



# SGVCOG

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Kelly Jones

Thursday, May 1, 2025

(626) 373-9370, [kjones@sgvcog.org](mailto:kjones@sgvcog.org)

## **FRESH SGV Receives 2025 SCAG Sustainability Award for Climate Action and Resource Conservation**

*San Gabriel Valley program recognized for innovative leadership in  
food equity and environmental sustainability*

**(PALM DESERT, CA)** – At this year's Regional Conference and General Assembly, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) presented its prestigious Sustainability Awards, honoring standout initiatives that align with the goals of the [Connect SoCal](#) strategy. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) was recognized for its [Food Recovery for Equity, Sustainability program](#) (FRESH SGV) in the category of Green Region Initiative: Climate Action and Resource Conservation.

Launched in April 2024, FRESH SGV was established to tackle both food insecurity and environmental sustainability in the San Gabriel Valley, while helping member cities meet the requirements of SB 1383, California's mandate to divert organic waste from landfills and recover surplus edible food. FRESH SGV streamlines food recovery logistics and builds localized capacity to keep surplus food within the communities that need it most. Currently serving over 288,000 residents annually, FRESH SGV has successfully recovered and redistributed more than 3.3 million pounds of edible food from local landfills to regional food recovery hubs and into the hands of those in need.

"Every month, FRESH SGV feeds 24,000 San Gabriel Valley families with nutritious food collected from grocery stores and restaurants throughout our region. If we continue to get this right, food waste – and the harmful methane emissions that follow – will simply be a thing of the past," **said SGVCOG**

**President Tim Hepburn.** “We are grateful to SCAG for recognizing the positive impact FRESH SGV brings to both our communities and the environment. It’s my hope that this award elevates the importance of sustainable food recovery in Southern California and inspires more jurisdictions to adopt similar approaches.”

In the San Gabriel Valley, FRESH SGV food recovery efforts have resulted in:

- 11,221,186 lbs. of food from 41,012 donations
- 14,306.14 tons of CO2e emissions avoided
- 497,747,865 gallons of water footprint reduced

With its innovative approach to climate resiliency, food equity, and regional collaboration, FRESH SGV continues to serve as a model for jurisdictions across Southern California and beyond.



*From left to right: SGVCOG Director of Government Relations Ricky Choi, SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise, SGVCOG Principal Management Analyst Stephanie Wong, and SGVCOG Program Manager Mackenzie Bolger. Photo courtesy of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.*

*# # #*

*The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is a regional government planning agency that aims to maximize the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVCOG operates as a joint powers authority that is consisted of 31 incorporated cities and unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5 and three San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Districts (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District). The SGVCOG is the largest and most diverse sub-regional council of governments in Los Angeles County.*