



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*
**AGENDA AND NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING
DIRECTORS' WORKING GROUP**
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/81530221927>

Chair
Craig Hensley
City of Duarte

Vice-Chair
Brad Johnson
City of
Claremont

Members
Alhambra
Arcadia
Azusa
Baldwin Park
Claremont
Covina
Diamond Bar
Duarte
El Monte
Glendora
Irwindale
La Verne
Monrovia
Montebello
Monterey Park
Pasadena
Pomona
Rosemead
San Dimas
San Gabriel
Sierra Madre
South El Monte
South Pasadena
Temple City
L.A. County
DRP

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. [Planning Directors' Working Group Meeting Notes – August 25, 2022](#)
4. SCAG REAP 2.0 Guidelines – Jacob Noonan and Jessica Reyes Juarez, SCAG
5. SGV Fire Prep Overview
6. Update/Discussion Items
 - 6.1 Housing Element Certification
 - 6.2 REAP 1.0 Projects
7. Announcements
8. Adjourn



SGVCOG Planning Directors' Working Group
Meeting Notes
August 25, 2022
12:00 PM – Via Zoom/Teleconference

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 12:00pm.
2. Introductions
3. REAP Housing Forum: Affordable Housing in the Context of the Regional Housing Trust
This item highlighted how cities and developers can leverage funding and receive technical assistance from the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT). Speakers included Brielle Acevedo, SGVRHT Manager; Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director for the City of Pomona; Yuriko Ruizesparza, Community Services Supervisor for the City of Baldwin Park; Andrew Leon, Senior Management Analyst for the City of Montebello; and Craig Hensley, Community Development Director for the City of Duarte. The presentations underscored how cities have utilized the SGVRHT to build affordable housing and homeless housing.
4. Announcements
Cities shared their successes and challenges with their Housing Element certification.
The next Planning Directors' Working Group meeting will take place on Thursday, September 22 at 12:00pm.
5. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 12:53pm.

DATE: September 22, 2022

TO: Planning Directors' Working Group

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **REAP 2021 DRAFT FRAMEWORK**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2021 grants (REAP 2.0) was established through AB 140 (July 2021) as part of the mid-year budget revision for the State's FY 21-22 budget. Funding is allocated to the State's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – as well as rural and tribal governments – for planning and implementation activities that accelerate infill housing and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). REAP 2.0 builds upon REAP 1.0 by expanding the program focus to integrate housing and climate goals, including infrastructural investments that support future housing development. Approximately \$510 million is available to MPOs statewide to support transformative and innovative projects that help implement MPOs' regional Sustainable Communities Strategy and help achieve goals of more housing and transportation options that reduce reliance on cars.

Each MPO is required to submit an application outlining its intended activities. An initial allocation of up to ten percent of the allocated funds is currently available, to allow MPOs to facilitate the development of transformational projects and programs and to collect feedback on its programs. The SCAG region's formula share is \$246,024,084. SCAG will be submitting its full application by December 31, 2022. All REAP 2.0 funds are to be obligated by June of 2024 and expended by June 2026, with a final closeout report due in June 2026.

REAP 2.0 FRAMEWORK

REAP 2.0 Program Framework (Attachment A) was developed based on the language in the Trailer Bill that established REAP 2.0 and includes a set of core objectives that are aligned with the REAP 2021 priorities, the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy.

The Program Areas are as follows:

1. **Early Action Initiatives:** SCAG will expand some existing programs in the Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy to support cities in implementing Connect SoCal. The existing SCAG programs they are focusing on is the Sustainable Communities Program (SCP), Go Human, Regional Data Platform, and Sub-Regional Partnership Program 2.0. The Sub-Regional Partnership Program 2.0 in particular will allocate \$23 million on a non-competitive basis to subregional councils of governments (COGs) for REAP 2.0 eligible

activities supporting cities and counties to implement projects and programs identified in their draft and/or final compliant Housing Element work plans.

2. **Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program:** The Housing Supportive Infrastructure program builds on the concepts put forward in the Key Connections in Connect SoCal 2020, as well as current work funded through the REAP 1.0 program, as well as Local Early Action Planning and SB2. This program would have 4 main priority areas:
 - **Utilities to support housing development:** Identify transformative programs to invest in the utilities (sewer, gas, electric, broadband) needed to environmentally clear, entitle and ultimately build the housing needed to meet the region’s 6th cycle RHNA goals, and in the Priority Growth areas identified in Connect SoCal.
 - **Housing Trust Funds:** Invest in subregional housing trust funds to leverage efforts to deliver affordable housing
 - **Preservation of expiring covenants and naturally occurring affordable housing:** Target existing affordable housing with expiring covenants and/or housing that is naturally affordable without covenants and develop programs to extend covenants and preserve these units as affordable.
 - **Technical Assistance:** Through the outreach process, SCAG will identify additional technical assistance needs for cities, counties and other partners. These may include programs to:
 - i. Help public agencies use their surplus land for affordable housing development
 - ii. Continue land use planning efforts that will support implementation of 6th cycle Housing Elements
 - iii. Ensure that the region can secure grant funding in support of affordable housing development.
3. **County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program:** SCAG will develop a new partnership program with the region’s six County Transportation Commissions, to fund the development of plans, programs, pilot projects, and even some signature GHG/VMT reducing capital projects. Regional guidelines are currently being developed with the intent to align with Key Connection strategies included in Connect SoCal and advance new concepts for reducing VMT. Key Connections focus on advancing expanded mobility ecosystems and management strategies using innovative policy and/or technology to realize regional planning goals, and account for 30% of the GHG reduction needed to meet SCAG’s SB 375 requirements. Examples include shared mobility, congestion pricing studies and pilots, universal basic mobility pilots, transit recovery and integration pilot projects, dedicated lanes and other tactical transit solutions to improve transit travel time and reliability, micro-transit and other mobility-on-demand services providing first/last mile connections, or VMT Mitigation Bank. Staff has initiated some early outreach with CTC staff to gauge opportunities for partnerships and anticipates continued dialogue in developing a regional program. Some early concepts identified to date by CTC staff include extending or expanding student transit pass programs, deployment of mobility hubs, electric carshare programs, seed funding to support VMT mitigation banking and credit programs, etc.

HOUSING SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDELINES

Each program area will have associated guidelines to propel the program forward. SCAG is currently developing guidelines for the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program and collecting stakeholder feedback. The final guidelines will be brought to the SCAG Regional Council in November 2022 for approval. At this Planning Directors' Working Group meeting, Jacob Noonan and Jessica Reyes Juarez from SCAG will provide an update on these draft guidelines for the Housing Supportive Infrastructure Program.

Prepared by: 

Brianne Logasa
Management Analyst

Approved by: 

Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHEMENTS

[Attachment A – Draft REAP 2021 Program Development Framework](#)

REPORT

DATE: September 22, 2022

TO: Planning Directors' Working Group

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **FIRE PREP SGV OVERVIEW**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Bobcat Fire burned over 115,000 acres in the San Gabriel Mountains over a span of 3 months. It triggered mandatory evacuation orders in several San Gabriel Valley cities and is known as the second largest fire recorded in Los Angeles County to date. An estimated 6,000 structures were threatened and 27 residential homes and 83 other structures were destroyed. The Bobcat Fire had convinced several insurance companies to cease coverage in certain zip codes and counties, while other insurers have increased prices. Acknowledging that the San Gabriel Valley lacks a comprehensive regional wildfire prevention framework or program, San Gabriel Valley cities and agencies have approached the SGVCOG to explore the possibility of developing a regional model for wildfire adaptation.

In a survey that was conducted by the SGVCOG in 2021, 9 cities responded that they have not started wildfire prevention planning activities, 17 cities expressed interest in establishing a Regional Fire Safe Council, 19 cities expressed interest to participate in a wildfire prevention planning program that is led by the SGVCOG, and 20 cities expressed support for the development of a Regional Wildfire Adaptation Plan. Additionally, cities shared that they were interested in joining a regional effort to provide evacuation planning, structure hardening, hazardous fuel reduction, brush mitigation, and community education support.

Acknowledging that there is interest for the SGVCOG to implement regional wildfire adaptation and prevention efforts, SGVCOG staff sought grant funds to implement comprehensive outreach and planning efforts for San Gabriel Valley cities and communities that are located in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

In November 2021, the SGVCOG secured approximately \$228,000.00 from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to implement an 18-month Wildfire Adaptation and Prevention Outreach Program called Fire Prep SGV. The grant specifically focuses on outreach and education efforts for High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The Program, which staff began work for in February 2022, includes the implementation of wildfire prevention workshops, community pop-up events, and social media marketing campaigns, with the goal of providing information for communities to create and maintain defensible space and structural hardening, prepare for possible evacuations, develop and implement wildfire action

plans, understand evacuation terminologies, and protect themselves in the event of being trapped by wildfires.

SGVCOG staff have developed program content on maintaining and creating defensible space, structural/home hardening, evacuation preparation, and protection strategies in the event of being trapped. Additionally, staff have created templates for creating your own Household Wildfire Action Plan and Neighborhood Wildfire Action Plan. These contents have been reviewed by wildfire experts from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and SGVCOG member city fire departments located in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Staff will use the program content to create brochures, mailers, social media posts, and other outreach and education materials.

The Fire Prep SGV program was most recently featured at the City of Diamond Bar National Night Out on August 3, 2022 and the San Dimas Farmers Market on September 7, 2022. SGVCOG staff are currently identifying future community events to participate in during the time period of October 2022 to August 2023. Cities that are interested in inviting the SGVCOG to host a wildfire adaptation and prevention booth at a local community event or provide a wildfire adaptation and prevention presentation can contact SGVCOG staff at blogasa@sgvcog.org. Please note that due to the grant requirements, cities must have areas that are designated as high fire hazard severity zones for SGVCOG to participate in an event or presentation – see if your city meets the requirement [here](#).

To learn more about Fire Prep SGV, click here: <https://www.sgvcog.org/wildfire>.

SGVCOG Management Analyst Brianne Logasa will provide updates on this item.

Prepared by: Meredith Sharkey
Meredith Sharkey
Management Analyst

Approved by: Marisa Creter
Marisa Creter
Executive Director