

PRESIDENT VIEGAS-WALKER URGES GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO FUND 13 PROJECTS FROM CAP AND TRADE FUNDS

Over the past year, SCAG has provided ongoing updates on the Statewide Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant. This grant program, which is funded by Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds, can provide much needed resources for the construction of affordable housing, active transportation infrastructure and transit connectivity projects. Earlier this year, 13 projects from the SCAG region, out of 54 statewide, were invited to move forward in the application process by the Strategic Growth Council. SCAG has raised issue with the Strategic Growth Council on the low number of applications being invited, as it does not equitably represent the region's share of population nor concentration of disadvantaged communities. In April, the Regional Council strongly urged that the Strategic Growth Council fully fund all 13 applications, totaling approximately \$61 million in grant/loan resources in the SCAG region, as each project will strongly implement the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. In early May, President Viegas-Walker firmly reinforced the Regional Council's position in a letter directed to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The Strategic Growth Council intends to announce grant awards in late June 2015.

2016 RTP/SCS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SCAG kicked off a slate of open houses on May 26 to engage residents in all six counties on the development of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). The traveling open house stopped in the cities of El Centro, Palm Desert, Coachella, Perris and Ontario in its first week on the road, and provides an overview of some of the key topics that will be discussed in the plan, including – transportation, air quality, land use development, open space, poverty/jobs and the region's vital goods movement industry. Participants are asked to take a quick survey at multiple computer kiosks and encouraged to provide input on their priorities. SCAG has been outreaching to civic and non-profit service organizations, local events and media, as well as city and county agencies to promote attendance. The open houses will continue through the end of June. For information on upcoming open houses, please visit: <http://scagrtpsc.net>.

To improve the environmental justice analysis for the 2016 RTP/SCS, SCAG held a public workshop in April in Riverside and one in downtown Los Angeles, which was videoconferenced to satellite locations in the SCAG region. The workshops featured small group breakouts that focused on particular topics of concern for those communities that have been disproportionately impacted by transportation or other projects. Over 70 attendees participated, representing a wide range of stakeholders including social equity and public health advocates, active transportation groups, public agencies and the general public.

On April 7, SCAG completed a 30-day public comment period for the Notice of Preparation, which SCAG circulated on March 9 to seek input from interested parties on the scope and content of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG appreciates all comments received on the Notice of Preparation and is currently evaluating them for the preparation of the Draft PEIR, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED ON NEW 2030 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION GOAL AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

On April 29, Gov. Brown issued an executive order establishing a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal of 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. This directive accelerates the pace to reduce GHG emissions by 2030 from that of a previous executive order, and is an important benchmark for reaching the goal of reducing emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by year 2050. The new executive order clarifies that all agencies with jurisdiction over sources of GHG emissions must continue to develop and implement emissions reduction programs to reach the state's 2050 goal. The Governor's executive order also directed the California Natural Resources Agency to identify how climate change will affect sectors such as transportation, public health,

water, energy; specify priority actions needed; and identify a lead agency or group of agencies to lead adaptation efforts in each sector. Each sector lead will be required to prepare an implementation plan by September 2015 and report back to the agency in June 2016 on actions taken. The full text of the Governor's executive order can be found at <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938>.

MANDATORY WATER REDUCTIONS ORDERED BY STATE

In early April, Gov. Brown issued an executive order urging Californians to save water, increase enforcement to prevent wasteful water use, streamline the government's drought response and invest in new technologies to make California more drought-resilient. For the first time in state history, the Governor directed the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns to reduce usage by 25 percent. Gov. Brown's order also calls on local water agencies to adjust their rate structures and requires agricultural water users to report water use information to state regulators. SCAG staff will continue to monitor the drought, the drought response and the implications for member agencies. For the full text of the executive order, please visit <http://bit.ly/1HJs5yk>.

MSRC CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROGRAM

As part of the 2015 Local Government Match Program, the Mobile Source Air Pollution Review Committee has announced the Clean Transportation Funding™ program. The funding, totaling \$13 million, is available to cities and counties within the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The program expands the focus on active transportation to include projects such as pedestrian access projects, bicycle infrastructure (bike lanes, sharrows, parking, etc), bicycle purchases, bike share programs and outreach and education projects. June 2, 2015 is the earliest date for application submissions. Sept. 4, 2015 (11:59 pm) is the last date and time electronic applications will be accepted. The program has been extremely competitive in past years. It is highly recommended to submit your project on the first day if possible. For more program details, visit <http://bit.ly/1Jiq2XI>.

FIRST LAST MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WINS 2015 PLANNING AWARD

The American Planning Association honored SCAG and Metro's First Last Mile Strategic Plan & Planning Guidelines with the National Planning Excellence Award for a Best Practice at their annual conference held in Seattle, Washington, in April. Most transit users in Los Angeles walk or bike themselves to public transit stations to complete multi-modal daily commutes. However, the facilities provided for these people are often subpar. The First Last Mile Strategic Plan provides a framework and is a toolbox for localities to build support and resources for developing active transportation infrastructure like sidewalks, protected bike lanes and clear signage directing users to regional transit hubs. The First Last Mile strategy is anticipated to be one of the major policy and investment strategies for the 2016 RTP/SCS. For more information on the award, visit APA's website <http://bit.ly/1QnhMVh>.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND ENCOURAGEMENT CAMPAIGN PLANNING UNDERWAY

SCAG is gearing up for its Regional Active Transportation Safety and Encouragement Campaign, and has released a call for proposals for local open street and "pop-up" events. Funded by the California Active Transportation Program, the events provide opportunities where residents can experience walking and biking in a safe, low-stress and festive environment. In coordination with the call for proposals, SCAG hosted a Toolbox Tuesday workshop entitled "Complete Streets and Pop-Up Urbanism" on May 19. Over 30 participants heard practitioners from the City of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Metro profile successful pop-up programs to help cities start thinking creatively about potential projects. Applications to the Open Streets & Temporary Events Call for Proposals are due on June 30 and site visits will be conducted this summer with the most promising candidates. Those selected must hold their events in May 2016 as part of Bike Month. Please contact Stephen Patchan at patchan@scag.ca.gov for more information.

GIS SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

The City of Jurupa Valley has recently been added to the ever-growing GIS Services Program. SCAG staff will work with the city to provide customized software training for its employees, as well as a laptop, ArcGIS software and geospatial data. Lastly, SCAG staff will assist with GIS mapping for the city's General Plan. The GIS Services Program also held trainings with approximately 70 staff from the cities of Imperial and Santa Ana on the ArcGIS platform. Additional trainings will be held in the coming months. With this program, SCAG aims to assist local jurisdictions to help leverage their resources and enhance planning collaboration throughout the region. For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/1HJ30DB>.

2015 LOCAL PROFILES NOW AVAILABLE

SCAG's updated Local Profiles reports were made available to member cities at the Regional Conference & General Assembly on May 7. Updated every two years, the reports contain a wide range of current demographic and socioeconomic data for each jurisdiction, including housing, employment, home sales and education. This information has proven to be a valuable resource in support of local planning and economic development efforts. A total of 200 individual Profile Reports have been prepared, including ones for 188 cities, six counties and six county unincorporated areas. All of the reports are now posted on SCAG's website at: www.scag.ca.gov/resources/profiles.htm.

STAFF PRESENTATION AT TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD SYMPOSIUM

SCAG Aviation Specialist Ryan Hall recently presented at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Aviation System Planning Symposium in Charleston, South Carolina. The three-day conference was attended by policy makers, administrators, researchers and industry representatives seeking to develop a 21st century aviation system. Ryan's presentation was titled, "THE BIG PICTURE: Southern California's Aviation System Planning," and focused on the development of the vision statement and goals for the aviation element in the upcoming 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG's staff continues to produce leading-edge research and information, and I am proud to share that with you.

SCAG PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE WITH SOUTH KOREAN PARTNERS

On May 11, SCAG hosted a 5-member international delegation from the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, the City of Gyeongsan and Dohwa Engineering. The visit was an opportunity to introduce SCAG, the RTP/SCS and SCAG's efforts to encourage public participation in the development of the long-range plan. The following day, as part of a SCAG delegation, Hon. Larry McCallon, Hon. Gregory Pettis, and Hon. Keith Millhouse participated in the International Symposium on Sustainable Development, hosted by Myongji University, in Seoul, Korea. To an audience of 200 university students, the SCAG delegation shared their experience in addressing demographic changes and other issues in Southern California. The delegation also met with and discussed planning efforts in the areas of transportation and sustainable development with Myongji University's President, the Mayor of the Seodaemun district in Seoul, the President of Seoul Institute and the Vice President of the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements. Staff also discussed with the delegates about the cultural differences between the two countries and their potential implications in regional transportation planning.