

**Regional Council (RC)  
List of Public Comments**

Received **before** 5pm on Wednesday, February 1, 2023

	Date	Sender Name	Organization	Agenda Item (AI #)	Subject Matter
1.	1/24/2023	Dan Silver	Endangered Habitats League	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (Regional Council, February 2, 2023) – <i>SUPPORT</i>
2.	1/27/2023	Terry M. Welsh, MD	Banning Ranch Conservancy	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
3.	1/27/2023	Melanie Schlotterbeck	Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
4.	1/27/2023	Claire Schlotterbeck	Hills for Everyone	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
5.	1/30/2023	Angela Miramontes	Amigos de los Rios	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
6.	1/30/2023	Angela Moskow	California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program (SUPPORT)
7.	1/30/2023	Kim F. Floyd		AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
8.	1/31/2023	Steve Bardwell	Morongo Basin Conservation Association	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
9.	2/1/2023	Susan Sheakley	Sea and Sage Audubon Society	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of RAMP Policy Framework with TAC Environmental Non-profit Rep. (SUPPORT)

10.	2/1/2023	Francis Appiah	Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Support for RAMP and Greenprint TAC with Environmental Representation
11.	2/1/2023	Sky Allen	I.E. United	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Support for RAMP and Greenprint TAC with Environmental Representation
12.	2/1/2023	Elizabeth Wallace	California Native Plant Society Orange County Chapter	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
13.	2/1/2023	C. Robin Smith	Diamond Bar Preservation Foundation	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
14.	2/1/2023	Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat	Center for Biological Diversity	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)
15.	2/1/2023	Melanie Schlotterbeck	Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks	AI# 3 - Final Draft RAMP Policy Framework	Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

---

**From:** Dan Silver <dsilverla@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 3:38 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (Regional Council, February 2, 2023) – SUPPORT  
**Attachments:** EHL-RAMP-Regional Council-Feb 2,2023.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Gentlepersons:

Please find written testimony for this item enclosed.

Regards,  
Dan Silver

Dan Silver, Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League  
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592  
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

213-804-2750  
dsilverla@me.com  
<https://ehleague.org>



January 24, 2023

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
ATTN: President Jan Harnik  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
[ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

**RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework  
(Regional Council, February 2, 2023) – SUPPORT**

Dear President Harnik and Members of the Regional Council:

Endangered Habitats League (EHL) *supports* the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP). We urge its adoption. As you know, the RAMP was recently unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee after receiving support from both the business and environmental sectors.

For your reference, EHL is a Southern California regional organization dedicated to ecosystem protection, sustainable land use, and collaborative conflict resolution. We have hands-on experience with successful RAMPs in San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties.

We also strongly support the inclusion of a non-profit environmental representative on the proposed Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee. To effectively represent the environmental sector, the representative should be from a non-profit conservation group and have experience in RAMPs and as a stakeholder in SCAG programs.

A RAMP will provide certainty and fact-based environmental context for regional and transportation planning and a comprehensive and efficient mitigation program. It will provide the streamlined environmental compliance that is critical to timely implement complex projects.

Connect SoCal's Core Vision includes creating a RAMP for sustainable development and meets several of Connect SoCal's goals, such as enhancing the regional transportation system, reducing emissions and improving air quality, adapting to climate change, supporting sustainable and equitable communities, and promoting the conservation of natural and agricultural lands. RAMPs comprehensively mitigate the impacts of projects at a regional scale, and avoid the time and cost associated with piecemeal, project-by-project analysis. The mitigation achieved through a RAMP is

biologically superior, as it too reflects the “bigger picture” and achieves strategic goals. As a result, RAMP adoption will allow SCAG to meaningfully meet the mitigation obligations of Connect SoCal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Silver", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Silver  
Executive Director

---

**From:** Info <info@banningranchconservancy.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:14 AM  
**To:** Info  
**Cc:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Support for the SCAG RAMP  
**Attachments:** BRC RAMP Policy Framework Letter to SCAG 012723.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Greetings,

The Banning Ranch Conservancy submits this letter into the record in support of the SCAG Regional Advance Mitigation Program policy framework coming before the Regional Council next week.

Please confirm receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Terry M. Welsh, MD  
President



# BANNING RANCH CONSERVANCY

January 27, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Officers:

Terry Welsh, M.D.  
*President*

Suzanne Forster  
*Vice-President*

Deborah Koken  
*Secretary*

Carol Lind  
*Treasurer*

Melanie Schlotterbeck  
*Executive Director*

Paul Waggoner  
*Community  
Engagement  
Coordinator*

Board Members:

Rick Huffman

Cynthia D'Agosta

Paolo Perrone

Jan Vandersloot, M.D.  
*In Memoriam*

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 15333  
Newport Beach, CA  
92659-5333

Phone:

(714) 719-2148

E-Mail Address:

info@BanningRanch  
Conservancy.org

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework  
(SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

Banning Ranch Conservancy (BRC) generally supports the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP). We also support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

BRC has been deeply engaged in conservation of the Banning Ranch property, now called the Randall Preserve, for 23 years. This coastal asset in Orange County just closed escrow on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We know that there is a needed alignment with transportation mitigation to environmental resources. Places like the Randall Preserve can benefit from this alignment. This is the basis for our interest in SCAG's RAMP. Our comments are as follows:

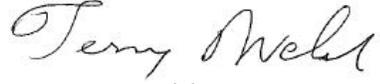
Southern California has a few existing mitigation programs and conservation plans tied to both transportation and development. California is even incorporating this approach at the statewide level. SCAG's RAMP expands the potential to tie the two together and allows coverage where it doesn't currently exist and allows the incorporation of new projects.

Research proves that for every dollar invested in conserving natural lands—no matter the preservation mechanism—an estimated \$2.37 is generated and put back into the local economy through local sales, recreation purchases, gas, and snack/food purchases from outdoor enthusiasts. Therefore, conservation is an economic engine for local jurisdictions.

Finally, Southern California's natural lands are among the most unique in the world. Mediterranean climates only comprise approximately 3% of the world's geography. As a global hotspot of biodiversity, our landscapes—and the plants and animals in them—are threatened with urbanization. Every opportunity we take to save the landscapes, saves this biodiversity and ultimately the human species because we are dependent on this interconnected web of life.

To conclude, we urge your recommended approval of the RAMP Policy Framework and inclusion of an environmental/conservation non-profit representative on the TAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry M. Welsh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Terry M. Welsh  
President

---

**From:** FHBP - Green Vision <greenvision@fhbp.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:23 AM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Support for SCAG RAMP  
**Attachments:** FHBP RAMP Policy Framework Letter to SCAG 012723 FINAL.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Good morning,

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks submits this support letter on the Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP) Policy Framework, which is anticipated to be before the Regional Council at its Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Please incorporate this into the packet sent to Board members next week.

Melanie



**Melanie Schlotterbeck, CMP**

**Green Vision Coordinator**

**Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks**

[Melanie@Schlotterbeck.net](mailto:Melanie@Schlotterbeck.net) | [GreenVision@FHBP.org](mailto:GreenVision@FHBP.org)

██████████ ■ P.O. Box 9256 ■ Newport Beach, CA 92658

Follow FHBP: [on the web](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Subscribe](#)



January 27, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) **generally supports the policy framework for the regional advance mitigation program (RAMP)**. We've been deeply engaged with SCAG and the RAMP process since its inception. We support SCAG meeting its mitigation obligation to create the RAMP by taking this crucial first step of adopting a policy framework. Further, **we support the inclusion of a non-profit environmental representative on the proposed Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** to ensure inclusivity and incorporation of a conservation expert with experience in RAMP.

By way of background, FHBP works to promote, protect, and enhance harbors, beaches, parks, trails, open spaces, natural preserves, and historic sites. Orange County is our main geographic focus, but we realize that land use, transportation, and conservation decisions in neighboring counties can substantially affect our work here; hence our involvement in the SCAG planning processes for more than a decade.

Our organization has particular interest in advance mitigation. We were instrumental in forming and now implementing the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Environmental Mitigation Program, an advance mitigation program that brought together over 30 conservation and community groups to support the transportation measure and its inclusion of a RAMP. To date, 1,300 acres have been protected, 350 acres restored, and 13 freeway projects streamlined. Through this process OCTA avoided litigation on its plan because of the comprehensive nature of the RAMP.

As it relates to the SCAG RAMP Policy Framework, our comments include the following points:

RAMPs thoughtfully and comprehensively offset the impacts of projects at a landscape level, instead of providing smaller, piecemeal, and project-by-project mitigation offsets. It is both a time saver, reduces permitting delays, and reduces staff costs. Further, RAMPs allow project implementation to be smoother, more time- and cost-effective, while also benefiting the system of natural lands and

waterways preserved in the Southland. For transportation agencies and developers, RAMPs provide project certainty and streamline the environmental review process for projects voluntarily included in the RAMP.

Another benefit of RAMP is that new projects that are *not covered by an existing RAMP* can be added through the SCAG RAMP process. Thus, this tool helps sets the stage for project delivery and conservation outcomes. We encourage SCAG to tap into the experience and partnerships available through the land trust, conservancy, equity, tribal, and conservation communities that will benefit SCAG and area transportation agencies for the RAMP development. Early and thoughtful communication with these groups will also lead to better outcomes and align with the partnership goal touted in the Natural and Farmland Appendix.

Finally, we hope the RAMP Policy Framework leads to completion of the second key conservation mitigation measure: the SoCal Greenprint. Using data to direct future planning is vitally important. Data on such diverse information as equity, tree cover, gentrification, sea level rise, wildfire risks, and water availability, for example, are critical for understanding the big picture and planning for the future (or correcting past planning mistakes).

**For these reasons and more, FHBP urges the Regional Council to adopt the RAMP Policy Framework.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this agenda item.

Sincerely,



Melanie Schlotterbeck  
Green Vision Coordinator

---

**From:** Claire Schlotterbeck <claire@schlotterbeck.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Comment letter  
**Attachments:** HFE RAMP Policy Framework Letter to SCAG 012723 FINAL.pdf

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

EXTERNAL: This email message was sent from outside our organization. Proceed with caution when opening links or attachments. Submit as spam if you are not sure it is safe.

[Report Suspicious](#)

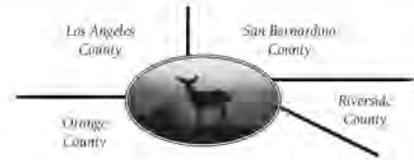
Hello,  
Attached is our comment letter on the RAMP Policy Framework. Please confirm receipt.

Claire Schlotterbeck  
Executive Director  
Hills For Everyone

# H i l l s F o r E v e r y o n e

---

*Southern California comes  
together at the Puente-Chino Hills*



January 27, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

Hills For Everyone (HFE) generally supports the policy framework for the regional advance mitigation program (RAMP). **We urge the Regional Council's adoption of the policy**, which makes progress in meeting the mitigation measures from Connect SoCal.

Based on the unique nature of the complementary mitigation measure, we also support the Energy and Environment Committee's recommendation to include one seat for an environmental non-profit representative with RAMP experience be reserved on the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee.

HFE's work to protect, connect, and restore the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor spans four Southland counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino and 12 local cities and county communities. There have been over \$220 million in public and private investments so far. Part of this investment came in the form of an acquisition by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) through its RAMP. OCTA protected about 300 acres adjacent to Chino Hills State Park to offset the Authority's transportation project impacts. And, two restoration projects were funded by OCTA near the 91 Freeway to help with wildlife movement and habitat improvements there.

Our past experience with RAMP demonstrates their value and the importance of putting available conservation sites on a map. To this end, HFE:

- Supports advance mitigation because it allows the project implementation to be smoother, more time and cost effective, while also benefiting the system of natural lands and waterways preserved in the Southland. It provides project certainty and streamlines the environmental review process. It also reduces risk and garners support from the conservation organizations.
- Recognizes that part of the reason Connect SoCal was so widely supported, HFE included, is because the document incorporated ways to meet the regional greenhouse gas emission and vehicle miles traveled reduction goals set by the State through AB 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and SB 375 (the Sustainable Communities Planning Act of 2008).

Conservation is one tool to reduce both by directing development to appropriate city-centered locations. We cannot build our way to a better climate and increased resiliency, but we can conserve our way to it.

- Understands that transportation agencies that don't have an advance mitigation program can use the SCAG RAMP as a tool for project implementation. And, that RAMPs provide a suite of implementation tools like mitigation banks, federal habitat conservation plans, state natural community conservation plans, in lieu fee programs, conservation banks, and more to be used to track mitigation projects.

For these reasons and others, HFE supports adoption of the SCAG RAMP Policy Framework.

We also support completion of the SCAG Mitigation Measure for the SoCal Greenprint coming in a future step. Developers are constantly looking for mitigation sites and we are regularly called to ask about where mitigation sites might be available to meet riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, and other habitat types. Having additional resources, through the SoCal Greenprint to point developers to for these details would be an added benefit.

Please reach out if you have any questions at 714-996-1572.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire Schlotterbeck". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Claire Schlotterbeck  
Executive Director

---

**From:** Angela Miramontes <Angela@AmigosdelosRios.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Cc:** GreenVision@FHBP.org; Claire Robinson; Angela Miramontes  
**Subject:** SCAG RC - RAMP Policy Framework - Amigos de los Rios Support Letter  
**Attachments:** 2023.01.30\_RAMP Letter for Non-Profits ADLR Final.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Good Morning,

We are [Amigos de los Rios](#), a local non-profit that has worked for the last 20 years to create a Green Network of schools, parks, and trails in the greater Los Angeles area. We staunchly support the implementation of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP) that will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; improve air quality; support healthy and equitable communities; adapt to a changing climate; strongly promote conservation of natural and agricultural resources; and restoration of vital and diverse habitats.

Please see our attached letter of support.

Thank you,

Angela Miramontes  
Amigos de los Rios  
[REDACTED]





January 30, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

Amigos de los Rios generally supports the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP), recently unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee. We also wholly support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, as was included in the motion. We recognize a thoughtful data-driven future for regional planning and incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that includes streamlined permitting is critical to our region's healthy future. Further, implementation of the RAMP begins the required steps of meeting the SCAG mitigation measures adopted in the 2020 Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

By way of background, Amigos de los Rios has worked since our inception in 2003 to create an "Emerald Necklace" Landscape Scale Conservation Network of multi benefit green spaces (parks, trails and green schools) in underserved areas throughout the Los Angeles Basin, connecting the Mountains of our upper watersheds to the Sea, and offering equitable access to nature while protecting our environment, enhancing habitat and protecting urban communities from the threats of climate change.

Our organization has particular interest in equity in representation and cooperation amongst multi-level governmental agencies with a sustainable future in mind. Our comments include the following points:

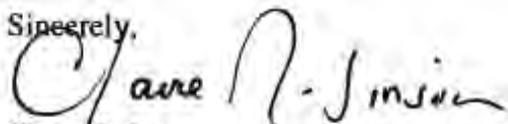
- A nonprofit environmental TAC representative should be a conservation expert, preferably one with experience in Regional Advance Mitigation Programs (RAMPs), to ensure the objectives of the Greenprint TAC are met.
- Establishing a RAMP is included in Connect SoCal's Core Vision for Sustainable Development and is intended to advance several of Connect SoCal's goals, namely to: enhance the preservation, security, and resilience of the regional transportation system; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality; support healthy and equitable communities; adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional

development pattern and transportation network; and promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats.

- RAMPs thoughtfully offset the impacts of projects at a comprehensive level, instead of providing smaller, piecemeal, and project-by-project mitigation offsets.
- Regional Advance Mitigation is a science-based approach to identify advance mitigation opportunities to support regional conservation priorities and project delivery.
- The Regional Council should approve the RAMP policy framework which offsets the impacts of development projects at a regional level and allows for cross-county collaboration.
- The RAMP planning initiative is part of SCAG's comprehensive effort to implement Connect SoCal, which includes goals of improving the region's economic vitality, improving the region's mobility options, and allowing the region to grow in a sustainable way that builds healthy and vibrant communities.
- Preservation of natural lands mitigates project impacts and provides other co-benefits like protection of cultural, archeological, and paleontological resources; allows managed access on mitigation lands for passive recreation; reduces urban runoff and allows for water percolation; and sequesters carbon in the vegetation and soil.
- RAMPs focus on improving conservation outcomes, while simultaneously delivering transportation projects. Native plants, local wildlife, plus water and air quality all benefit from more thoughtful planning and more meaningful mitigation.
- Southern California has a few existing mitigation programs and conservation plans tied to both transportation and development. Caltrans is even incorporating this approach at the statewide level. SCAG's RAMP expands the potential to tie the two together and allows coverage where it doesn't currently exist or incorporates new projects.
- There is great potential for multi-benefit outcomes that address the biodiversity crisis (like species protection) while also directly benefiting people (like improving access and equity to nature). Another example is that protecting habitat helps alleviate the drought by protecting water supply, allowing for groundwater recharge, and stabilizing the health of the aquifer.
- The experience and partnerships available through the land trust, conservancy, equity, tribal, and conservation communities will benefit SCAG and area transportation agencies for the RAMP development. Early and thoughtful communication with these groups will also lead to better outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this upcoming agenda item.

Sincerely,



Claire Robinson  
Managing Director  
Amigos de los Rios  
(626) 791-1611

---

**From:** Angela Moskow <amoskow@californiaoaks.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 1:15 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Cc:** GreenVision@FHBP.org; Janet Cobb  
**Subject:** Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program (SUPPORT)  
**Attachments:** CaliforniaWildlifeFoundationCaliforniaOaksRAMPLetter1\_30\_22.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Greetings,

Please find attached and please acknowledge receipt of a letter to President Harnik in support of adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program.

Best,

Angela

Angela Moskow  
California Oaks Information Network Manager  
California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks  
201 University Avenue  
Berth H-43  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
[www.californiaoaks.org](http://www.californiaoaks.org)  
Telephone: (510) 763-0282



California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks, 201 University Avenue, H-43 Berkeley, CA 94710, (510) 763-0282

January 30, 2023

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program (SUPPORT)

Transmitted via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Dear President Harnik:

This letter expresses our organization's general support of the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP) policy framework, which was recently passed by the Energy and Environment Committee. This letter also conveys our organization's support for the inclusion of an environmental representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, as was included in the motion.

The [California Wildlife Foundation](#) is committed to conserving, restoring, and maintaining habitats and corridor linkages throughout the state in order to ensure the biological diversity of species over time. California Wildlife Foundation's [California Oaks](#) program works throughout the state to conserve oak ecosystems because of their critical role in sequestering carbon, maintaining healthy watersheds, providing plant and wildlife habitat, and sustaining cultural values.

California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks recognizes the region's future health requires data-driven regional planning and incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that includes streamlined permitting. RAMPs thoughtfully and comprehensively offset the impacts of projects at the regional scale, instead of providing smaller, piecemeal and project-by-project mitigation offsets. This saves time and staff resources. Further, this process allows project implementation to be smoother and more time and cost effective, while also benefiting the system of natural lands and waterways preserved in the Southland. It provides project certainty and streamlines the environmental review process for projects included voluntarily in the RAMP. An additional benefit of the RAMP is that new projects that are not covered by an existing RAMP can be added through the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) RAMP process. Thus, this tool helps set the stage for project delivery and conservation outcomes.

We encourage SCAG to tap into the experience and partnerships available through the land trust, conservancy, equity, Tribal, and conservation communities that will benefit SCAG and area transportation agencies for RAMP development. Early and thoughtful communication with these groups will also lead to better outcomes.

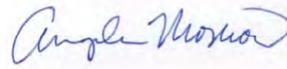
Lastly, California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks hopes the RAMP Policy Framework leads to completion of the second key conservation mitigation measure: the Greenprint. Using data to direct future planning is vital. Data on equity, tree cover, gentrification, sea level rise, wildfire risks, and water availability, for example, are critical for understanding the big picture and planning for the future (or correcting past planning mistakes). And, access to information is important to productive and strategic decision making. The Greenprint provides a tool that transportation agencies, cities, counties, and others can use to improve decisions and make better policy choices—especially since the Greenprint planning tool pulls together myriad data sets so decision-makers can plan for future development with nature in mind.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Janet Cobb  
Executive Officer  
California Wildlife Foundation  
[jcobb@californiawildlifefoundation.org](mailto:jcobb@californiawildlifefoundation.org)



Angela Moskow  
Manager  
California Oaks Coalition  
[amoskow@californiaoaks.org](mailto:amoskow@californiaoaks.org)

cc: [GreenVision@FHBP.org](mailto:GreenVision@FHBP.org)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 3:11 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Cc:** GreenVision@FHBP.org  
**Subject:** Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

Congratulations on your leadership role regarding regional planning.

I support the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP), recently unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee. I also wholly support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, as was included in the motion. I recognize a thoughtful data-driven future for regional planning and incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that includes streamlined permitting is critical to our region's healthy future. Further, implementation of the RAMP begins the required steps of meeting the SCAG mitigation measures adopted in the 2020 Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

- As you know, in 2020, a coalition of nearly 50 organizations that spanned the six-countywide region supported the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) called Connect SoCal. The size and diversity of the support illuminates the plan's inclusive vision and community support. As SCAG meets its mitigation measures, this coalition stands ready to assist and support those efforts.
  - Regional Advance Mitigation is a science-based approach to identify advance mitigation opportunities to support regional conservation priorities and project delivery.
  - The Regional Council should approve the RAMP policy framework which offsets the impacts of development projects at a regional level and allows for cross-county collaboration.
  - RAMPs provide certainty and fact-based environmental context for regional and transportation planning and a comprehensive and efficient mitigation program. It will provide the streamlined environmental compliance that is critical to timely implement complex projects.
  - RAMP allows new projects that are not covered by an existing RAMP to be added through the SCAG RAMP program. Participation in the RAMP would be purely voluntary.

- The RAMP planning initiative is part of SCAG’s comprehensive effort to implement Connect SoCal, which includes goals of improving the region’s economic vitality, improving the region’s mobility options, and allowing the region to grow in a sustainable way that builds healthy and vibrant communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this upcoming agenda item.

Sincerely, Kim F Floyd



--

---

**From:** Steve Bardwell <steve@infinityranch.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 10:21 AM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** RAMP comments  
**Attachments:** MBCA RAMP 1 comments.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**  
You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Hello,

Please find attached our comments in support of a Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework.

Thank you for your consideration!

Steve Bardwell  
president, MBCA  
[www.mbconservation.org](http://www.mbconservation.org)  
[steve@infinityranch.net](mailto:steve@infinityranch.net)



January 31, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association is broadly in support of the policy framework for the Regional Advanced Mitigation Program (RAMP), as was unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee of SCAG. We also wholly support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as was included in the motion. We recognize the imperative of a thoughtful data-driven future for regional planning and the incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that would streamline permitting to support our region's healthy future. Further, implementation of the RAMP begins the required steps of meeting the SCAG mitigation measures adopted in the 2020 Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

By way of background, The Morongo Basin Conservation Association's mission statement is:

*To advocate for the Healthy Desert that  
nurtures our rural life, cultural wealth and  
economic well-being.*

Our geographic scope and area of focus includes the Morongo Basin, and the Desert Environment of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Our organization has particular interest in protection of the intact desert ecosystem that supports species diversity. The intact desert contributes to the health of the planet through the already sequestered, and on-going sequestration of carbon. We support the implementation of a renewable distributed electrical system within the built environment that will provide resiliency and self-sufficiency as a part of a carbon free power grid. We are committed to finding solutions to our area's housing crisis as a component of our economic well-being. Our comments include the following points:

- One of the biggest costs and challenges to housing development projects is permitting, jurisdictional staff time spent reviewing individual project proposals, time, and CEQA environmental reviews. RAMPs streamline permitting and

environmental review, thereby reducing staff costs and the overall cost of developing.

- Some claim a conflict exists between California's need for housing and the preservation of our natural open spaces. Additionally, some say that consuming more natural lands is necessary if we are going to build housing units which middle class working people can afford. This is a false dichotomy and represents outdated ideas.
- Connect SoCal's PEIR also includes required mitigation measures for establishing a RAMP planning initiative, which state that SCAG will support advance mitigation efforts in the region (SMM AG-2) and provide easily accessible resources to help municipalities, conservation groups, developers and researchers prioritize lands for conservation (SMM BIO-2).
- RAMPs focus on improving conservation outcomes, while simultaneously delivering transportation projects. Native plants, local wildlife, plus water and air quality all benefit from more thoughtful planning and more meaningful mitigation.
- 
- There is great potential for multi-benefit outcomes that address the biodiversity crisis (like species protection) while also directly benefiting people (like improving access and equity to nature). Another example is that protecting habitat helps alleviate the drought by protecting water supply, allowing for groundwater recharge, and stabilizing the health of the aquifer.
- 
- Part of the reason Connect SoCal is widely supported is because it includes ways to meet the regional greenhouse gas emission and vehicle miles traveled reduction goals set by the State through AB 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and SB 375 (the Sustainable Communities Planning Act of 2008). Conservation is one tool to reduce both by directing development to appropriate city-centered locations. We cannot build our way to a better climate and increased resiliency, but we can conserve our way to it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this upcoming agenda item.

Sincerely,



Steve Bardwell, President  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

***Post Office Box 24, Joshua Tree CA 92252 – [www.mbconservation.org](http://www.mbconservation.org)  
MBCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community based, all volunteer organization***

---

**From:** Susan Sheakley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 10:08 AM  
**To:** EEC Public Comment Group  
**Cc:** GreenVision@fhbp.org  
**Subject:** Adoption of Regional Advance Mitigation Program, upcoming decision at Feb 2, Thursday Meeting (Support), Sea and Sage Audubon  
**Attachments:** SCAG-FEB\_01\_2023\_RAMP\_Env.np.Rep.supprt\_SASAS.doc

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Dear President Harnik:

Enclosed is a comment letter from Sea and Sage Audubon Society of SUPPORTt for the adoption of the Regional Advanced Mitigation Program policy framework with an Environmental Non-Profit Representative on the Technical Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Susan Sheakley  
Chair, Conservation Committee  
Sea and Sage Audubon Society  
[www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)



*Sea and  
Sage Audubon*

P.O. BOX 5447, IRVINE, CA 92616-5447

(949) 261-7963

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scaq.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scaq.ca.gov)

February 1, 2023

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of RAMP Policy Framework with TAC Environmental Non-profit Rep. (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik,

I am writing on behalf of Sea and Sage Audubon Society (Sea and Sage) to let you know that Sea and Sage generally supports the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP), recently unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee. We also wholly support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, as was included in the motion.

We recognize a thoughtful data-driven future for regional planning and incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that includes streamlined permitting is critical to our region's healthy future. Further, implementation of the RAMP begins the required steps of meeting the SCAG mitigation measures adopted in the 2020 Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

Sea and Sage was incorporated in 1958. We are the Orange County Chapter of the National Audubon Society. We have over 3500 members. Our mission is to protect birds and other wildlife, and their habitats, through education, citizenship, research, and public policy advocacy. Sea and Sage is a member of the Green Vision Coalition. Our primary geographic scope includes Orange County and Southern California.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter of importance to Sea and Sage.

Sincerely,

Susan Sheakley  
Conservation Chair

Copy to [GreenVision@FHBO.org](mailto:GreenVision@FHBO.org)

---

**From:** Appiah, Francis O@DOT <francis.appiah@dot.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Support Letter

**Importance:** High

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

EXTERNAL: This email message was sent from outside our organization. Proceed with caution when opening links or attachments. Submit as spam if you are not sure it is safe.

[Report Suspicious](#)

January 31, 2023

Honorable Jan C. Harnik  
President, Regional Council Committee  
Southern California Association of Governments  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Re: Support for RAMP and Greenprint TAC with Environmental Representation**

Dear President Harnik,

As California's leading transportation department, Caltrans manages more than 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, provides inter-city rail services, permits more than 400 public-use airports and special-use hospital heliports, and works with local agencies, we support the draft Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) policy framework that was recommended by SCAG staff and amended by the Energy and Environment Committee last month, to include at least one nonprofit environmental representative from the SCAG region on the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee with expertise in advance mitigation.

Promoting a science-based mechanism to mitigate project impacts, by building on the existing network of preserved lands and waters, is a win-win. RAMPs provide fact-based environmental context for regional and transportation planning through comprehensive and efficient mitigation programs. Adoption of the policy framework will provide the certainty in environmental permitting critical to the timely implementation of complex projects. An environmental representative with experience in negotiating these win-wins will add expertise and perspective to this process.

The vote before you today presents an opportunity to address our region's infrastructure needs, while maximizing environmental and economic benefits from mitigation investments. Growing housing and transportation needs must be balanced coupled with addressing our increasingly predominant gaps in climate, air and water quality, and environmental justice. The RAMP policy framework provides for mitigation investments that achieve multi-benefit outcomes, such as protecting natural lands that provide habitat, while also protecting water supply—allowing for groundwater recharge, and stabilization of the aquifer. Additional multi-benefit outcomes include protecting land for climate benefits while providing access to recreational activities.

The reality of regional public health concerns, and growing environmental harms, including water contamination and depletion remind us of the critical need for good planning. For this reason, we also emphasize that the RAMP policy framework is just one piece of the package - we further support the continuation of SCAG's SoCal Greenprint, a public mapping tool that would support environmental justice communities across the region by advancing access to data that can inform smarter planning decisions and support community-based advocacy efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Francis Appiah, Senior Environmental Planner/ Mitigation Specialist/Advance Mitigation Coordinator  
Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
Division of Environmental Planning  
100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sky Allen <sky@ieunited.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 1:37 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Attachments:** 2.2.23 Public Comment Letter.docx.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find the attached letter as my public comment for tomorrow's meeting.

All the best,

--

*Sky Allen*

*she/her/hers*

*Executive Director, IE United*

*(909) 206 - 5404*



February 1, 2023

Honorable Jan C. Harnik  
President, Regional Council Committee  
Southern California Association of Governments  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Re: Support for RAMP and Greenprint TAC with Environmental Representation**

Dear President Harnik,

As advocates of environmental justice, we support the draft Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) policy framework that was recommended by SCAG staff and amended by the Energy and Environment Committee last month, to include at least one nonprofit environmental representative from the SCAG region on the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee with expertise in advance mitigation.

Promoting a science-based mechanism to mitigate project impacts, by building on the existing network of preserved lands and waters, is a win-win. RAMPs provide fact-based environmental context for regional and transportation planning through comprehensive and efficient mitigation programs. Adoption of the policy framework will provide the certainty in environmental permitting critical to the timely implementation of complex projects. An environmental representative with experience in negotiating these win-wins will add expertise and perspective to this process.

The vote before you today presents an opportunity to address our region's infrastructure needs, while maximizing environmental and economic benefits from mitigation investments. Growing housing and transportation needs must be balanced coupled with addressing our increasingly predominant gaps in climate, air and water quality, and environmental justice. The RAMP policy framework provides for mitigation investments that achieve multi-benefit outcomes, such as protecting natural lands that provide habitat, while also protecting water supply—allowing for groundwater recharge, and stabilization of the aquifer. Additional multi-benefit outcomes include protecting land for climate benefits while providing access to recreational activities.

The reality of regional public health concerns, and growing environmental harms, including water contamination and depletion remind us of the critical need for good planning. For this reason, we also emphasize that the RAMP policy framework is just one piece of the package - we further support the continuation of SCAG's SoCal Greenprint, a public mapping tool that would support environmental

justice communities across the region by advancing access to data that can inform smarter planning decisions and support community-based advocacy efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment,

Sky Allen  
Executive Director, Inland Empire United

---

**From:** Orange County Chapter <orangecounty@cnps.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 2:09 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Cc:** greenvision@fhbp.org  
**Subject:** RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)  
**Attachments:** RAMP SUPPORT 1-31-23.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dear President Harnik:

Please find attached a letter from the Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society in support of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wallace

President

OCCNPS



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Protecting California's native plants and their natural habitats, today and into the future,  
through science, education, stewardship, gardening, and advocacy.

---

January 31, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)

Dear President Harnik:

The California Native Plant Society Orange County Chapter (OCCNPS) generally supports the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP), which was recently unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee.

We also support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, as was included in the motion.

We recognize a thoughtful data-driven future for regional planning and incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that includes streamlined permitting is critical to our region's healthy future. Further, implementation of the RAMP begins the required steps of meeting the SCAG mitigation measures adopted in the 2020 Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

By way of background, OCCNPS works to: protect California's native plants and their natural habitats, today and into the future, through science, education, stewardship, gardening, and advocacy. Our geographic scope includes Orange County, California.

Our organization has particular interest in protecting California's native plants and their natural habitats. Our comments include the following points:

- Preservation of natural lands mitigates project impacts and provides other co-benefits like protection of cultural, archeological, and paleontological resources; allows managed access on mitigation lands for passive recreation; reduces urban runoff and allows for water percolation; and sequesters carbon in the vegetation and soil.
- RAMPs focus on improving conservation outcomes, while simultaneously delivering transportation projects. Native plants, local wildlife, plus water and air quality all benefit from more thoughtful planning and more meaningful mitigation.

- Promoting a science-based mechanism to mitigate impacts of projects by building on the existing network of preserved lands and waters is a win-win.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this upcoming agenda item.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wallace  
President  
OCCNPS

Rebecca Crowe  
Vice President  
OCCNPS

---

**From:** Cynthia Robin Smith <diamondbarbeautiful@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:47 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Cc:** GreenVision@fhb.org  
**Subject:** Public Comments Feb. 1, 2023 5 p.m.  
**Attachments:** SCAGFeb2023Letter.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Attn: President Jan Harnik

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Energy & Environment Committee  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)**

Dear President Harnik,

Please receive the attached public comments due February 1, 2023 by 5 p.m.

Thank you.

C. Robin Smith  
Conservation Chair

**Diamond Bar Preservation Foundation** 501 (3) (c)



324 S. Diamond Bar Blvd., #230  
Diamond Bar CA 91765

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

February 1, 2023  
Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)**

Dear President Harnik,

**DIAMOND BAR PRESERVATION FOUNDATION** generally supports the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP), recently unanimously recommended by the Energy and Environment Committee. We also wholly support the inclusion of an environmental non-profit representative on the Technical Advisory Committee, as was included in the motion. We recognize a thoughtful data-driven future for regional planning and incorporation of a comprehensive mitigation program that includes streamlined permitting is critical to our region's healthy future. Further, implementation of the RAMP begins the required steps of meeting the SCAG mitigation measures adopted in the 2020 Connect SoCal Program Environmental Impact Report.

By way of background, **DIAMOND BAR PRESERVATION FOUNDATION** is a non-profit, community benefit group with a mission to promote, protect and restore California native habitats, open spaces, nature trails, and natural resources. City of Diamond Bar wildlands and Puente-Chino Hills are our main focus areas, but we realize that land use, transportation, and conservation decisions in neighboring counties can impact our work here -- hence our involvement in the SCAG planning processes.

Our organization has a particular interest in advance mitigation and we are encouraged to see the wins of the Orange County Transportation Authority's Environmental Mitigation Program's inclusion of a RAMP.

We strongly urge SCAG to appoint an environmental TAC member, that comes from the environmental non-profit community, who has already demonstrated an interest in the RAMP policy framework via active participation in the on-going outreach, hearings, and community involvement throughout the process. In other words, they should have standing in the process already due to their involvement with SCAG.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this upcoming agenda item.

Respectfully

*C. Robin Smith*, Conservation Chair



eMail: [diamondbarbeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:diamondbarbeautiful@gmail.com) [REDACTED]

cc: Dr. Chia Yu Teng, president, Diamond Bar Preservation Foundation

---

**From:** Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat <ereidwainscoat@biologicaldiversity.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** EEC Public Comment Group  
**Subject:** RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)  
**Attachments:** SCAG\_RAMP\_Comments\_20230201.pdf

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

EXTERNAL: This email message was sent from outside our organization. Proceed with caution when opening links or attachments. Submit as spam if you are not sure it is safe.

Report Suspicious

Dear President Harnik,

The Center for Biological Diversity submits the attached support letter for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP) policy framework.

Please acknowledge the receipt of these comments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat (she/her)  
Urban Wildlands Campaigner  
CENTER *for* BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
660 S. Figueroa Street #1000  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

[ereidwainscoat@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ereidwainscoat@biologicaldiversity.org)

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023*Sent via Email*

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Regional Council  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
[ePublicComment@scag.ca.go](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.go)

**RE: Adoption of the Regional Advance Mitigation Program Policy Framework (SUPPORT)**

Dear President Harnik,

The Center for Biological Diversity supports the policy framework for the regional advanced mitigation program (RAMP). We engaged with SCAG staff on ensuring that the Connect SoCal Plan and Program EIR contained strong plans and programs relating to the RAMP and Greenprint, and so we are supportive of SCAG taking this crucial first step in meeting its mitigation measure of creating the RAMP by adopting a policy framework. We also request that the proposed Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee include one seat for an environmental representative to ensure inclusivity and incorporation of a conservation expert, preferably one with experience in RAMP. This would signify SCAG's commitment to follow through on the promises outlined in the Program EIR that are required by law.

The Center is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 1.7 million members and online activists throughout California and the United States. The Center and its members have worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in the Southern California.

**I. The RAMP Policy Framework should lead to the completion of the second key conservation mitigation measure: the Greenprint.**

To preserve our native species and protect community health, the region needs a strategic conservation mapping tool that highlights the benefits of natural lands, waters, and agricultural lands, including access to parks and trails, habitat protection and connectivity, clean water, clean air, food production, and increased resilience to climate change.

The SoCal Greenprint tool will help planners, conservation practitioners, developers, infrastructure agencies, and other stakeholders integrate the protection of habitat and open space into land use and infrastructure plans and avoid potential litigation by identifying and assessing

environmental issues early in the planning process. This will streamline site selection for more infill affordable housing and prevent additional sprawl development that destroys habitat, increases community risk of wildfire, escalates regional air pollution and pulls taxpayer dollars away from current communities.

As previous speakers have emphasized, the merits of this tool for building a more healthy and resilient region are abundant and clearly justifies its creation, it is also important to note that SCAG has already committed to the Greenprint as a mitigation measure in the EIR for the RTP/SCS, making it a legal obligation to finalize this tool. Any changes in the mitigation are “significant new information” that would require preparation of a revised/new environmental document. For these reasons the Center strongly encourages SCAG to finalize the SoCal Greenprint, as originally envisioned, with a diverse set of data layers providing decision makers with a value-add tool to ensure future projects are guided by the best available science.

## **II. Conclusion**

SoCal Greenprint sets a framework for these important discussions and ensures that policy makers have all the data they need to make informed land-use planning decisions. The Center support continued investment in this tool to ensure our region builds a sustainable and equitable future together.

For these reasons and more, the Center urges the EEC to adopt the RAMP Policy Framework and consider the addition of a conservation representative on the TAC.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

J.P. Rose  
Policy Director, Urban Wildlands  
Center for Biological Diversity

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat  
Campaigner  
Center for Biological Diversity

---

**From:** FHBP - Green Vision <greenvision@fhbp.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:31 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Subject:** Comments on Agenda Item #3  
**Attachments:** Coalition Letter to SCAG RC for TAC Rep 020123 FINAL.pdf

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Report Suspicious

Greetings,

Please find the attached Coalition Letter which provides proposed qualifications for the non-profit environmental representative being considered as part of Agenda Item #3 at tomorrow's Regional Council meeting. Twenty-six organizations and one agency (Caltrans) endorsed these qualifications.

Please distribute this letter to the Regional Council members.

Thank you,

Melanie



**Melanie Schlotterbeck, CMP**  
**Green Vision Coordinator**  
**Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks**  
[GreenVision@FHBP.org](mailto:GreenVision@FHBP.org)

██████████) ■ P.O. Box 9256 ■ Newport Beach, CA 92658  
Follow FHBP: [on the web](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Subscribe](#)



February 1, 2023

Sent via email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov)

Attn: President Jan Harnik  
 Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
 Regional Council  
 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
 Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Agenda Item #3 (SUPPORT)  
 Proposed Qualifications for the TAC Environmental Representative

Dear President Harnik,

The above signed organizations support the inclusion of a non-profit environmental representative to serve on the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Our demonstrated experience with Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) is being offered in order to help SCAG comply with its Mitigation Measures (SMM AG-2 and SMM BIO-2). The purpose of including a representative from the environmental community on the TAC is to ensure inclusivity of those stakeholders. This is in alignment with SCAG's broad partnership goals identified in the Natural and Farmlands Appendix. We request our proposed qualifications be included in the motion should the RAMP Policy Framework be adopted on February 2, 2023.

Inclusion of a non-profit environmental representative means continuity of participation, trust by the non-profit community, and proven experience in mitigation, land preservation or restoration projects. With this in mind, we propose the following qualifications for the TAC's non-profit environmental representative:

- Currently a resident of the SCAG region.
- Currently an employee, contractor, or board member for an environmental or conservation 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
- Demonstrated understanding of / experience with RAMP.

- History of engagement in the 2020 Connect SoCal process, including having established “standing” with proven interest as a stakeholder.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this item.

Sincerely,

Michael Wellborn  
President  
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat  
Urban Wildlands Campaigner  
Center for Biological Diversity

Sendy Hernández Orellana Barrows,  
Conservation Program Manager  
Council of Mexican Federations in North America

Gayle Waite  
President  
Laguna Canyon Conservancy

Brian Elliott  
Conservation Director  
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

Terry M. Welsh, M.D.  
President  
Banning Ranch Conservancy

Janet Cobb  
Executive Officer  
California Wildlife Foundation

Claire Robinson  
Managing Director  
Amigos de los Rios

Steve Bardwell  
President  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

Dr. Patricia Martz  
President  
California Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance

Elizabeth Wallace and Rebecca Crowe  
President and Vice President  
Orange County Chapter of the Native Plant Society

Francis Appiah  
Mitigation Specialist, Division of Environmental  
Planning Department of Transportation

Dan Silver, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League

Claire Schlotterbeck  
Executive Director  
Hills For Everyone

Mary Creasman  
Chief Executive Officer  
California Environmental Voters

Mary Ann Ruiz  
Chair  
Sierra Club - San Geronimo Chapter

Jim Kelly  
President  
Friends of Whittier Hills

Denise Erkeneff  
Chapter Coordinator  
Surfrider Foundation - South OC Chapter

Mandy Sackett  
California Policy Coordinator  
Surfrider Foundation

Maggie Gardner  
Science & Policy Manager  
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

David Diaz, MPH  
Executive Director  
Active San Gabriel Valley

Robin Smith  
Conservation Consultant  
Diamond Bar Preservation Foundation

Wendy Butts  
Chief Executive Officer  
LA Conservation Corps

Susan Sheakley  
Conservation Chair  
Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Sky Allen  
Executive Director  
IE United

Denise Erkeneff  
President  
OC League of Conservation Voters

Ana Rosa Rizo  
President  
Central Coast League of Conservation Voters