

# SGVCOG Weekly Recap

## Week of July 5, 2021

- **Connect SGV Podcast Episode on Tiny Homes:** Earlier this week, SGVCOG staff released a new Connect SGV Podcast episode that features discussions with SGVCOG Executive Director, Marisa Creter, and San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Administrator, Brielle Acevedo, on their efforts to coordinate Tiny Home projects. The episode also explores the benefits of building Tiny Homes and the process for local jurisdictions to implement these projects. All episodes are available in both audio and video formats on the SGVCOG website [here](#).
- **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Public Hearing on the MS4 NPDES Permit:** On Thursday, the Regional Water Board held a public hearing to consider adoption of the Regional Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the Los Angeles Region. 13 elected officials, including 11 from the San Gabriel Valley, provided policy statements at the hearing. We sincerely appreciate and thank all of those who provided comments today at this important hearing. Additional hearings will be held today, July 9 and next Friday, July 16, with a potential hearing on Friday, July 23 as needed. More information can be found [here](#).
- **SGVRHT Federal Budget Earmark:** On Thursday, staff received the exciting news that, in response to our request, Senator Feinstein has requested an earmark of \$10 million for the SGV Regional Housing Trust. \$10 million is the highest amount requested by Senator Feinstein for individual projects, and she only requested that amount for four projects in the entire state. Senator Feinstein included this request as part of her Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) to the Senate committees. While this could be reduced or eliminated as the appropriations process progresses, our request could not have a stronger advocate than Senator Feinstein given that she has been California's senior Senator since 1992 and serves in the majority on the Senate Appropriations Committee. We are very pleased with this recognition of the significance of the SGVRHT's mission and work!

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## Week of July 12, 2021

- **Approval of FY 2021-22 Measure H Funding Recommendations:** On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the Measure H funding recommendations for fiscal year 2021-22. In addition to the approved \$433.8 million in Measure H funding, the approval also included an additional \$14.8 million in federal stimulus funding and additional carryover Measure H and State funds. The approved funding recommendations include a total allocation of \$15 million to councils of governments for the period from January 2022 to June 2023. Funding will be allocated to the councils of governments based on the 2020 point-in-time homeless count. The SGVCOG will receive an allocation of approximately \$3.5 million. Over the next several months, the SGVCOG will work with member cities to develop and finalize funding recommendations for this funding.
- **SCAG Technical Working Group:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff participated in the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Technical Working Group meeting. The Working Group reviewed the following major items:
  - **SCAG Regional Data Platform:** SCAG recently launched the Regional Data Platform (RDP) to provide a modern system for holistic planning across the SCAG jurisdiction, which can foster a more sustainable and equitable future for Southern California. As part of the overall RDP Project, SCAG launched a web-mapping tool, known as the [Housing Element Parcel \(HELPR\) Tool](#), to assist local jurisdictions and stakeholders understand local land use and site opportunities for aligning housing planning with the State's sixth cycle housing element updates, which are due in October 2021.
  - **SoCal Greenprint:** SCAG is in the process of developing an innovative online regional mapping tool, known as SoCal Greenprint, to highlight the benefits of natural lands, waters, and agricultural lands. The goals of the SoCal Greenprint are to protect, restore, and enhance natural lands, public greenspace, working lands, and water resources. The tool is anticipated to be ready for stakeholder input and user testing in Summer 2021, with a launch planned for Fall 2021.
  - **Connect SoCal 2020 Priority Growth Areas:** Priority Growth Areas (PGAs) follow the principles of center focused placemaking and are locations where many Connect SoCal strategies can be fully realized. In the 2020 Connect SoCal Plan, PGAs accounted for only 4% of the region's total land area, but accounted for 64% of forecasted household growth and 74% of forecasted employment growth by 2045. SCAG staff will collaborate with the Technical Working Group to determine the appropriate methodology for future growth for the 2024 Connect SoCal Plan, develop a strategy that supports resilient growth throughout the region, and review and assess existing trends for strategic growth.
  - **2024 Connect SoCal Subregional SCS Framework and Guidelines:** SB 375 provisions allow subregional councils of governments (COGs) in the SCAG region to prepare their own Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The framework and guidelines describe the expectations for both SCAG and subregions. This option is available to any COGs within the SCAG's jurisdiction. The intent of such guidelines is to offer flexibility to subregions but ensure that SCAG can meet its statutory responsibilities. While SCAG will not issue subregional greenhouse gas or other performance targets, subregional SCSes must contain all required elements per SB 375 and will need to coordinate with their respective CTCs. SCAG

will subsequently incorporate the subregional SCSes into the regional SCS. SCAG will also develop an MOU with each subregion that delegates to provide further detail and provide conflict resolution process. It is anticipated that SCAG staff will prepare guidelines for the Regional Council's approval in September 2021. The deadline for subregional agencies to communicate intent to SCAG is October 29, 2021.

- **Homeless Working Group Meeting:** On Thursday, staff held its monthly homeless working group meeting. The primary topic of discussion at the meeting was the proposed funding categories for the Measure H allocations approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. Over the last several months, SGVCOG staff has had discussions with city staff about their existing homeless programs, what has and has not worked with current rounds of Measure H funding, and needs for future funding. Based on these conversations, SGVCOG staff developed the following proposed funding categories, which were presented to the Homeless Working Group for discussion:
  - Gaps in service to service to supplement existing programs and: address general outreach and service needs;
  - Outreach and services for hard-to-reach populations;
  - Alternative crisis response
  - City/cohort programs

The proposed recommendations will next be presented to the Homelessness Committee at its September meeting.



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## Week of July 19, 2021

- **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Public Hearing on the MS4 NPDES Permit:** Over the last several weeks, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) has held public hearings on the [MS4 NPDES Permit](#), which mandates stormwater quality. The Regional Board has heard comments from municipalities - including a number of Governing Board members - non-governmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders on the Permit. Today, on Friday, July 23, the Regional Board will consider adoption of the 2020 MS4 NPDES Permit. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and can be viewed [here](#).
- **Meeting with Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff met with Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Officer, Gary Gero, to discuss the County's sustainability efforts. In 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the "[OurCounty](#)" Sustainability Plan to put the country's boldest county sustainability plan in motion. Since then, the County has been developing a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) as part of implementing the "OurCounty" Plan. The finalized CVA will soon be available and subsequently be presented to the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee and the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee in September. SGVCOG staff was also informed that the County Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) is developing a Resource Library that will include model ordinances, policies, templates, and guidelines for cities. The Resource Library will soon be available on the CSO website.
- **Upcoming Energy Efficiency Twitterchat:** SGVCOG staff will be hosting a Twitterchat event with nine other agencies on Tuesday, July 27th from 12:00-1:00pm to discuss energy efficiency and available resources for both public agencies and residents. The participating agencies are the cities of Claremont, Irwindale, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Rosemead, South El Monte, Walnut, Foothill Transit and SoCalGas. Additional agencies are welcome to join the discussion by following #SGVEnergySmart during the scheduled Twitterchat. Agencies are also recommended to follow the COG on Twitter at @SGVCOG to receive updates and event notices around the San Gabriel Valley.

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## Week of July 26, 2021

- **Board of Supervisors Motion on “Establishing a Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness”:** On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion introduced by Supervisor Barger that will bring together municipal stakeholders across the County to analyze and collect feedback on existing efforts related to County homelessness governance reform. The motion incorporated recommendations of the SGVCOG White Paper and the Dr. Sonenshein report, “A Plan for Homelessness Governance in Los Angeles” by including representation beyond just the City and County of LA. As such, the SGVCOG submitted a comment letter in support of the motion and SGVCOG staff, as well as staff from other municipalities and COGs, provided public comment at the meeting in support of the motion. The Board of Supervisors voted to support an amended motion that expanded the makeup of the Commission. The approved composition includes 12 members: one appointed by each Supervisor (total of 5); three nominated by the LA City Council President; two nominated by the Councils of Governments; one nominated by the Mayor of LA; and one nominated by the Contract Cities Association. The final motion expanded the number of COG representatives from one to two. On Wednesday, the LA County COG Executive Directors met and agreed to submit SGVCOG President Becky Shevlin and Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath as the COG representatives. The SGVCOG Executive Committee will affirm the COG’s nomination of President Shevlin at its meeting on Monday. We are excited and proud to have her representing cities across the County on this important endeavor!
- **Solid Waste Working Group:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Solid Waste Working Group convened via Zoom to discuss SB 1383 compliance efforts and review solid waste legislative updates. Specifically, the Working Group reviewed the following major items:
  - **San Gabriel Valley Regional Food Recovery Program:** At the recommendation of the Working Group, the SGVCOG will lead a Regional Food Recovery Program to assist San Gabriel Valley cities to comply with SB 1383’s food recovery regulations. The SGVCOG will manage a consultant team to assess potential edible food recovery agencies in participating cities’ jurisdictions and identify their processing capacity, calculate if additional capacity is needed for participating cities to recover the required amount of edible food, identify funding opportunities to fund additional infrastructure, identify participating cities’ Tier 1 and Tier 2 food waste generators, develop and implement an outreach and education program for participating cities’ Tier 1 and Tier 2 food waste generators, and develop and implement an inspection and enforcement program. An RFP was recently released and the deadline for consultants to provide proposals is scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2021. Questions and inquiries regarding the Regional Food Recovery Program can be directed to SGVCOG staff at [afung@sgvco.org](mailto:afung@sgvco.org).
  - **Los Angeles County SB 1383 Food Recovery Updates:** The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works reported that the County is in the process of developing a centralized database system of all known edible food recovery organizations and services. An integrated map that showcases all food recovery organizations that receive food donations from commercial food generators can be found [here](#).
  - **Solid Waste Legislative Updates:** The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) shared that 92% of the 194 California cities that responded to a recent solid waste survey responded that they anticipate a solid waste and recycling rate increase in

the next three years. Cities mostly indicated that SB 1383 implementation and the associated lack of infrastructure are the leading cost drivers of the rate increases. Additionally, Cal Cities shared legislative updates on solid waste legislation such as SB 38 (Wieckowski), SB 54 (Allen), SB 343 (Allen), and SB 619 (Laird). Details on all solid waste legislation can be found on the Cal Cities website [here](#).

- **Infrastructure LA SWARM Subcommittee:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended the Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee meeting. Los Angeles County Legislative Representative Faith Conley reported that negotiations to provide funds for jurisdictions to comply with SB 1383 are ongoing between the Governor's Office and the Legislature. The State has until September 11th to finalize the language of remaining budget trailer bills. Additionally, National Stewardship Action Council Executive Director Heidi Sanborn provided updates on behalf of the California Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling. The Commission, which was formed in 2019, was recently directed by the Legislature to issue policy recommendations and identify products that are recyclable or compostable. The Final Policy Recommendations Report can be found [here](#).
- **Energy Efficiency Twitterchat:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff held an Energy Efficiency Twitterchat event with six San Gabriel Valley cities, one transit agency and one external stakeholder. The discussion centered on energy efficiency during warmer summer months and how agencies can demonstrate leadership on energy efficiency. Participants shared best practices and resources to help agencies and residents reduce their energy consumption and lower their bills. During the hour-long event, we had a reach of 138k users and generated over 9k impressions. The SGVCOG thanks the following agencies for participating and sharing their valuable insights during the Twitterchat: the Cities of Claremont, Irwindale, Monrovia, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Walnut, Foothill Transit & SoCalGas.

