

Valley Voice

The official newsletter of the

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

January 2023

SGVCOG Staff Brings Holiday Cheer to Tiny Home Residents



The SGVCOG and SGVRHT partnered with the City of Baldwin Park, the Montebello Community Assistance Program team, and City Net to host holiday events at the region's three interim housing sites (Esperanza Villa, Operation Stay Safe, and Serenity Homes) to ensure that residents have a special holiday season. SGVCOG staff volunteered and organized donation drives to support the families and residents at each location.



We kicked off our holiday cheer on December 19th at Esperanza Villa in Baldwin Park. Residents had tamales and participated in holiday door decorating. Then on December 21st at Operation Stay Safe in Montebello, residents had a special holiday meal. Finally, on December 22nd at the Serenity Homes family interim housing site in Baldwin Park, residents had a holiday party with a catered meal, holiday crafts, caroling, cookie decorating, gifts and a special appearance by Santa! Special thanks to the City of Baldwin Park for their support (and use of their trolley for Santa's visit) in hosting this fun event!



If you are interested in helping with an event to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Meredith Sharkey at msharkey@sgvcog.org.

SGVCOG Hosts Open House at New Office Location



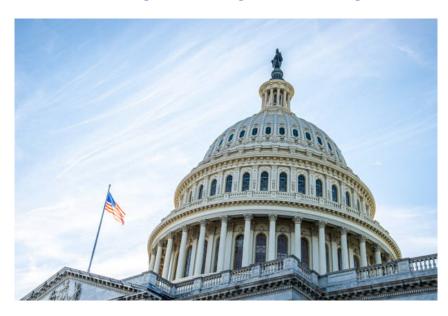
On December 21st, the SGVCOG hosted its Open House, welcoming Governing Board members, city staff, and other partners to see the SGVCOG's new office space in Monrovia. As you know, the SGVCOG held two active office leases in the cities of Alhambra and Irwindale for many years. In November of 2022, SGVCOG staff officially began emptying boxes at the new Monrovia location, beginning the move into the new location.



After months of hard work, we were proud and excited to host dozens of attendees to show off the new space located at 1333 S. Mayflower Avenue in Monrovia. We thank everyone who attended and look forward to hosting more guests in the future!



Federal Appropriations Bill Brings \$7.5 Million for SGVCOG Programs & Regional Housing Trust



The SGVCOG and San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) are slated to receive \$7.5 million in new federal funding as part of the \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill that was recently passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. The package included \$1.5 million for the San Gabriel Valley Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (SGV CARE) pilot program, \$2 million for the SGV Works workforce development program and \$4 million for the SGVRHT. The \$1.5 million in funding for SGV CARE was secured thanks to support from Congresswoman Judy Chu and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla and will help the program continue to expand. The \$2 million in funding for SGV Works was secured thanks to support from Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and Congresswoman Linda Sanchez along with Senator Alex Padilla. The funds will be used to continue and expand the SGVCOG's workforce development program, which provides paid work experience and supportive services for adults living at SGVCOG's interim housing sites and atrisk youth who are experiencing, or at-risk of experiencing, homelessness. The \$4 million in funding for site acquisition, construction and capital improvements of SGVRHT Project Pipeline affordable housing developments was requested by Congresswoman Judy Chu and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla. The SGVCOG and SGVRHT deeply appreciates the leadership of our federal representatives for securing this critical funding to support vital projects that help meet the pressing needs of the San Gabriel Valley.

California Transportation Commission Approves \$67.8 Million For Construction of Montebello Blvd. Grade Separation Project



On December 8th, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) voted to approve the allocation of \$67.8 million in state funds to the SGVCOG for the construction of the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project. The funding, which includes a \$49 million grant through the SB 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) and \$18.8 million in state bond funds from the Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF), will permit the SGVCOG to prepare to release the project for bids from contractors.

The \$190.8 million Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project calls for constructing a roadway underpass on Montebello Boulevard with a new railroad bridge and vehicle bridge for Olympic Boulevard to eliminate collisions and reduce congestion. The project will also include at-grade crossing safety improvements at the Greenwood Avenue, Vail Avenue, and Maple Avenue crossings. The Montebello Boulevard crossing is used by 21,700 vehicles per day, blocked by a daily average of 43 trains, including 12 Metrolink regional commuter rail trains. The Federal Railroad Administration has recorded three collisions at the crossing within the most recent ten years, resulting in one fatality and one injury.

The Montebello Boulevard project was ranked no. 17 on the California Grade Separation Fund Priority List for FY 2020-2021, as compiled by the California Public Utilities Commission based on vehicular traffic, train counts, and crossing collisions. The project is part of the comprehensive \$1.9 billion Alameda Corridor-East program of 19-grade separations and at-grade crossing safety improvements being implemented by the SGVCOG.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project in Montebello Awarded \$5.906 Million in Active Transportation Program Funding



its December meeting, the California Transportation Commission awarded a \$5.906 million grant through its competitive 2023 Active Transportation Program (ATP) for bicycle and pedestrian improvements at two at-grade rail crossings on Greenwood Avenue and Vail Avenue in the City of Montebello. The project improvements include pedestrian medians and gates, ADA-compliant ramps, expanded sidewalks, bike boxes, new traffic signals, and upgraded railroad crossing signals and signage. The Montebello Railroad Safety Crossings Improvements Project received high scores during the evaluation and was selected among 434 applications requesting ATP funding this year. The ATP grants fund projects that encourage increased use of active modes of transportation such as biking and walking.

Fire Prep SGV Participates in the City of Azusa's Festival of Lights and Holiday Concert



On December 10th, Fire Prep SGV staff attended the Festival of Lights and Holiday Concert event in the City of Azusa. There, they hosted a booth that provided wildfire education through informational hand-outs, interactive games and an appearance by the program's mascot, Sparky the Dalmatian. For more information on wildfire preparedness and the San Gabriel Valley Wildlife Adaption and Prevention Outreach Program known as Fire Prep SGV, please visit www.sgvcog.org/wildfire.

SGVCOG Hosts Neighborhood Coyote Program Presentation for Irwindale Kidzone Students



On December 6th, the Neighborhood Coyote Program presented to nearly 20 kids at Irwindale's Kidzone program. SGVCOG staff answered questions, encouraged participation, and invited students to act out the SMART acronym, which provides instructions on how to respond during a coyote encounter:

- S Stop! Do not run or turn your back. Pick up any small pets.
- M Make yourself big by raising and waving your arms.
- A Announce your presence by yelling or shouting "Go away, coyote".
- R Retreat by slowly walking backwards.
- T Teach your family and friends the SMART acronym.

If you would like to coordinate a coyote safety presentation, please contact Vanessa Guerra vguerra@sggvcog.org or Sophia Sousa ssousa@sgvcog.org.

SGVCOG Participates in CalRecycle Food Recovery Site Visit



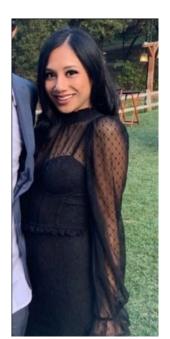
On December 5th, staff from CalRecycle's Local Assistance and Market Development Branch joined LA County Public Works' Jennifer King, City of LA Sanitation's Michelle Mikesell, and SGVCOG's Nick Ryu, Turner Lott and Mackenzie Bolger, to visit two key organizations in the County's food recovery efforts: Food Forward in Bell and Hollywood Food Coalition and Exchange in Hollywood.



Among their other programs, Food Forward recovers edible food from the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market and donates 100% of the produce recovered to hunger relief agencies across Southern California. Among their recipients is the Hollywood Food Coalition and Exchange, which, in addition to serving a nightly meal to over 300 local residents, provides a free concierge food service to small and medium-sized social service nonprofits for their programs across Los Angeles. SGVCOG staff will utilize these connections and greater understanding of food recovery in LA County to shape the COG's Regional Food Recovery Program.



SGVCOG Staff Member Spotlight: Natalia Santana, Accounting Technician



What do you like most about working with the SGVCOG?

What I love most about working for SGVCOG is our company's culture and values. Everyone is so helpful and positive. I look forward to volunteering within the SGV community.

What is a fun fact about you? I love to be outdoors!

News-in-Brief



Temple City 2023

Mayor's Round

Table

On behalf of Mayor Cynthia Sternquist, all SGV Mayors are cordially invited to be part of the TC Mayor's Round Table: Blooming into Action on January 18, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The event will occur at the newly renovated Temple City Library, 5939 Golden West Avenue, Temple City, CA 91780. This event is FREE. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. City Managers and key executive staff are also welcome. For questions, please contact Iliana Flores at iflores@templecity.us. The last day to register is January 16, 2023. Interested Mayors may register this /r/LD9e44LqST.



Announcement from Metro Board Director Tim Sandoval: State & Federal Grants

Metro has announced the availability of \$7.9 million of State Access for All funds through its Access for All grant program and the release of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Solicitation for Proposals &Application Package. Metro is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for projects that increase the availability of on-demand wheelchairaccessible vehicle (WAV) services. Applications are due by 5 PM February 6, 2023. FTA Section 5310 Program: Metro also announced the availability of \$13.8 million of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and

Individuals with Disabilities funding through its Federal Pass-Through Grants Program and the release of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Solicitation for

Proposals & Application

Package. <u>Applications are due</u>
by 5 PM on February 27, 2023.



SGVCOG Can Help Increase Your Home's Energy Efficiency

Interested in increasing your home's energy efficiency? We can assist you! The SGVCOG has partnered with the County of Los Angeles, which administers the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) to bring together a wide variety of services with one common goal: achieving unprecedented levels of energy savings

Get started by signing up for a free eSGV review! Our staff will walk you through the whole-house approach to energy efficiency, giving you the tools necessary to become more efficient. Find out more information here!

January Committee Meeting Schedule



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Safari, Firefox, and Google Chrome at a zoom level of 100%.



