JOINT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WORKING GROUPS

December 17, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Zoom Webinar

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS**

   Lorianne Esturas, Assistant Regional Planner within the Sustainability Department at SCAG, welcomed all participants.

   *Please note that listed attendees are based off chat entries of names and organizations and may not reflect the entire list of participants during the meeting.

   *SCAG Staff:
   Courtney Aguirre
   Julia Lippe-Klein
   Kimberly Clark
   Lorianne Esturas
   Natalie Arreaga
   Sarah Dominguez
   Vannesa Reyes Salazar

   *Webinar:

Alex Araiza, Caltrans; D11	*Laura Emmons, County of Ventura*
Changmii Bae, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	*Lolly Lim, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation*
	Lori Huddleston, LA Metro; Long Range Planning Team
Charles Guiam, City of Anaheim	*Mark Friis, SBC SRTS*
Chris Moore, CPUC	*Melany Arriola, StanCOG*
Christine Nguyen, City of Anaheim	*Michael Germeraad, ABAG/MTC*
David Von Stroh, Cambridge Systematics	*Miguel Ramos, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Health*
Deborah Murphy, DMUD+P	
Doug Darnell, City of Menifee	*Myriam Frausto, Mark Thomas*
Elizabeth Hansburg, People for Housing OC	*Paul Martin, Mark Thomas*
Francis Appiah, Caltrans; D7: Environmental Planning	*Sara Toyoda, City of Indio*
James Dulgeroff, CSU San Bernardino	*Stephanie Cadena, Gateway Cities COG*
Jeff Caton, ESA	*Warren Whiteaker, OCTA*
Julie Lugara, Caltrans; D12	
Kayla Koerting, Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA)	
Kristopher Fortin, Santa Ana Active Streets	

2. **CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK & TOOLS**
   Lorianne Esturas & Kimberly Clark, SCAG
   David Von Stroh, Cambridge Systematics
   Jeff Caton, ESA

- Updates on the Climate Adaptation Framework
  - The Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework (CAF) can be accessed online at https://scag.ca.gov/climate-change-regional-adaptation-framework
  - Key legislative bills to consider for adaptation planning are SB 379, SB 1035, and SB 1000.
  - Work on the CAF consisted of scenario development models by risk (wildfire, flood, sea-level rise, extreme heat) and development of models for individual scenarios and combined scenarios. The analysis results were reported using vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and analyzed travel patterns per county.
    - Development of the wildfire scenario incorporated California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT) data and US Forest Service data. A second iteration of the scenario analysis will be conducted CalFire data. The stranded wildfire zone scenario shows impacts on transportation lines and which zones are projected to experience severe detours.
    - The Sea-level rise scenario models include scenarios of 2-meter rise and 5-meter rise.
    - Extreme heat scenarios were measured by extreme heat days per year (modeled for the years 2020, 2030, and 2050).
  - The CAF includes development of the Southern California Adaptation Planning Guide (SoCal APG). The SoCal APG consists four adaptation planning and can be accessed online at https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/socaladaptationplanningguide_oct2020.pdf
  - Another CAF resource is the Project Checklists, a two-step process to assess a project's adaptability to various climate hazards. Each hazard is measured by the project's vulnerability based on exposure.
  - A Vulnerability Mapping and Assessment Tool is currently under development and will be an ESRI-based tool.
  - The Decision-Tree Tool is an interactive resource that provides information on population, disadvantaged communities (DACs), risk factors, and provides project options.
  - The Strategies and Actions Spreadsheet provides suggestions on how to begin the project process.
  - The CAF also contains a report on financing and funding tools for adaptation planning. SCAG held a "Financing the Future: Funding Resilient Infrastructure in Response to Climate Change" training in December 2019 to showcase the collection of tools. The training can be accessed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfwecdekMGQ&feature=youtu.be

- Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) Tool
  - The HELPR Tool is a new tool developed by SCAG, in partnership with ESRI, to assist local jurisdictions in viewing jurisdictional parcels that will be impacted by climate risks. Consistent with SB 1035 and SB 379, the tool includes data on climate vulnerability and displays priority growth areas, environmental justice (EJ)/vulnerable communities, environmental sensitivity areas, and more. Selected environment sensitivity areas include wetland areas, protective

areas, high and very high-risk fire zones, among others. The tool is live and can be accessed online at https://maps.scag.ca.gov/helpr/

- Q&A
  - Have any sensitivity runs done on the scenarios after accounting for the pandemic?
    - No, we have not done any reruns.
  - Caltrans is also considering climate risks and is focusing on infrastructure that may be destroyed by sea-level rise. Do you have any data on this?
    - In analyzing and developing the sea-level rise scenario model, we did look at the impact to linkages and assets along coastlines and mapped it out and flagged which assets were vulnerable and which were projected to be stranded in a 2-meter scenario.
  - Do you have more information on alternative routes in a scenario where transportation linkages are destroyed?
    - Yes, we have a score for every travel-analysis per zone and ratio of travel time to baseline. If travel time is greater than the baseline, we have flagged that as a longer detour.
  - There is a nuclear waste depository near the Onofre Beach in San Clemente. With sea-level rise, I am assuming that it will impact the nearby 405 interstate and other infrastructures. I am hoping SCAG is considering this.
    - We conducted a gap analysis of vulnerability assessments and hadn't found anything about San Onofre. We found no high-level mapping or database on that information but want to note that sea-level rise and groundwater is being recognized as a hazard.

3. **EXTREME HEAT AND PUBLIC HEALTH**
   Natalie Arreaga, SCAG

- Staff provided a primer on extreme heat and its impacts on public health.
- Extreme heat is defined as weather that is substantially hotter than average for a specific area or time. Heat index is used to measure heat and moisture in the air.
- Based on forecasts on extreme heat projections by the Union of Concerned Scientists, no action by mid-century will lead to extreme heat days doubling. By late-century, the US is anticipated to experience four times as many days per year with extreme heat, posing significant mortal risks.
- Within the SCAG region, California is expected to have an annual temperature increase of 5 degrees. Imperial County is projected to have the highest number of extreme heat days, with Orange County projected to have the least number of extreme heat days.

- Q&A
  - Are you doing any research into the limitations of cool pavement?
    - Not yet, I am currently conducting research on extreme heat and how other regions or jurisdictions have prioritized targeting resources. But if you have cool pavement information/resources please do share.

4. **A PREVIEW: CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PLACES INDEX, EXTREME HEAT EDITION**
   Lolly Lim, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation

   - UCLA staff provided an overview of the Extreme Heat edition of the California Healthy Places Index (HPI), an interactive tool that can be used to view exposure data, temperature characteristics, sensitive populations based on census tract, and includes information on funding opportunities at the state-level. The tool includes datasets on underlying community conditions, such as index scores, environmental characteristics, economic characteristics, housing characteristics (related to crowding, cost-burden, housing types), transit characteristics (transportation options), and more. The tool also includes indicators on sensitive populations, such as youth, elderly, underlying health conditions, etc. The tool can be accessed online at https://heat.healthyplacesindex.org/
   - The tool will fully launch January 2021 year. Although currently live, we do not recommend use of the tool due to a few technical bugs and loose ends that still need to be tied up. We recommend waiting until the tool's full launch next year and plan to host webinars similar to today's presentation.

   - Q&A
     - What were the motivation behind this extreme heat focus? Is this part of a larger effort to create tools that address climate change?
       - We focused on utilizing data that already exists and only created one new data set. What we tried to do with already available data is create a tool that is flexible. Based on feedback we get we'll incorporate other hazards (such as wildfire, sea-level rise) in the future to show connections and how these conditions impact one another.

5. **SCAG EQUITY WORK GROUP UPDATE**
   Courtney Aguirre, SCAG

   - SCAG staff provided updates on SCAG's Equity Work Group (EWG). SCAG recognizing these disparities in extreme heat impacts and importance of addressing equity has created EWG.
   - The EWG has been working on defining "equity." A draft definition was developed in November 2020 and revised in December 2020. One key piece of feedback included having a greater focus on communities of color. We acknowledge the challenge of addressing all dimensions of equity, so the current "equity" definition will be a working definition. We anticipate it to evolve over time.
   - The EWG has also been working on an equity inventory and developing an equity framework as part of a larger strategic approach. So far, we have collected data from staff for the equity inventory and are currently drafting a report. A portion of the equity framework will be presented in a special meeting in January 2021 to showcase the metrics used to measure equity.
   - Agency-wide equity efforts include SCAG HR implementing a strategic plan to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the agency, as well as continuing work on a Public Participation Plan that increases participation and engagement of diverse communities, CBOs, etc.

   - Q&A

- o Caltrans has various Districts (7, 8, 11, 12,) and their directors have been considering equity and are also working on their own definition of equity. Caltrans' Director, in Sacramento, has issued an equity statement and I would love to share this presentation with them.
  - Let's connect afterwards. Happy to hear Caltrans, a statewide agency, is also working on equity efforts.
- o If interested in hearing more about SCAG's equity work, please consider participating in an upcoming meeting of our Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice (next meeting Jan. 27) https://scag.ca.gov/special-committee-equity-and-social-justice

6. **CONNECT SOCAL UPDATE**
   Sarah Dominguez, SCAG

- SCAG staff provided updates on Connect SoCal and highlighted the California Air Resources Board (CARB) acceptance of SCAG's determination meeting GHG emissions targets. The CARB Executive Order and evaluation of Connect SoCal can be accessed online at https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/carb-2020-scs-evaluation-packet.pdf?1606337689

7. **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**
   Julia Lippe-Klein, SCAG

- SCAG staff provided updates on SCAG's Sustainable Communities Program (SCP). The goal of the SCP is to implement Connect SoCal goals and help jurisdictions be competitive for grants. The aim of the SCP is to provide technical support.
- SCAG is currently accepting applications for the SCP: Housing and Sustainable Development (HSD) program. The goals of the HSD program are to encourage development of housing and increasing housing supply; decrease vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and support development of three select housing types: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Housing Sustainable Districts (HSD)/Workforce Housing Opportunity Zones (WHOZs)/Housing Supportive Tax-Increment Financing (HSTIF), and Objective Development. The call for applications deadline has been extended to January 29, 2021.
- SCAG will also have a Call for Applications for its Smart Cities and Mobility program beginning February 2021. The goal of the program is to implement SoCal key connections. Eligible projects include curb space and data, technology assessment, parking management plan, and permitting. Applications will be due in April 2021.
- Additional resources for SCAG's SCP programs include one-on-one coaching, program fact sheets, and program toolkits and can be accessed online through the Sustainable Communities Program website: https://scag.ca.gov/sustainability-program-call-applications