



Valley Voice

*The official newsletter of the
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

April 2023

Governing Board Convenes In-Person Meeting



For the first time since 2020, the SGVCOG Governing Board met in person and also convened at our new office in Monrovia! On March 22nd, over 31 member cities, two Supervisorial districts, and three water districts held a board meeting to conduct the business of improving the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley. It was a new milestone for the SGVCOG and a real pleasure to see everyone

together in our new space. Below is a brief summary of what took place at the meeting:

- The Board authorized a sole-source contract with Fehr & Peers to update the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Model and Tool for the SGVCOG and its 27 member cities.
- The Board also authorized amendments to the Workforce Development service provider contracts, allowing Goodwill Industries of Southern California and God's Pantry to pay wages to Workforce Development program participants. The Board authorized the SGVCOG to submit its 2023-24 Local Solutions Fund application, proposing funding allocations and guidelines for programs that prevent homelessness and directly house client



- Additionally, the Board authorized an agreement with Jensen Hughes to develop the San Gabriel Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan. SGVCOG received a CAL FIRE grant totaling \$677,959 in 2022 to develop this program.
- The Board also approved an additional allocation of \$100,000 and any unspent funds from other 2022-23 Homeless Programs to the Housing Linkage Working Group. Finally, the Board approved several internal and external appointments and received a presentation on the LifeArk Tyler Project in El Monte. The project creates safe, sustainable, and affordable homes for people living in low-income, marginalized communities around the world, and LifeArk Tyler is the first project to provide permanent supportive housing and ongoing intensive case management services.

We hope to see you at our next Governing Board meeting scheduled for April 20th. All regular Governing Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM in the SGVCOG Board Room of our office ([1333 S. Mayflower Ave, Suite 360, Monrovia, CA 91016](#)).

SGVCOG Presents Montebello Corridor Grade Separation Project at City Council Meeting



The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) presented an update on the Montebello Corridor Grade Separation Project at the Montebello City Council meeting on March 22nd. The proposed project aims to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion by eliminating crossing collisions and upgrading crossing safety enhancement measures, among other benefits.

Montebello's crossings are traversed by an average of 49 trains per day, resulting in 10 collisions and three fatalities in recent years. The Montebello Corridor Grade Separation Project seeks to address the safety concerns of the current at-grade crossings by constructing a roadway underpass and railroad bridges on Montebello Blvd. and pedestrian crossing safety enhancements at the Greenwood Avenue, Maple Avenue, and Vail Avenue. The project will also install medians at the Greenwood Avenue and Vail Avenue crossings to prevent vehicle drive-arounds, further improving safety.

Additionally, the project will reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. Without the project, growing train and vehicle traffic would result in a doubling of vehicle hours of delay at the busiest crossing, Montebello Boulevard, which carries an average of 21,000 vehicles per day. This is a critical infrastructure investment that will significantly benefit the residents of Montebello and the San Gabriel Valley.

Thanks to the City of Montebello for allowing us to share how this vital project will benefit their residents during the meeting. The SGVCOG is committed to keeping the City and its residents informed throughout the process and we are grateful for their support. We're proud to be bringing this project to the city and look forward to working together.

Southern California Waste Management Forum Spring Conference Presentation



On March 23rd, Mackenzie Bolger, SGVCOG Senior Management Analyst, presented at the Southern California Waste Management Forum's Spring Conference! This special nonprofit organization is dedicated to advancing knowledge of waste management practices and their impact on the environment. During the presentation, our staff showcased the SGVCOG Regional Food Recovery Program and its impressive outcomes, highlighting our progress toward compliance with SB 1383. We also discussed the development of our food recovery hub and the amazing work we're doing to combat food insecurity through our grants program. It was an incredible opportunity to share our story with others who are passionate about making a positive impact on the environment and their communities.

SGVCOG presents Transit Feasibility Study to Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights Communities



On March 13th, SGVCOG staff attended the Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCCC) meeting to provide a presentation and update on the status and findings of the San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study. RHCCC members were excited to hear about the proposed alternatives and had plenty of questions and feedback to share.

A week later, on March 20th, SGVCOG staff presented the same findings of the Transit Feasibility Study to the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association (HHIA). SGVCOG wanted to gather feedback from residents about the study and the proposed routes. SGVCOG staff members enjoyed answering residents' questions and taking in their comments.

SGVCOG is committed to making transportation options more accessible and sustainable for all residents of the San Gabriel Valley region. We are excited about the potential for the transit feasibility study to be a game-changer for transit and mobility in the area. The team looks forward to continued feedback and collaboration with the community as we work towards a more connected future.

Serenity Homes Receives Best of the Best Award



On March 16th, Serenity Homes, the family interim housing site in Baldwin Park, was recognized as a model program by the California Parks Recreation Society (CPRS) District 13 (San Gabriel Valley Region). Representatives from the City of Baldwin Park and the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) were on hand to receive this prestigious recognition and attend the Best of the Best Awards & Installation Dinner at the Diamond Bar Community Center. The SGVCOG and the SGVRHT were honored to receive this award. Congratulations to the dedicated staff at Serenity Homes for their hard work and commitment to providing much-needed housing and support for families in need.

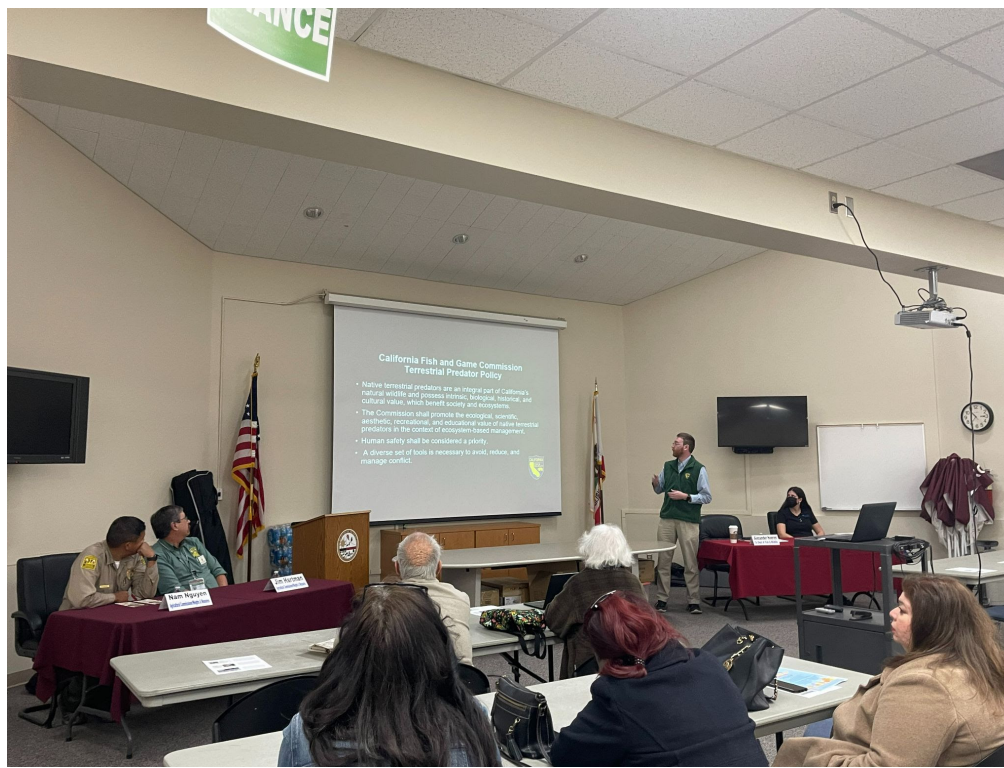
SGVCOG Attends CALCOG Regional Leadership Forum



From March 5-7, SGVCOG staff took part in the California Association of Councils of Governments' Regional Leadership Forum held in Riverside. The Forum brought together regional leaders from across the state, including representatives from metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), regional transportation planning agencies, county transportation commissions, Council of Governments, and Association of Governments.

The SGVCOG team had the chance to dive into the latest and greatest regarding state and federal funding streams, receive briefings on current legislation, and participate in discussions on ever-evolving policy matters. Through the SGVCOG's participation in this event, staff learned practical insights from other regions and agencies. These invaluable lessons will be vital in ensuring that the SGVCOG can continue to provide sound recommendations and programmatic solutions to our member cities. We're grateful for this experience and are excited to continue building on the work that has made the SGVCOG a trailblazer for regional governance in California.

SGVCOG and City of Rosemead Host Coyote Safety Town Hall



On March 8th, the SGVCOG Neighborhood Coyote Program, in collaboration with the City of Rosemead, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Los Angeles County Agricultural Commission of Weights and Measures, hosted an engaging and informative town hall on coyote safety. Attendees were treated to presentations from wildlife experts on normal coyote behavior and invaluable tips on how to avoid potentially dangerous encounters with these elusive creatures.

Rosemead Councilmember Margaret Clark and Rosemead School District Board of Trustees Veronica Peña, John Quintanilla, Diane Benitez, and Nancy Armenta were among the distinguished guests in attendance. The highlight of the event was the lively Q&A session with the experts, where attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about coyotes and other wildlife. Overall, it was a fascinating and insightful event that left attendees more knowledgeable and better equipped to coexist safely with coyotes in their neighborhoods.

Join Us in the Fight Against Food Waste: Virtual Workshop for Large Event Venues






Reduce, Reuse, Recover:

Food Waste Prevention & Recovery for Event Venues, Hospitals, and Colleges

Learn how to prevent food waste and recover edible food to reduce your environmental impact and comply with SB 1383 requirements. Featuring presentations from 301 Organics and the Food Recovery Network!



April 18, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Zoom Webinar



Register at
tinyurl.com/reduce-reuse-recover



Or scan the
 QR code!

Questions? Reach out to mboiger@sgvcog.org

The SGVCOG Regional Food Recovery Program is committed to reducing food waste and combating food insecurity in the region. With Earth Day approaching, we are excited to invite you to our virtual workshop on **April 18th at 12 pm**. This workshop is specifically designed for large event venues, hospitals, and colleges, and it promises to be an educational and insightful experience.

Our workshop will feature presentations from industry experts 301 Organics and Food Recovery Network. They will share their knowledge and expertise on best practices for food waste prevention management, case studies, and resources for implementing a food recovery program for your business. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn from the best!

At SGVCOG, we believe that everyone can make a difference in reducing food waste, and this workshop is an excellent opportunity to take a step toward making that happen. So, mark your calendar and register today at tinyurl.com/reduce-reuse-recover. If you have any questions, feel free to email mbolger@sgvcog.org.

Join us and take the first step towards a more sustainable future. We hope to see you there!

SGVRHT Hosts Tours of Tiny Home Sites for Neighboring Cities, Including Newly Elected Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken



The SGVRHT staff highlighted their innovative solution to the housing crisis by hosting tours of their three interim housing tiny home sites. The tour kicked off on Monday, March 6th, with a special visit from Anaheim's newly elected Mayor, Ashleigh Aitken, who was given an exclusive tour of Operation Stay Safe and Esperanza Villa. Then, on March 9th, the SGVCOG staff welcomed the City of Azusa, a San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust member, for a tour of Esperanza Villa and Serenity Homes.

The SGVRHT is passionate about educating our neighbors and partners on our groundbreaking non-congregate shelter model, which provides a safe and dignified living space for individuals experiencing homelessness. We hope that by sharing our expertise and insights, others can replicate the model in a cost-effective and streamlined way, ultimately helping more people in need and their communities.

If you're interested in learning more about these tiny home sites or want to view them firsthand, don't hesitate to contact Meredith Sharkey at msharkey@sgvcog.org.

SGVCOG Staff Member Spotlight: Kevin Lai, PE, Director of Capital Projects



What do you like most about working with the SGVCOG?

Working with truly talented and diverse colleagues. This team is uniquely capable of tackling the complex and wide-ranging issues confronting our member agencies.

What is a fun fact about you?

I enjoy taking on small projects in the yard. My latest project is to build a small retaining wall to enlarge the second leveled layer at the sloped backyard.

News-in-Brief



Soulemates Shoe Drive

Are you looking for a way to positively impact your community? Look no further! The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is looking to provide new socks and shoes to people experiencing homelessness through our Village 143 program. Join us in making a difference by donating to this worthy cause. Not only will you be providing essential items to those in need, but you'll also be spreading kindness and compassion in our community. Visit sgvcog.org/village143 to learn more about how you can participate and make a difference. Don't wait - send your donations by **April 24, 2023!**



CalKIDS Statewide Savings Account Program

This past August, Governor Newsom, State Treasurer Ma, and the [ScholarShare Investment Board](#) (SIB) launched [CalKIDS](#), a statewide children's savings account program that awards every newborn child with up to \$100 and eligible low-income public school students enrolled in first through 12th grade with up to \$1,500 for future higher education expenses. If you have interest in this program, please contact [Julio Martinez](mailto:Julio.Martinez@treasurer.ca.gov) Julio.Martinez@treasurer.ca.gov or Noah Lightman Noah.Lightman@treasurer.ca.gov



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!](#)

April Committee Meeting Schedule

Please be advised that the Governing Board will convene in person at the SGVCOG's office in Monrovia. Livestreams of the meetings can be found on the SGVCOG website [here](#). The live streams of San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors meetings are [here](#).

Governing Board - April 20, 2023, at 4:00 PM

Regional Housing Trust Board - Cancelled

Homelessness Committee - April 5, 2023, at 8:30 AM

City Managers' Steering Committee - Cancelled

(Special) Executive Committee - April 10, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Transportation Committee - April 5, 2023, at 4:00 PM

(Special) Water Committee - April 4, 2023, at 2:00 PM

EENR Committee - April 5, 2023, at 10:00 AM

Planning Directors Working Group - April 27, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Capital Projects and Construction Committee - April 3, 2023, at 11:00 AM

Public Works Working Group - April 17, 2023, at 12:00 PM

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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