering 8 cohorts of Housing Policy Leadership Academy trainings across the SCAG region. As a part of this program, SCAG and LeSar are holding four convenings, in the form of Housing Forums. The first forum focused on new

legislation at the State and Federal level. The second Forum will focus on new funding sources for housing. SCAG will organize at least one panel and/or breakout session to focus on the proposed REAP 2.0 framework and offer opportunities for feedback on priorities and programs that are most effective at transformative planning and accelerating housing production.

#### *Regional/County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program – Targeted Outreach*

In addition to the program wide outreach, additional activities to develop regional initiatives and the CTC Partnership Program will include the following.

##### Working Group

SCAG will continue to engage each of the CTCs in the development of the CTC Partnership Program, including convening a formal CTC Partnership Working Group, anticipated to launch in late March. Upon HCD's release of state program guidelines for REAP 2.0, the Working Group will focus on development of regional program guidelines and establish a formal process for executing the CTC Partnership program, including soliciting, screening, and selection of projects that advance key Connect SoCal policies and strategies.

##### Market Sounding and Request for Information and Qualifications/Proposals (RFIQ/RFIP)

Supplemental industry engagement efforts and/or RFI or RFIQ/RFIP may be issued to solicit new concepts or to build upon some existing program development efforts specific to transformative transportation strategies. Responses to the RFI/RFIP are anticipated to support SCAG's efforts to develop broader regional transportation strategies to augment CTC partnership initiatives.

##### Market Research Groundwork Studies

SCAG will also facilitate studies and surveys to monitor travel of targeted populations, including but not limited to public opinion surveys, stated preference surveys, and focus groups. Work to date, in collaboration with UC Davis, has focused on a longitudinal survey of travel behavior, particularly examining COVID-19 related impacts throughout the SCAG region. Recognizing the challenges associated with capturing travel behavioral changes and trends of disadvantaged populations in broader survey work, SCAG plans to focus further research work on disadvantaged populations, exploring alternative recruitment strategies. Findings from continued research will support the development of SCAG's work program, including the prioritization of transformative initiatives.

#### *Early Program Initiatives – Targeted Outreach*

SCAG will expand some existing programs in the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy to support cities in implementing Connect SoCal. Early Program Initiatives will seek to provide immediate benefit to the region through developing transformative planning activities that can be implemented quickly to advance the Core Vision or Key Connections in Connect SoCal 2020 and refinement of these strategies in the 2024 plan update. Many of these initiatives were developed with extensive stakeholder engagement, but further development and/expansion of these programs will include additional stakeholder engagement.

### *Regional Data Platform*

Local general plans provide the legal underpinning for land use decisions and set the vision about how a community will grow, reflecting community priorities and values while shaping the future. Per Government Code section 65302, local general plans must include the following mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. SCAG's Regional Data Platform (RDP) provides data, planning templates and tools to help local jurisdictions update and align various elements of their general plans to advance sustainable planning at the local and regional level.

SCAG will host two information sessions to get input from local jurisdictions on SCAG's RDP successes and identify ways to make the tool a more valuable resource to support local planning. These sessions will allow SCAG to gain insight on how stakeholders can engage with the tool for a more participatory planning process. SCAG will explore new features and identify needs for additional training or technical support.

Through the Local Information Services Team (LIST), SCAG will continue to engage with subregional COGs, local jurisdictions, and key stakeholders to provide personalized one-on-one technical assistance to familiarize them with the tools and resources in the RDP. This service intends to build consensus, deliver useful information, and obtain feedback from local jurisdictions on SCAG's products like the Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) Tool and the Local Data Exchange (LDX) system.

### *SCP Call #4 Civic Engagement, Equity & Environmental Justice*

SCAG's Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) provides resources to local agencies for local planning and is a key implementation tool of Connect SoCal. The SCP strengthens partnerships to promote healthy, connected, and equitable communities. This Call for Applications is focused on Civic Engagement, Equity & Environmental Justice and prioritizes funding in communities of concern (COCs) and SB 535 disadvantaged communities (DACs) in priority counties.

To support program development, SCAG held two listening sessions in July 2021 with over 53 attendees. Partners were invited to share feedback on the program and provide input on the Call development. Following the listening sessions, SCAG conducted targeted one-to-one meetings with CBOs and other partners in priority areas to further engage partners. SCAG is continuing engagement with various efforts planned for spring and summer 2022, including two listening sessions planned for June, additional one-to-one meetings with partners in priority areas, and a robust communications plan to promote the feedback opportunities. SCAG also plans to present at various Regional Planning Working Groups to promote the Call and receive further input from partners. SCAG will apply the findings to develop program guidelines and identify eligible projects. Stakeholder feedback may also help identify a new call for projects that support infill housing development, reduction of VMT and support multi-mobility goals.

### *Go Human: Active Transportation, Safety Planning & Community Engagement Expansion*

SCAG continues to expand its strategic community engagement strategies through its award-winning Go Human program. Initially launched in 2015, Go Human aims to reduce VMT by encouraging more people to walk and bike in Southern California and directly addresses the high rates of collisions involving people walking and biking, by promoting a regional approach to community-driven pedestrian and bicyclist safety efforts. The original program was developed with extensive stakeholder engagement and through a co-creative process and every strategy continues to be informed by public feedback.

New outreach will be conducted in Spring and Summer of 2022 to explore expansion of Go Human to leverage the program's current strengths of supporting equity, tactical on-the-ground projects, inclusive & participatory engagement, community-based partnerships, and creative strategies to support broader local planning and community engagement strategies. The results of the outreach will drive the final recommended program expansion and will be reflected in full REAP 2.0 application.

#### *Other Programs and Initiatives*

SCAG may seek to develop new programs and initiatives, and would use REAP 2.0 advance funding to conduct planning studies, support the identification of transformative planning activities and test concepts for further implementation. SCAG will facilitate such studies, foundational data collection, and pilot programs, with a goal of incorporating findings into the final REAP program application. Each study or initiative will include targeted stakeholder engagement to ensure that core issues are

#### **Reporting and Program Implementation**

The feedback from stakeholders will be incorporated in the final REAP program application; feedback will help identify partnership opportunities, establish priorities for transformative planning and implementation activities that reflect a balance of regional needs and geographical equity. SCAG will ensure all outreach and engagement efforts are incorporated in a final report to be shared publicly. Metrics for success will include the number of stakeholders we reached, the number of comments received and potentially through findings of related public opinion polls. The success of the outreach will be evaluated to determine what worked well and additional outreach activities for program implementation. Post-program-development activities will be determined and implemented later.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Governance Report

Adopted March 30, 2022



# Executive Summary

## A. Our Charge

Sparked by those who have called for an end to homelessness, on July 27, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) established the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (“BRCH”)<sup>2</sup>. In its motion creating our Commission, the Board charged us to:

- “[R]esearch and analyze various homelessness governance reports, studying models from across the nation”;
- Provide “feedback to the Board regarding the most relevant and effective models, with the intention of implementing reform to help solve the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County”;
- “[P]rovide a report that includes recommendations for a new governance model that is appropriate for Los Angeles County (addressing the existing Joint Powers Authority) – incorporating the diverse needs of the region, its 88 cities, and the Unincorporated Communities which the Board of Supervisors directly represents”;
- Provide a report that “reflect[s] the various legal and legislative issues that are impacting homelessness policy”;
- Provide a report and recommendations that “seek to enhance accountability, transparency, and inclusivity”;
- “[I]nclude recommendations on how cities, Councils of Government, or regional representatives could be incorporated into an effective governance structure to address the homelessness crisis.”

In response, we embarked on the first public, commission-directed process, authorized and created by the Board, to study homelessness governance. Through an extensive series of meetings, presentations, interviews, and other listening sessions, we heard from approximately 280 individuals, including representatives from cities, Councils of Government, County departments, unincorporated communities, and school districts; persons with lived expertise; service providers; subject-matter experts; leaders of homeless service systems from across the country; and authors of prior governance reports reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of our system.<sup>3</sup> The BRCH also ensured that the voices of the Black, Latinx, LGBTQI+, foster youth, and senior communities were heard. Finally, the BRCH reviewed and considered thousands of pages of documentation, all of which are publicly available at [BRCH.lacounty.gov](https://brch.lacounty.gov).

Our Report reflects the courageous voices and sentiments expressed by those committed<sup>4</sup> to giving their time to reflect on the good and bad of our system, shares information concerning systems in other cities and counties, and opines on the most effective path forward. These voices should resonate across the region. In this spirit, and recognizing no magic formula exists to end homelessness, we offer a list of pragmatic, commonsense recommendations—unanimously approved by our commission—for the Board to consider and to act on.

## B. Key Concerns

Over the course of six months of testimony and hundreds of interviews, we heard accounts of innovation, inspiration, and resilience. The commitment of our community to confront homelessness is clear. We have many ingredients for success.

However, our stakeholders described a system under tremendous strain and one that requires “sweeping changes.” The voices of the system lamented that key government entities and service providers too often operate in silos rather than as an integrated network. There is role confusion among these entities, and as a result, they are hampered in supporting people experiencing homelessness. We also received feedback that without reforming the current mission, philosophy, and organizational structure of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (“LAHSA” or the “Authority”) and the system as a whole, we will constrain future efforts to address homelessness.

We heard from stakeholders yearning for a system that is more open to different approaches and philosophies to housing, for innovative approaches to address the urgent need for shelter such as triage communities, prepared to aggressively utilize faith-based organizations to bring people off our streets, and able to provide better systems for



families experiencing homelessness and for veterans, especially in cases where entitlements for these communities do not rest within the purview of LAHSA. Stakeholders also called for a system that communicates better: demanding “system navigators,” 24/7 responses to urgent needs, inclusion of our faith-based organizations, and improved outreach systems. These stakeholders want a nimble system that is better able to address urgent issues effectively, comprehensively, and timely.

We heard from stakeholders from underrepresented communities, mindful of how equity, diversity, and inclusion must be central to governance decisions. We learned that Black and Latinx people make up the highest percentage of people experiencing homelessness, yet are rarely included fully in governance. Likewise, the LGBTQI+ community shared how important tools to house people experiencing homelessness fail to consider the unique experiences of the LGBTQI+ and senior communities. Foster youth, who are predominately Black and Latinx, told us of their struggles accessing housing and services. Overall, we heard how gaps in our data tracking impacts our ability to develop equitable policies, and if we are not tracking data, we cannot combat racism in housing or elsewhere.

We learned how our region’s homelessness ecosystem is not where it needs to and must be. The governing bodies of the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles have turned to LAHSA for many matters related to homelessness. At times, LAHSA has risen to the challenge. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, LAHSA was instrumental in reducing the impact the pandemic could have had on people experiencing homelessness.

But LAHSA’s decision-making authority is limited by design, with little or no authority over funding, prevention, housing acquisition, substance abuse and mental health treatment, among other issues. We refer to this as the LAHSA “conundrum.” This conundrum has led many to be confused as to LAHSA’s role, creating a great deal of consternation for stakeholders. These stakeholders also question whether the roles the County, the City, and LAHSA play today should be the same roles that they are asked to play tomorrow.

Further, we learned how our region lacks vital infrastructure in both the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles. While many County and City departments touch homelessness, none are dedicated exclusively to serving people experiencing homelessness nor able to cut across silos to provide leadership across agencies. Similarly, more must be done to bridge our mainstream and homeless services delivery systems, which is crucial to maximizing resources from federal and state sources. These factors, coupled with a web of sometimes inconsistent and poorly communicated policies and practices, leave LAHSA, service providers, community groups, other cities in the region, and other stakeholders feeling devalued, unheard, and frustrated.

For their part, cities commented on the need for more access to Measure H funding to facilitate the development of local solutions. The City of Los Angeles takes the position that Measure H “should not be subject to an allocation scheme to draw money away from the parts of the County where it’s needed most.” Other cities do not necessarily disagree. However, these cities are concerned that access to Measure H funds is too restricted, limiting opportunities for them to develop local solutions. A balance must be struck because the system is only as strong as our weakest link. Smaller cities must be able to take responsibility for people experiencing homelessness in their neighborhoods with the support of the County, but regional goals focused on equity must also be served.

We also learned that there is a general misunderstanding across the region over the Measure H funding process. Measure H funds are largely dedicated to ongoing programs, and while there are opportunities for public input, participation in the input process is, perhaps, lower than it should be. The Board of Supervisors determines how Measure H funds are allocated among LAHSA and County departments, relying on a complicated allocation method involving 51 different homeless strategies that beg for consolidation, some of which are under evaluation. Accordingly, stakeholders are demanding that the Measure H funding process be simplified.

We rarely heard a defense of the current homelessness governance system. Rather, key concerns emerged, including, but not limited to, those summarized below.

## Key Concerns

<p><b>1 Urgency Needed</b></p>	<p>The region is in crisis, but the system serving persons experiencing homelessness is not set up to operate in crisis mode.</p>
<p><b>2 Need for Flexibility and Nimbleness</b></p>	<p>There are many ways into homelessness, and there need to be many ways out.</p>
<p><b>3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b></p>	<p>Decision-makers need to do more than give lip service to diversity, equity, and inclusion.</p>
<p><b>4 System Voids (No City or County Lead Entities)</b></p>	<p>There is no County or City department or authority exclusively responsible for leading on homelessness.</p>
<p><b>5 Measure H – Local Solutions</b></p>	<p>Not enough is being done with Measure H—our region’s local sales tax that generates monies for homeless service delivery—to spur local innovation and utilize local government as a tool to serve persons experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p><b>6 LAHSA “Conundrum”: LAHSA’s Authority, or Lack Thereof</b></p>	<p>LAHSA, as a decision-making body, is flawed, perhaps by design. Material governance decisions for issues such as funding, prevention, housing acquisition, substance abuse, and mental health are made outside of LAHSA.</p>
<p><b>7 What Should the Role of LAHSA Be?</b></p>	<p>Driven by an influx of funds, LAHSA’s core functions expanded beyond its organizational capacity, and it struggles to meet demand. Given this, the role LAHSA plays should ultimately dictate how the organization is to be governed.</p>
<p><b>8 LAHSA’s Internal Governance Challenges</b></p>	<p>There are too many governing bodies within LAHSA (e.g., LAHSA Commission, CoC Board, CES Policy Council) without clear lines of authority as to final decision-making.</p>
<p><b>9 Operational Challenges within LAHSA</b></p>	<p>The many people interviewed or who presented to the Commission take issue with (i) whether LAHSA is ensuring that its executive team has the depth, resources, and support to operate an organization of its size and complexity, (ii) the lack of strong relationships with cities outside the City of Los Angeles, (iii) ad hoc or counterproductive outreach practices, and (iv) contracting practices.</p>
<p><b>10 Data Collection, Access, and Sharing</b></p>	<p>Decision-making system wide must be more data driven.</p>
<p><b>11 Ineffective Communications</b></p>	<p>While no government entity is perfect, cities, COGs, unincorporated areas, service providers, and members of the public perceive LAHSA as ineffective communicators and severely lacking in “customer service.”</p>
<p><b>12 Lack of Capacity-Building</b></p>	<p>The current system does not do enough to support small providers, which discourages capacity-building.</p>
<p><b>13 Coordinated Entry System Policy Council</b></p>	<p>The Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policy Council, the body within our system that determines policies for services and bed prioritization, is making important decisions that impact our system, yet many do not even know it exists, or its members and the public do not know the full scope of its authority.</p>

Please see Addendum A to this Executive Summary for additional details.

## C. The Path Forward: Our Recommendations

No single person or entity is to blame for the situation we find ourselves in. In fact, numerous stakeholders in the Los Angeles homelessness system work tirelessly every day to support our unhoused population and address homelessness. Also, no region embraces innovation, reform, and evolution more than Los Angeles, as evidenced by passage of both Measure H in the County and Measure HHH in the City of Los Angeles.

However, the voices woven throughout this Report tell us that we have not evolved at the pace required to meet the vast needs on our streets and that the time is now to channel our uniquely Los Angeles attitude and mindset to spur reform, evolution, innovation, and, most importantly, more action. Now is the time to reject the status quo and bring new life, new ideas, and new partners into the arena to support those that work to improve our system every day. The voices of our system urge us to:

- Embrace wholeheartedly a whatever-it-takes attitude to tackle the many issues that impact homelessness and to end homelessness.
- Turn the page on a one-size-fits-all approach, recognize there are as many ways out of homelessness as there are into homelessness, and acknowledge that “the streets cannot be the waiting room for permanent housing.”
- Establish a lead County entity on homelessness, directly accountable to the Board of Supervisors, with the ability to cut across County departments and take charge to ensure that all system partners are working together and to lead on homelessness prevention, rehousing, housing acquisition, access to medical care, and access to urgent services (e.g., 24/7 outreach and housing services, including on weekends, from a single-point-of-contact phone number) in a sustainable way.
- Pivot to a region-wide approach that allows for and incorporates local solutions by partnering with cities and service providers more directly because homelessness demands both a regional response and flexibility for solutions tailored to the needs of a given community.
- Allow for the various philosophies and approaches identified to address homelessness to coexist in our ecosystem, since, after all, we are “the largest and most complex CoC [Continuum of Care] in the country.”
- Replace rigid decision-making with flexibility, lumbering administrative practices and policies with nimbleness, and gridlock in governance with clarity and momentum.
- Demand that equity, diversity, and inclusion be woven into the fabric of homelessness system governance; improve data collection, analysis, and collaborative research to better understand and track issues affecting underrepresented communities; incorporate equity principles into decision-making; and align our system with the County’s anti-racism policy agenda.
- Strike a balance between dedicating funds where people experiencing homelessness reside and allowing regions to receive funding, to develop leadership infrastructure, and to innovate. We need to seed capacity.

In short, we need to move toward a system where the sum is greater than its parts and take pragmatic action designed for immediate implementation. Nothing short of a comprehensive approach—with reforming LAHSA, the County, the City of Los Angeles, other cities, service providers, and community stakeholders—will lead to the creation of a comprehensive governance structure essential for decision-making to occur at the appropriate level and pace throughout the region.

Given this, and in accordance with the directive of the Board’s July 27, 2021 Motion, we ask the Board to consider the recommendations summarized below. After months of deliberations and discussions, each recommendation has the unanimous support of the BRCH.

## Summary of Recommendations

<p><b>1 Create County Entity and Identify County Leader</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create County entity with responsible charge, accountability, and authority over homelessness</li> <li>• Establish inter-county workgroups</li> <li>• Establish subregional leadership infrastructure</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Measure H / Local Solutions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a “local solutions” fund within Measure H using an algorithm or funded at an amount to be defined by the Board for jurisdictions that will make a commitment to provide in-kind or matching contributions for the development of service programs and housing</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Streamlined LAHSA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role: Focus as CoC (Rehousing) Lead</li> <li>• Governance: Maintain number of seats (10) on LAHSA Commission but change who sits in them (e.g., department heads, lived expertise representative, COG or cities representative)</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 Continuum of Care Governance (“Modify CoC Leadership”)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate LAHSA Commission, CoC Board, and CES Policy Council into single board consistent with best practices and efficiencies</li> <li>• Prior to consolidating various boards, appoint County Department heads to CES Policy Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Improve LAHSA’s Operations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define decision-making responsibilities and embed Ops Team to improve LAHSA’s operations</li> </ul>
<p><b>6 Data and Metrics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require access to, sharing of, and tracking of data and define success</li> </ul>
<p><b>7 Executive-Level Action Team</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a forum for Executive-Level Action Team</li> </ul>

If the Board acts on our recommendations, it would generate momentum and begin the necessary reforms. And we should do so with urgency, yet recognizing that no harm be done to the people experiencing homelessness and those serving them.

*Please see Addendum B to this Executive Summary for further details.*

## D. Conclusion\*

There is a lot of work to do. Issues such as prevention, diversion, social justice, land use, housing, and economic development policies, which are not addressed in this Report given the scope of the Board’s motion creating our commission, require further analysis and focus. But, when it comes to governance, reform is possible. We urge the Board of Supervisors to act on our recommendations. Our recommendations are not a panacea for homelessness, but the recommendations reflect bold, collective goals that, working together, we can achieve. We can do better. We must do better. We owe that to the people experiencing homelessness in our community.

\*The issues that affect our homelessness services delivery system go beyond this Report and our charge, which, as directed by the Board, focused on issues of governance. This Report addresses the first phase of what could be a multi-phase process for improving our system. Depending on the Board’s action with respect to this Report, the next phase could address issues including the specific parameters surrounding our recommendations with a view toward the vast array of other issues that impact the delivery of homeless services in the County, including prevention, funding, housing, land use, and equity. All of these topics could benefit from further study.



TO: WESTSIDE CITIES COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES  
RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 4/14/2022 MEETING (AS PREPARED APRIL 4)

**Bills to Watch in 2022 By Issue Area**  
Environmental Quality

Energy and utilities

**SB 884 (McGuire) Electricity. Expedited Utility Distribution and Transmission Infrastructure Undergrounding Program.**

This measure would require the California Public Utilities Commission to establish an expedited utility distribution and transmission infrastructure undergrounding program and would authorize a large electrical corporation to participate in the program. This measure would also require a city approve such an undergrounding development project in 150 days and require permit streamlining.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

**HOT SB 1393 (Archuleta) Energy. Appliances. Local Requirements.**

This measure would require a city, including a charter city, or county to apply to, and receive approval from, the California Energy Commission before the city or county could require that a fossil fuel-fired appliance be replaced with an electric appliance upon the alteration or retrofit of a residential or nonresidential building, except when the requirement includes specified exemptions.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

**SB 852 (Dodd) Climate Resilience Districts. Formation. Funding Mechanisms.**

This measure would authorize a city, county, city and county, special district, or a combination of those entities to form a climate resilience district for the purposes of raising and allocating funding for eligible projects and the operating expenses of eligible projects. Eligible projects would include projects that address sea level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, the risk of wildfire, drought, and the risk of flooding.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

**SB 1217 (Allen and Cortese) State-Regional Collaborative for Climate, Equity, and Resilience.**

This measure would establish, until January 1, 2028, the State-Regional Collaborative for Climate, Equity, and Resilience to provide guidance, on or before January 1, 2024, to the State Air Resources Board for approving new guidelines for sustainable communities strategies. The bill would require, on or before December 31, 2025, the state board to update the guidelines for sustainable communities strategies to incorporate suggestions from the collaborative.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

Solid waste and recycling

**HOT AB 1985 (R. Rivas) Organic Waste. List. Available Products.**

This measure would seek to help cities with their SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) procurement requirements. Specifically, the measure would require CalRecycle to compile and maintain a list on its website, organized by ZIP code, of information regarding persons or entities that produce and have organic waste products available and update the list every 6 months.

*Cal Cities Position: Co-Sponsor/Support*

*Los Angeles Division Position: Support*

**Budget Ask: SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program – \$180 million**

- \$180 million to help cities and counties implement SB 1383 (Lara, 2016).
- Supplements the \$60 million allocated for this purpose in last year’s budget.
- Local government coalition led by Cal Cities.

*Cal Cities Position: Co-Author/Support*

**SB 54 (Allen) Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act.**

This measure is a vehicle for negotiations to reduce the amount of single-use plastics and make such products fully recyclable or compostable.

*Cal Cities Position: Support in Concept*

Water, stormwater, and drought

**AB 2247 (Bloom) Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and PFAS Products and Product Components. Publicly Accessible Reporting Platform.**

This measure would require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to establish by January 1, 2024, a publicly accessible reporting platform to collect information about PFAS and products or product components containing regulated PFAS being sold, offered for sale, distributed, or offered for promotional purposes in, or imported into the state.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending Support*

**SB 891 (Hertzberg) Business Licenses. Stormwater Discharge Compliance.**

This measure would make changes to the existing SB 205 (Hertzberg, 2019) business license process to check regulated business’ stormwater compliance. The measure would attempt to capture local government processes similar to business licenses but are called by other names.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

Coastal issues

**AB 2160 (Bennett) Coastal Resources. Coastal Development Permits. Fees.**

This measure would authorize a coastal development permit applicant to submit the coastal development permit application directly to the California Coastal Commission if a city or county rejects a fee waiver or fee reduction request.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

Transportation, Communications, and Public Works

Bridge investments

**HOT AB 2120 (Ward) Federal Funding in Local Bridges.**

This measure would ensure a fair and needs-based allocation of bridge formula funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Active transportation

**HOT SB 932 (Portantino) Circulation Element.**

The measure would require cities to adopt significant bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic calming elements when they develop and revise their general plans.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Local streets and roads

**AB 2953 (Salas) Recycled Material.**

This bill would require a local agency to use, to the extent feasible and cost effective, recycled materials in streets and highways.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

### Community Services

Outdoor access

#### **[AB 1789 \(Bennett\)](#) Trails and Greenways Program.**

This measure would include a one-time \$75 million appropriation (General Fund) and an annual \$15 million appropriation for investments that would create, expand, and improve the natural surface trails networks throughout the state.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

#### **[AB 2346 \(Gabriel\)](#) Outdoor Recreation. Equitable Access Grant Program.**

This measure would establish the Equitable Access Grants Program to implement community access projects.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Children's camps

#### **[HOT AB 1737 \(Holden\)](#) Children's Camps. Local Registration and Inspections.**

This measure would implement a series of children's camp safety requirements related to local registration and inspection. Most notably, this measure would require local agencies to make announced and unannounced visits to each children's camp in their jurisdiction and make public any cited violations.

*Cal Cities Position: Concerns (Seeking Amendments)*

Libraries and literacy

#### **[AB 2465 \(Bonta\)](#) Pupil Instruction. Literacy Grant Programs.**

This measure would require the Department of Education to develop and implement a competitive grant program to award funds to local educational agencies, library districts, and public libraries to provide a library card to every public-school pupil enrolled in the local educational agency.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending Support*

Early learning and care

#### **[SB 1047 \(Limón\)](#) Early Learning and Care.**

This measure would expand the range of childcare and early learning services that a state preschool contracting agency may provide.

Specifically, this measure would authorize the expansion of services through the California State Preschool Program to children from 18 months to five years of age, amend eligibility requirements for certain childcare programs, and make changes to childcare contracting terms and conditions.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Emergency preparedness

#### **[AB 2538 \(R. Rivas\)](#) State Warning Center. Wildfire Smoke Notification.**

This measure would require the California Office of Emergency Services to expand its California State Warning Center to include targeted alerts for public health dangers.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

#### **[AB 2645 \(Rodriguez\)](#) Local Emergency Plans. Integration of Access and Functional Needs. Community Resilience Centers.**

This measure would require a county to integrate access and functional needs into its emergency plan upon the next update to its emergency plan.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Homelessness — seniors and aging

**[AB 2547 \(Nazarian\)](#) Housing Stabilization to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities Act.**

This measure would require the California Department of Aging to offer competitive grants to nonprofit community-based organizations, continuums of care, and public housing authorities to administer a housing subsidy program for older adults and persons with a disability experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending Support*

Homelessness

**[AB 2630 \(O'Donnell\)](#) Housing. California Interagency Council on Homelessness. Report.**

This measure would require each city and county that has used funds from any source to assist in addressing homelessness to submit a report to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness.

*Cal Cities Position: Concerns*

**HOT [AB 2631 \(O'Donnell\)](#) Government Claims Act.**

This measure would allow cities and counties to sue one another if a neighboring jurisdiction's failure to effectively address this crisis results in another community being negatively impacted.

*Cal Cities Position: Concerns*

Homelessness — pets

**[SB 513 \(Hertzberg\)](#) Homeless Shelters Grants: Pets and Veterinary Services.**

This measure would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to create and administer a program to award grants to homeless shelters that allow pets. These grants would enable shelters to provide food, housing, and veterinary services for pets that are owned by homeless individuals.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

CARE Court

**[SB 1338 \(Umbert\)](#) Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.**

This bill would establish the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program to connect a person struggling with untreated mental illness and substance use disorders with a court-ordered CARE plan.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

Behavioral health

**[SB 929 \(Eggman\)](#) Community Mental Health Services. Data Collection.**

This measure would expand the type of data collected by the Department of Health Care Services related to conservatorships, clinical outcomes, and services provided.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

**[SB 1154 \(Eggman\)](#) Facilities for Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder Crisis. Database.**

This measure would require the State Department of Public Health to develop a real-time, behavioral health bed registry.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

#### Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations

The Ralph M. Brown Act



**AB 1944 (Lee) Local Government. Open and Public Meetings.**

This measure would allow members of a local legislative body, upon majority vote, to allow members to waive Brown Act requirements to publish their private address, and make their private address open to members of the public.

If the city does this, they would be required to live stream the meeting and allow for video/audio or audio remote public participation for members of the public to address the body.

*Cal Cities Position: Support in Concept*

**AB 2449 (B. Rubio) Open Meetings: Local Agencies. Teleconferences.**

This measure would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with teleconferencing requirements if a quorum of the legislative body members participate in person from a singular location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency's jurisdiction.

This measure would impose requirements for this exception relating to notices, agendas, the means and manner of access, and procedures for disruptions.

*Cal Cities Position: Support in Concept*

**AB 2647 (Levine) Local Government. Open Meetings.**

This measure would clarify that material distributed to a majority of a local legislative body less than 72 hours before a meeting can be posted online to satisfy the requirements of the Brown Act.

*Cal Cities Position: Sponsor/Support*

**SB 1100 (Cortese) Open Meetings. Orderly Conduct.**

This measure would define "willful interruption" to ensure an individual(s) is removed from a public meeting if they substantially impair or render infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting in accordance with law. This measure would also establish a warning system to require that removal of an individual(s) causing a willful interruption be preceded by a request that the individual curtail their disruptive behavior or be subject to removal.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

**SB 1328 (McGuire) Prohibited Investments and Contracts. Russia and Belarus.**

This measure would require the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System pension funds to stop investing in companies with ties to the Russian and Belarusian governments, responding to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, aided by Belarus. This measure would also require the board by January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature. This measure would repeal provisions on specified triggering events. Bill would take effect immediately.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

California Public Employees' Retirement System

**SB 1173 (L. Gonzalez) Public Retirement Systems. Fossil Fuels. Divestment.**

This measure would prohibit the boards of the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System from making new investments or renewing existing investments of public employee retirement funds in a fossil fuel company. This measure would require the boards to liquidate investments in these companies by July 1, 2027. This measure would provide that it does not require a board to take any action unless the board determines in good faith that the action is consistent with the board's fiduciary responsibilities established in the California Constitution.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

Labor and employment

**HOT [SB 1044 \(Durazo\)](#) Employers. Natural Disasters. Retaliation.**

This measure would prohibit an employer, in the event of a state of emergency, from taking or threatening adverse action against any employee for refusing to report to, or leaving, a workplace within the affected area because the employee feels unsafe due to the emergency.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Workers' compensation

**[AB 1751 \(Daly\)](#) Workers' Compensation. COVID-19. Critical Workers.**

This measure would extend the COVID-19 Workers' Compensation presumption from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2025.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

**HOT [SB 1127 \(Atkins\)](#) Workers' Compensation. Liability Presumptions.**

This measure would fundamentally alter longstanding rules and timeframes for determining eligibility for workers' compensation claims. This measure would reduce the timeline for employers to make a decision about covering a claimed injury and would change the rules for all claims.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Elections

**[AB 2808 \(O'Donnell\)](#) Elections. Ranked Choice Voting.**

This measure would disallow cities from using ranked choice voting.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

**[SB 897 \(Wieckowski\)](#) Accessory Dwelling Units.**

This measure would make numerous changes to existing ADU law. Most notably, SB 897 would require local governments to allow ADUs to be constructed with a height of up to 25 feet.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Parking standards

**HOT [AB 2097 \(Friedman\)](#) and [HOT SB 1067 \(Portantino\)](#) Parking Requirements.**

These two measures would significantly restrict parking requirements within one half-mile of public transit. Public transit is defined as 1) a high-quality transit corridor with 15-minute headways; 2) major transit stop — ferry terminal, rapid transit stop, or the intersection of multiple major bus routes with 15-minute headways.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Land use and zoning

**[SB 1369 \(Wieckowski\)](#) Adaptive Reuse. By-Right.**

This measure would require local jurisdictions to approve "adaptive reuse projects" by right in all areas regardless of the zoning of the site. "Adaptive reuse project" means any commercial, public, industrial, or office building or structure that has 25 percent occupancy or less, which is converted into a housing development project. "Adaptive reuse project" does not include a project to convert an industrial building adjacent to active industrial uses on three or more sides of the building.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Community Development Investment Program

**[SB 1466 \(Stern\)](#) Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program.**

This measure would create a local-state partnership to provide up to \$2 billion annually to fund state-approved affordable housing, infrastructure, and economic development projects that also support state policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand transit-oriented development (TOD), address poverty, and revitalize neighborhoods.

*Cal Cities Position: Sponsor/Support*

Land use and zoning

**HOT [AB 1976 \(Santiago\)](#) Housing Element Compliance. Rezoning.**

This measure would subject all cities and counties in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) that have not rezoned to accommodate 100 percent of the need for housing for very low and lower income households, to the following:

- Up to \$10,000 per day fine; or
- The Department of Housing and Community Development shall complete the rezoning on behalf of the local jurisdiction.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Surplus Lands Act

**[AB 1748 \(Seyarto\)](#) Surplus Lands Act.**

This measure would exempt specified city or county owned parcels from the Surplus Lands Act if:

- Housing production exceeds RHNA goals from the proceeding housing element cycle, regardless of income category.
- The city or county is making proportionate progress towards meeting RHNA goals for each income category on an annual basis for the current housing element cycle.
- The city or county has been designated as prohousing by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Disaster recovery

**[AB 1945 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program.**

This measure would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish the Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program. This program would expedite relief funding for the development or preservation of affordable housing in the state's declared disaster areas.

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) would provide short-term loans—including loans to local agencies—with favorable terms and conditions until federal assistance arrives. Federal funds would then be used to repay the short-term assistance.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Social Housing Act

**[AB 2053 \(Lee\)](#) Social Housing.**

This measure would enact the Social Housing Act and would create the California Housing Authority, as an independent state body, the mission of which would be to produce and acquire social housing developments for the purpose of eliminating the gap between housing production and regional housing needs assessment targets.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Online permitting

**[AB 2234 \(R. Rivas\)](#) Planning. Housing. Post-entitlement Phase Permit.**

This measure would, no later than January 1, 2024, require a public agency to allow post-entitlement phase permits to be applied for, completed, and stored through a publicly available process on its

website. Until the public agency has established this process on its website, it shall accept applications for permits and any related documentation by electronic mail.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Land use and zoning

**[AB 2295 \(Bloom\)](#) School Property. Housing.**

This measure would, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of a city's or county's general plan, specific plan, zoning ordinance, or regulation, require that a qualified housing development on land owned by a local educational agency be an authorized use if the housing development complies with certain conditions.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Development fees

**[AB 2428 \(Ramos\)](#) Impact Fees.**

This measure would require a local agency to expend fees collected to defray the cost of public facilities related to the development project within 5 years of the charge. Any fees for improvements that are collected and that are not expended within this period shall be returned to the applicant.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Land use and zoning

**[AB 2705 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.**

This measure would prohibit a city or county from approving a discretionary entitlement that would result in a new residential development project being located within a very high fire hazard severity zone, unless the city or county finds that the residential development project will meet new standards intended to address wildfire risks.

*Cal Cities Position: Pending*

Public Safety

Alternatives to incarceration

**[AB 1670 \(Bryan\)](#) Criminal Justice. Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration.**

This measure would create the Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration within the California Health and Human Services Agency to study alternatives to incarceration, alternative crisis response models, and the effects of family separation in the jail and state prison systems.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Law enforcement recruitment and retention

**[AB 2062 \(Salas\)](#) Local Law Enforcement Hiring Grants.**

This measure would, upon appropriation of funds for this purpose in the annual Budget Act and until January 1, 2029, require the Board of State and Community Corrections to establish a grant program to provide \$50 million in grants to local law enforcement agencies to incentivize peace officers to work in local law enforcement agencies that are in underserved communities and to live in the communities that they are serving.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Catalytic converters

**[AB 2398 \(Villapudua\)](#) Catalytic Converters.**

This measure would make the possession of a detached catalytic converter a crime, punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony. The bill would make this crime inapplicable to a person who demonstrates authorization to possess the detached catalytic converter by providing a certificate of title or registration showing the person's interest in the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was detached, written

authorization from the person holding the certificate of title or registration, or evidence that the catalytic converter was acquired in a lawful transaction.

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Law enforcement technology

**HOT [SB 1038 \(Bradford\)](#) Law enforcement: Facial Recognition and Other Biometric Surveillance.**

This measure would extend indefinitely the current prohibition barring a law enforcement agency or law enforcement officer from installing, activating, or using any biometric surveillance system in connection with an officer camera or data collected by an officer camera.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

Cannabis

**HOT [SB 1186 \(Wiener\)](#) Medicinal Cannabis Patients' Right of Access Act.**

This measure would prohibit regulations that unreasonably restrict, among other things, the operating hours or the number or frequency of sales of medicinal cannabis businesses.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose*

**[SB 1326 \(Caballero\)](#) Cannabis. Interstate Agreements.**

This measure would allow the cross jurisdictional import and export to other states, of cannabis and cannabis products by authorizing the Governor to enter into an agreement to provide lawful interstate commerce.

*Cal Cities Position: Watch*

#### Revenue and Taxation

Tax exemptions

**[AB 1702 \(Levine\)](#) COVID-19 Prevention and Response Goods.**

This measure would provide a sales and use tax exemption for face masks, respirators, and at home COVID-19 test kits.

*Cal Cities Position: Oppose Unless Amended*

**HOT [AB 1951 \(Grayson\)](#) Manufacturing Exemptions.**

The measure would extend and expand until 2033 the sales and use tax exemption for manufacturing processing, refining, fabricating, and recycling.

*Cal Cities Position: Working With Author*

**[AB 2622 \(Mullin\)](#) Zero Emission Bus Exemption.**

The measure would extend until 2033 the sales and use tax exemption provided to cities, counties, and transit agencies for zero emission transit buses

*Cal Cities Position: Support*

Home sharing experiences

**HOT [AB 2328 \(Flora\)](#) Local Ordinances. Home Experience Sharing.**

This measure preempts explicit or implicit local prohibitions on “home experience sharing units.” A home sharing unit is noncommercial property that is rented for no more than 18 continuous hours.

*Cal Cities Position: Work with Author*

Annexation funding

**[SB 1449 \(Caballero\)](#) Annexation Incentive Grant Program.**

This measure would create an Unincorporated Area Annexation Incentive Grant Program within the State Office of Planning and Research. The matching grant program (1:1) aims to support cities with the infrastructure needs within new or future annexed areas.

*Cal Cities Position: Support in Concept*

#### Regional / Los Angeles County Division Bill List

##### State Budget

Support a General Fund Budget Request for \$180 million for Local Assistance Organic Waste Recycling Program Development and Implementation

**[AB 1599 \(Kiley\) Proposition 47: repeal \(as amended 3/9/22\)](#)**. Repeals the changes and additions made by Proposition 47 related to theft and the possession of controlled substances. The bill would become effective upon approval of the voters at the next statewide general election.

*Division Position: Support*

**[AB 1845 \(Calderon\) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: alternative project delivery methods \(as amended 3/24/22\)](#)**. AB 1845 authorizes the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to use alternative project deliver methods for the design and construction of a Regional Recycling Water Program and a limited set of drought-related projects.

*Division Position: Support*

**[SB 15 \(Portantino\) Housing development: incentives: rezoning of idle retail sites \(as amended 5/20/21\)](#)**.

SB 1299 enables cities that rezone, build, and certify new occupancy of idle big box retail sites or commercial shopping centers into workforce multi-family housing to receive the average of the annual amount of sales tax revenue generated by that site for the last seven (7) years. The program would be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development and requires annual appropriation by the legislature.

*Division Position: Co-Sponsor*

##### Ballot Measures

##### **The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act Initiative No. 21-0042A1**

Limits voters' input, adopts new and stricter rules for raising taxes and fees, and makes it more difficult to hold state and local law violators accountable.

*Division Position: Oppose*

##### Los Angeles County Homelessness

**Support Los Angeles County [Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Governance Report Recommendations](#)**

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#### Upcoming Events & Legislative Deadlines

**[April 8 – 17: Legislature's Spring Recess](#)**

**[April 29: Last day for legislative policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills introduced in their house](#)**

**[May 6: Last day for legislative policy committees to hear and report nonfiscal bills introduced in their house](#)**

**[May 11 – 13: City Leaders Summit \(Sacramento\)](#)**

**[May 13: Last day for policy committees to meet prior to May 31](#)**

**[May 20: Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house](#)**

**May 27:** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

**June 2 at 6 PM:** [Los Angeles County Division General Membership Meeting \(\*Universal Studios, details TBA\*\)](#)



## Regional Climate Change Event

### Topic:

- How small businesses, entrepreneurs, corporations, cities, youth and the average person can help combat climate change and support green technologies. Speakers will showcase practical solutions as to how not only businesspeople, but all Southern California residents, can incorporate environmentally responsible behavior into their daily lives.

*"Climate change is a huge challenge, but it can be brought in line if governments, businesses and individuals work together."*

*-Sir Richard Branson,  
Founder of Virgin Group*

### Goals:

- Engaging all sectors of the community – businesses, local governments, students, and residents/individuals – in the climate change conversation, bringing the issue back to the forefront.
- Inspiring the next generation to be active in the fight against climate change. According to a Financial Times article, a study that monitored young people's social media interactions concluded that 15% of users are "passionate activists", only 2% are "climate deniers" and 1% are "fatalists".
- Teaching and informing kids as to how they may actively make a difference on a daily basis - recycling, conserving water and materials, bike-riding, etc.

### Event:

- 2-Day Event (Weekdays)
- The first day will be geared towards local business entities. The Rotary Club will help sponsor the event, as well as many local businesses and film studios in the LA area.
- The second day will be geared towards adolescents. We will invite many local public and private elementary, middle and high schools.



**Speakers:**

- Will invite several qualified speakers, including featured guest speaker, John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy on Climate Change
- Other potential speakers include representatives from Siemens, Valero Energy Corp, Rocky Mountain Institute, Gensler Architecture, as well as certain Consulate Generals involved in the climate crisis.

**Potential Location:**

- Wallis Annenberg Center
- Another venue to be provided by one of the participating cities

**Date:**

- Late 2022, early 2023

**Organizers:**

- Rotary Club of Beverly Hills
- Global Green Partners
- Requesting participation and support from the Cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica & West Hollywood

**About Renato Romano and Global Green Partners:**

- Organized a similar two-day event in 2007 called “Green Days in Beverly Hills”.
- Organized a Rotary event in 2020, in which Barry Rasin, former Rotary Club President, gave a speech on Climate Change.