



Valley Voice

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

February 2024

SGVCOG and Partners Secure \$22 Million for Pioneering Energy and Climate Resilience Project in Pomona



On January 11th, SGVCOG President Tim Hepburn participated in a ceremonial event with the City of Pomona, The Energy Coalition, and other program partners, marking the receipt of a \$22 million Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant from the Strategic Growth Council. This significant grant will finance an innovative initiative aimed at transforming Pomona into a community that is at the forefront of energy efficiency and climate resilience.

The SGVCOG is thrilled to be a partner of this pioneering endeavor and expresses gratitude to the Strategic Growth Council for supporting our vision.

Program in Fight Against Food Insecurity in the San Gabriel Valley



Last month, the SGVCOG announced that its trailblazing Regional Food Recovery Program, FRESH SGV (Food Recovery for Equity, Sustainability, and Health – San Gabriel Valley), has been awarded two significant grants, marking a major milestone in its fight against food insecurity in the San Gabriel Valley.

Selected for the first-place prize for medium-sized cities in the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Beverage Association's Environmental Health and Sustainability category, FRESH SGV, in partnership with the City of Alhambra, will receive a grant of \$175,000. This prestigious recognition places FRESH SGV and the City at the forefront of food recovery initiatives in the United States. The funds from this grant will bolster their efforts to equip and staff food recovery organizations and initiatives in Alhambra and the broader San Gabriel Valley, ensuring that high-quality food reaches those in need rather than contributing to landfill waste.

Additionally, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program had also recently recognized the SGVCOG's innovative food recovery program with an award exceeding \$381,000. This funding will facilitate the acquisition of 30 high-efficiency refrigerators and freezers, bolstering food recovery operations of 8 nonprofit food pantries in the region.

Launched to comply with California's SB 1383 climate pollution reduction law, FRESH SGV has become instrumental in diverting food from commercial sources to families facing food insecurity. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of SGVCOG, its member cities, and three regional food recovery hubs, FRESH SGV is on track to recover an estimated 3.3 million pounds of food annually, translating to 2.75 million meals. This initiative tackles the pressing issue of food scarcity and plays a crucial role in environmental protection by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving water resources.

Metro Awards \$1.2 million for SGVCOG's Three Open Streets Events in 2024-2025



On January 25th, the L.A. Metro Board of Directors awarded \$1.2 million for three of the SGVCOG's open street events over the next two years as part of the Metro Open Streets Grant Program. They include 626 Golden Streets: Mission Meets Eclectic in the Cities of Alhambra, San Gabriel and South Pasadena on April 28, 2024, 626 Golden Streets:

in the Cities of El Monte and South El Monte on November 2, 2025. In total, the Metro Board approved nearly \$5.5 million for 16 events throughout the county. Open Streets events are one-day family-friendly events that close streets to vehicular traffic to allow the public to explore communities through biking, walking and transit. Recent Open Streets events in the San Gabriel Valley hosted by the SGVCOG in partnership with ActiveSGV and presented by Metro include ArroyoFest and Heart of the Foothills in 2023.

The City of Duarte Awarded Top Energy Champion Accolade for Exceptional Environmental Initiatives



On January 9th, SGVCOG staff recognized the City of Duarte with the Energy Champion Award, the highest tier of four prestigious categories awarded to local communities. This recognition is a testament to the city's exceptional commitment to improving the environment. It acknowledges the city's unwavering dedication and effective implementation of various energy-efficient projects and educational programs throughout the year 2023. Duarte's remarkable achievements include the comprehensive retrofitting of LED lighting across all municipal facilities and the pioneering transition of its entire bus fleet to eco-friendly electric power. These initiatives underscore the city's proactive approach to promoting sustainability and setting a benchmark in environmental responsibility.

Harvard Kennedy School Highlights SGV CARE Mobile Crisis Response Program in Publication



Launching Alternative 911 Emergency Response in the San Gabriel Valley

Author: Analisa Sorrells



The San Gabriel Valley Crisis Assistance Response & Engagement (SGV CARE) Program has been prominently featured in a recent publication by the Harvard Kennedy School's Government Performance Lab (GPL) for its groundbreaking approach to crisis management. The publication highlights SGV CARE's distinct multi-jurisdictional model, illustrating its effectiveness as a template for other regional organizations seeking to implement comparable crisis response programs. Since September 2022, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has received invaluable pro bono technical assistance from the GPL, crucial in enhancing the program's effectiveness and expanding its reach. This collaboration underscores the potential of innovative partnerships in advancing public service initiatives and addressing community needs effectively. Please feel free to check out the report [here](#).

SGVCOG Leads Critical Wildfire Evacuation Planning Meeting



A critical meeting for regional wildfire evacuation planning was held on January 24th at the SGVCOG office. SGVCOG staff and consultants from Jensen Hughes kickstarted a series of four Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings. These meetings are critical to the evacuation assessment of the San Gabriel Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Working collaboratively with LA County fire and law enforcement, SGVCOG and Jensen Hughes are undertaking a comprehensive evacuation assessment, inviting community stakeholders to contribute insights on evacuation priorities, objectives, and operational requirements. The evaluation aims to pinpoint

Join Our Webinar: Mastering Prepared Food Recovery and Compliance for Food Banks and Businesses

FROM KITCHEN TO COMMUNITY:
Recovering Prepared Foods
 Feb. 15 | 9-11am | Zoom

Join us to learn best practices for **donating, recovering, and handling prepared food** for community distribution.

Featured Speakers

Public Works
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

FOODCYCLE LA

elePlate

Click here to register or visit
tinyurl.com/preparedfood

We are excited to invite food banks and edible food generators (grocery stores, restaurants, and more) to an upcoming webinar all about donating and recovering prepared food! As Tier 2 compliance takes effect, join us to learn more about the challenges and opportunities associated with recovering prepared food. Our expert speakers will share practical strategies, innovative technologies, and best practices that empower you to safely handle prepared food and coordinate recovery.

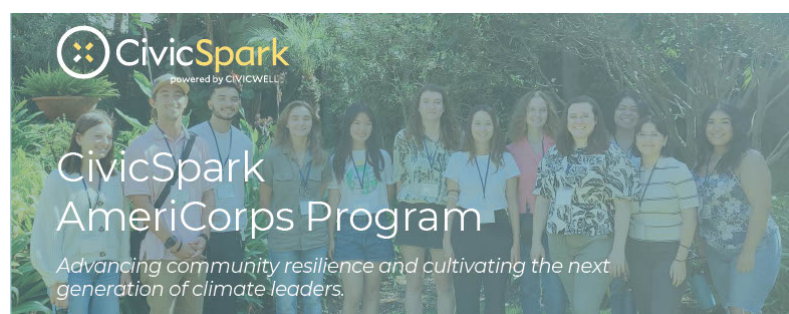
Date: Feb. 15th, 2024

Time: 9 am-11 am

Location: [Zoom](#)

By participating, you will gain actionable knowledge to enhance your efforts in reducing food waste and contributing to a more sustainable future. Register here: tinyurl.com/preparedfood

CivicSpark 2024-2025 Partner Application Now Open



For the last ten years, the award-winning CivicSpark AmeriCorps program has helped over 300 communities in California, Washington, and Colorado accelerate their climate response, while providing a launchpad for almost 1000 emerging leaders. These Fellows have supported a wide range of actions, including:

- 130+ GHG inventories, climate and vulnerability assessments
- 50+ climate and energy action plans
- 400+ community events
- 15,000+ volunteer hours supported
- 73% of alumni still work in the public sector

*Organizations that participate in CivicSpark are 5 to 15 times more likely to achieve their project goals than organizations who don't have a Fellow.**

BENEFITS

- Receive dedicated support for your initiatives
- Access a proven climate and resilience model
- Grow resources for underserved communities
- Attract and retain diverse young leaders
- Reach and exceed your organizational goals

TIMELINE

- January 18 - Applications open
- March 27 - Priority deadline
- June 7 - Final deadline

*2021-22 Program Evaluation, LPC Consultants

Learn more
about CivicSpark:



civicspark.info

Sign up for our
contact list:



civicsparkinfo@civicwell.org

CivicSpark Partner Application. An informative session on the application process is scheduled for February 7th, 2024, and is open to all interested organizations. The session aims to provide comprehensive details about the partnership and application requirements. Those interested in participating or seeking additional information are encouraged to visit the application link provided and refer to the accompanying flyer. For any inquiries, please contact the CivicSpark Deputy Director at jbrosseau@civicwell.org.

SGVCOG Staff Member Spotlight:

Esmeralda Yzguerra, Management Analyst - Capital Projects



What are you looking forward to working at the SGVCOG?

I look forward to building strong relationships with my colleagues and increasing my knowledge of capital projects.

What is a fun fact about you?

I have two cats, a Siamese and a Bombay

February 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](#).

Executive Committee - February 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM

Capital Projects and Construction Committee - February 5, 2024, at 11:00 AM

Homelessness Committee - February 7, 2024, at 8:30 AM

Joint EENR and Water Committee Meeting (Special Meeting) - February 7, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Regional Housing Trust Board - February 15, 2024, at 3:00 PM

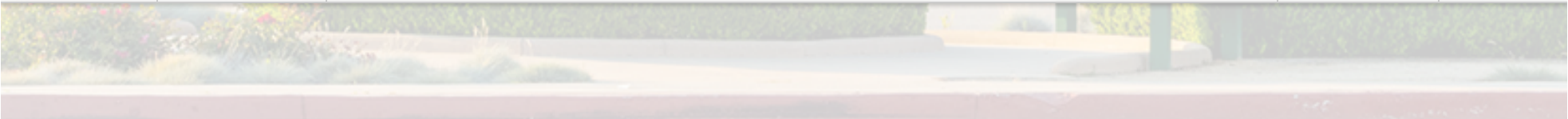
Governing Board - February 15, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Homelessness Working Group - February 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM

Joint Public Works Working Group & Planning Directors Working Group (Special Meeting) - February 22, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Transportation Committee - Cancelled

City Managers' Steering Committee - Cancelled



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