

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of December 7, 2020

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The SGVCOG Treasurer Renee Graves of CliftonLarsonAllen presented the Quarterly Treasurer Report for the period ending September 30, 2020. The Committee was also briefed on the SGVCOG's whitepaper on reform of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). Additionally, the Committee recommended the Governing Board adopt state housing legislative priorities for 2021. The Governing Board will consider the SGVCOG's whitepaper on LAHSA form and the full 2021 legislative platform, including these housing legislative priorities, at the January meeting.
- **Energy Work Group:** On Tuesday, the SGVCOG held its quarterly meeting via GoToMeeting. The Energy Work Group celebrated the agencies' achievements in the 2020 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards. Assemblymember Chris Holden, who chairs the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy, provided welcoming remarks to congratulate the cities and agencies that have reached recognizable tiers in the 2020 Energy Champion Awards. A total of 15 cities and agencies were highlighted for their energy efficiency accomplishments during the recognition ceremony.
 - Bronze Tier: City of Irwindale
 - Silver Tier: City of Duarte; City of San Dimas
 - Gold Tier: City of Alhambra; City of Arcadia; City of Claremont; City of El Monte; City of La Verne; City of Monrovia; City of Pomona; City of San Gabriel; City of South El Monte; City of South Pasadena; City of Walnut; El Monte Union High School District

After the recognition ceremony, SGVCOG staff unveiled the 2021 Energy Champion Awards structure, which can be found [here](#), and encouraged cities and agencies to begin planning on implementing the energy efficiency actions that can qualify for recognition in the 2021 structure. The Energy Work Group is expected to reconvene in February 2021.

- **DPH COVID-19 Internal Briefing:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff attended a Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) COVID-19 telebriefing for city managers and city staff. DPH Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer reported that positive COVID-19 cases increased by over 300% in the month of November and that it is likely that the County will begin to witness the impact of actions that residents have taken over the Thanksgiving holiday over the next few days. Hospitalizations increased by approximately 125 individuals per day for the past week, and approximately 10% of those who tested positive for COVID-19 require hospitalization. DPH staff also reported that the County is expected to receive an initial allocation of approximately 84,000 vaccine doses in mid-December, with shipments of the doses expected to arrive every week thereafter. Healthcare workers at all acute-care hospitals are deemed as a top priority in receiving vaccinations in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) vaccine distribution plan. The priority will subsequently be expanded to include residents and staff members at skilled nursing centers and long-term care facilities. In the meantime, Dr. Ferrer encouraged cities and agencies to continue encouraging residents and businesses to comply with the Stay-at-Home orders to protect essential workers and the County's healthcare system.
- **Economic Partnership Merry Mingle:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG partnered with the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, the Regional Chamber of Commerce of the San Gabriel Valley, and the San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network to host the 18th Annual Merry Mingle. While the event took place on Zoom this year, attendees were given

the opportunity to network with one another through 20 various breakout rooms. Additionally, SGVCOG President Margaret Clark, Senator Anthony Portantino, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership President Bill Manis, and San Gabriel Valley Public Works Network Chairman Paul Hubler provided welcoming remarks at the event.

- **Homelessness Working Group:** On Thursday, the Homelessness Working Group met virtually via Zoom. At the meeting, the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Claremont, Monrovia, and Pomona provided updates on the implementation of their homeless plans, funded by the SGVCOG. Highlights of their programs can be found below:
 - City of Azusa: Enhancing its existing Neighborhood Connections library-based programs, including a financial literacy training program, with the homelessness prevention and diversion program to assist persons and families at-risk of falling into homelessness.
 - City of Baldwin Park: Partnering with the Baldwin Park Unified School District to target families in need.
 - City of Claremont: Targeting senior citizens in need and placed a family unit in a local shelter. 70 days later, the family was able to move into their own apartment.
 - City of Monrovia: Assisted 40 families with their Emergency COVID Housing Impact Program (eCHIP).
 - City of Pomona: Developed a geographic information system (GIS) to better track and improve outreach to people experiencing homelessness.

The meeting also featured a presentation from the LA County Homeless Initiative on the City Training “101” and “201” and a presentation from Family Promise on the organization’s services for family shelter and case management in the San Gabriel Valley.

- **Homeless Deputy Meeting:** On Thursday, staff attended the LA County Board of Supervisors’ Homeless Deputies’ Meeting. The Homelessness Policy Deputies heard a report on efforts to expand interim housing options for homeless families and to coordinate with DPSS to ensure they are connected to benefits. A presentation on Project Homekey highlighted the motels across the County that were purchased to house homeless individuals under the \$800 million State program. Other jurisdictions, including the City of El Monte, were also awarded Homekey funding. Staff outlined the plan to use these sites as interim housing initially, prioritizing clients who are leaving Project Roomkey or who are otherwise COVID-19 vulnerable, with the intent to convert the properties to permanent supportive housing (PSH) in 2022. LAHSA reported that, despite work with a real estate broker and other outreach efforts, no potential new San Gabriel Valley winter shelter sites have been located.

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Week of December 14, 2020

- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. The committee voted to approve a Task Order Amendment with CWE for preliminary engineering and final design services for the load reduction strategy projects for the Rio Hondo River and tributaries, a contract amendment with Berg & Associates, Inc. for construction management services for the Fullerton Road Grade Separation Project, and the 2021 committee meeting schedule. Additionally, the Committee reviewed and discussed the 2021 Capital Projects Program Legislative Priorities. After a thorough discussion, the Committee voted to recommend the Governing Board to adopt the 2021 Capital Projects Program Legislative Priorities. Towards the end of the meeting, committee members recognized SGVCOG Chief Engineer, Mark Christoffels, for his dedication to serving the San Gabriel Valley as he plans on retiring towards the end of this month. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 12:00pm.
- **SCAG Executive Directors' Meeting:** On Monday, I participated in the quarterly SCAG Subregional Executive Directors' meeting. The primary topics of discussion were the RHNA appeals process, the SCAG's 2021 Legislative Platform, and REAP planning funding.
- **City of Pasadena SGVCOG Membership:** On Monday, the Pasadena City Council voted unanimously to rejoin the SGVCOG. The SGVCOG looks forward to working with Pasadena and all San Gabriel Valley cities to address regional issues.
- **SCAG Connect SoCal Stakeholder Debrief:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff participated in Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Connect SoCal Stakeholder Debrief to provide feedback on the 2020 Connect SoCal development process. Connect SoCal is SCAG's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental, and public health goals. During the meeting, attendees provided feedback on the Plan's local input process, growth forecast, scenario development, performance measures, target setting, SB 375 technical methodology, and overall technical engagement. SGVCOG staff took the opportunity to thank SCAG staff for joining SGVCOG's committee meetings to engage with San Gabriel Valley elected officials and city staff and expressed the need for additional Scenario Planning Model (SPM) training for city staff during the next cycle. SCAG staff is currently finalizing the evaluation of the 2020 RTP/SCS development process and the 2024 RTP/SCS work is anticipated to begin in Spring 2021.
- **Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant Workshop:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) FY 2021-2022 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants Workshop. Caltrans recently released the application guide for the FY 2021-2022 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant. A total of \$34 million will be available for transportation planning projects across California, of which \$29.5 million will be allocated to encourage local and regional planning that furthers the State's goals and best practices cited in California Transportation Commission's Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines and the remaining \$4.5 million will be allocated to identify and address statewide, interregional, and regional transportation deficiencies on the State highway system in partnership with Caltrans. This program directly supports regional sustainable communities' strategies that aim to achieve the State's greenhouse gas

reduction targets of 40% and 80% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively. During the workshop, Caltrans staff stated that the Grant Application Guide, forms, and templates will soon be posted on the Caltrans website and that the application packet is due on February 12, 2021 by 5:00pm. Questions and inquiries can be directed to Regional.Planning.Grants@dot.ca.gov.

- **Connect SGV Podcast Episode on Homelessness:** Earlier in September, the SGVCOG proudly launched a new podcast series that features Southern California and San Gabriel Valley leaders and their unique stories and insights on handling emerging issues. Each episode provides an opportunity for residents, city staff, elected officials, and stakeholders to learn about cities, programs, and issues impacting the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley region. The third episode, which was released earlier this week, focuses on homelessness issues with Everyone In Field Organizers, Allison Henry and Teresa Eilers. The speakers shared their perspectives on solutions to end homelessness, supportive housing, and rapid-housing projects and explored how local jurisdictions can involve residents and community organizations to end homelessness in their communities. The episode is available in both audio and video formats on the SGVCOG website [here](#).
- **Launch of ULAR Website:** The Upper Los Angeles River Watershed (ULAR) Management Group recently launched a website to highlight the Group's activities and projects. The website can be found here: <https://ularwmg.com/>. The ULAR Group also released an introductory video of the Group that shows the efforts to manage stormwater in the Upper LA River: <https://twitter.com/ularwmg/status/1337527895875407874?s=20>.
- **SoCalGas Awards SGVCOG Energy Award:** SoCalGas will be recognizing the SGVCOG's San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership program with the All-Star Energy Efficiency Award on December 22. The award is in recognition of the SGVCOG's outstanding support for SoCalGas energy efficiency programs.

