

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 3, 2020

- **Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA):** Last week, the State Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) released the NOFA for the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) program. This funding, which was included in the Governor's housing budget trailer bill (AB 101) allocates funding to local governments for planning activities that support accelerated housing production. Each jurisdiction has been allocated funding based on size. The table below shows these funding amounts. In order to access it's allocated funding, a jurisdiction must submit an application to HCD indicating how the funding will be used. Applications must be submitted to HCD by July 1, 2020. More information about the eligible activities, funding and application process can be found at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/active-funding/leap.shtml#getfunding>.
- **Congressional Hearing:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG Chief Engineer Mark Christoffels testified on Capitol Hill before the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials during a hearing on improving grade crossing safety and addressing community concerns. He highlighted the success of the \$1.8 billion Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) grade separation program and advocated for more federal funding for grade separations and crossing safety projects. Watch a video of the congressional testimony [here](#) (starts at 29:24).
- **SCAG Aviation TAC:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff participated in the SCAG Aviation Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The committee received updates on the Connect SoCal Strategy Plan and heard a presentation from the March Inland Port Airport Authority. The comment period for the Connect SoCal Strategy Plan closed on January 24, 2020 and SCAG received more than 2,000 comments. About 60 of those comments were about the aviation sector and airport capacity issues. The SCAG Regional Council is scheduled to review and adopt the plan in April 2020. Additionally, March Inland Port Airport Director, Gary Gosliga, provided a presentation on the overview of the airport's operations. The March Inland Port Airport (MIPA), located in the County of Riverside, strives to provide more than 1,600 job opportunities for the County, enhance the capacity of the Southern California Aviation System, and encourage global and local business development. MIPA is limited to 21,000 civilian operations every year and receives operational support from the United States Air Force. The SCAG Aviation TAC is scheduled to reconvene in May 2020.
- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held its monthly meeting. The SGVCOG Treasurer Renee Graves of CliftonLarsonAllen presented the Quarterly Treasurer Report for the period ending September 30,

2019. The report found no instances of concern regarding the quarterly reports prepared by ACE and COG and found them to meet the governance needs standards of the Executive Committee and Governing Board. Additionally, the Committee received an overview of the State Homeless Funding and Measure H Innovation Funds programming recommendations and an overview of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors appointment process. The programming recommendations and appointment process will be presented at the Governing Board for approval at the February 20 meeting.

- **Homeless Committee:** On Wednesday, the Homeless Committee met for the first time since December 2019. The meeting focused on two action items: an overview of the State Homeless Funding and Measure H Innovation Funds programming recommendations and an overview of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors appointment process. Both motions passed unanimously through the committee. To close the meeting, liaison reports were received from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness, and the Homeless Initiative. The Homeless Initiative is moving to a one-year budgetary planning system going forward with their recommendations for the 2020-21 fiscal year in the summer and fall of 2020, with approval by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in the fall.
- **Community Outreach - South Pasadena:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended the City of South Pasadena's Farmers' Market to educate residents and local vendors on energy efficiency and water conservation. The event attracted hundreds of local residents and provided an opportunity for our staff to engage with the public on the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Attendees received valuable information on existing rebate and financing opportunities for residential and commercial energy efficiency projects and obtained free water efficiency kits at the SGVCOG booth. SGVCOG will continue its community outreach efforts by participating in other upcoming major Earth Day events in the San Gabriel Valley.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 10, 2020

- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee held a tour several Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) grade separation construction sites, led by SGVCOG Chief Engineer, Mark Christoffels. Mr. Christoffels provided detailed overviews and funding sources of each construction project. Committee members visited construction sites for three ongoing ACE grade separation projects - Durfee Avenue, the Fullerton Road, and Fairway Drive - and several completed ACE grade separation projects. These included the Nogales Street Underpass, the Orange Avenue and Sunset Avenue Flyover Structure, the Puente Avenue Underpass, and the Turnbull Canyon Road. All of these projects are located in or near the Cities of Industry and Pico Rivera. The committee will be hosting its upcoming regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 12:00pm at the Monrovia Community Center.
- **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the Water Committee and Water TAC held its monthly joint meeting. Over the past month, the Water TAC and SGVCOG staff compiled comments from member cities and agencies on the Working Proposal of the MS4 Permit, which was released in December 2019. The Water Committee discussed those comments, made modifications, and approved the comments to be submitted to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Committee also provided direction on comments on the Draft State Water Board Order, which was released by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and directed changes to the implementation of the 2012 MS4 Permit. Those comments were approved to be submitted to the State Board.
- **Mobility 21 Delegation:** SGVCOG Director of Government and Community Relations Paul Hubler and SGVCOG Chief Engineer Mark Christoffels met with San Gabriel Valley legislators in Sacramento on Tuesday to provide an update on funding the final two Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) grade separation projects in design at Montebello Boulevard and Turnbull Canyon Road. These advocacy meetings were intended to help complete the funding packages for both projects should legislatively directed funding be made available as part of the state's budgeting process. Paul and Mark also met with California Transportation Commission staff to discuss the funding allocation process and timelines for the final two ACE projects.
- **Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Quarterly Meeting:** On Wednesday, LAHSA brought recent legislative updates for community consideration. First, LAHSA discussed the Public Charge rule, which was approved by the Federal government to include an immigrant's potential to utilize

public services in consideration of their immigration application. There was also discussion on the upcoming U.S. Census and LAHSA's support of AB 1907, which would expedite development of affordable housing. The second half of the meeting discussed LAHSA's current revamp its procurement process, as well as other future organizational realignments. Discussions on refinement of Coordinated Entry System (CES) and a debriefing on the 2020 Homeless Count were tabled until a later date.

- **Regional Housing Trust and Affordable Housing Forum:** SGVCOG proudly presented its Regional Housing Trust and Affordable Housing Forum on Thursday at the Glendora Library. The event brought together dozens of elected officials, city staff, and community leaders to explore innovative housing projects and affordable housing funding mechanisms in California. Speakers and panelists shared innovative building practices, such as bridge housing and micro-community units, and presented various funding programs that encourage the development of affordable housing units and accessory dwelling units. Additionally, the event highlighted details and updates of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust. Senator Susan Rubio also served as a special guest speaker for this event. SGVCOG would like to sincerely thank the speakers and panelists for sharing their insights and knowledge with the attendees.
- **Homeless Deputies Meeting:** The Homeless Deputies Meeting continued its review of Measure H strategies, focusing on Strategy E6 = the Countywide Outreach System. The evaluation found that there are now 600 outreach teams (each with two to three outreach workers) conducting outreach throughout the County of Los Angeles. Data sharing and common training has improved the quality of data within the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) but there remains a lack of consistent standards for data entry, which has raised qualitative concerns. To address these issues, the evaluation team has recommended creating system-wide data standards, revising workload expectations (in light of transit and other time-consuming activities unevenly distributed across the county), and improving data access tools. At the meeting, the Homeless Initiative also discussed an upcoming measure to the Board to allow the County CEO to modify its Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Allocations in light of a 0.7% error in the State's allocation to Counties. As currently written, the County CEO lacks the ability to modify HHAP funding allocations without Board approval prior to amending a State application. Recommendations from HI staff on the application to adjust funding related to the State's error will be addressed at the February 27th Deputies meeting.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 17, 2020

- **EENR Committee:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee toured the SoCalGas Energy Resource Center (ERC) in Downey, CA. Committee members received a presentation on renewable natural gas and toured various natural gas demonstration rooms at the ERC. Attendees also learned about energy efficiency and environmentally sensitive building technology. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 1:00pm at the Monrovia Community Center.
- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee convened at the Foothill Transit Building for its February meeting. Committee members received updates on Metro staff's recent proposal to recommend the Metro Board of Directors to withdraw the SR-60 Alternative and the Combined Alternative and focus on building the Washington Boulevard Alternative in the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project. This project aims to improve transit access and mobility by connecting Metro's regional transit system to the eastside communities in Los Angeles County. Metro staff's recommendations to the Metro Board of Directors include:
 - Proceeding with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) only for the project's environmental process;
 - Withdrawing the SR-60 and Combined Alternatives from further consideration in the environmental study;
 - Preparing a feasibility study independent from the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project to evaluate other options that better serve the needs of the San Gabriel Valley; and,
 - Approving the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Title VI Service Equity Analysis.

After receiving updates from Metro staff, committee members raised the concern of Metro redirecting Measure M and Measure R funds allocated for the Gold Line Eastside Extension SR-60 Alignment to fund projects that are outside of the San Gabriel Valley. The Metro Board of Directors is expected to meet next Thursday to review and approve Metro staff's recommendations. The committee chair and vice chair encourage cities and agencies that share similar concerns to attend the Metro Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 10:00am at the Metro Headquarters (1 Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

- **Upcoming Air Quality Twitterchat:** SGVCOG staff will be hosting a Twitterchat event with several San Gabriel Valley cities and agencies next Monday, February

24, 2020 at 12:00pm to discuss cities' air quality management efforts and share strategies to mitigate air pollution in communities. Participants include the cities of Duarte, El Monte, and South El Monte, ActiveSGV, Coalition for Clean Air, Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, San Gabriel Valley Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Cities and agencies are welcome to join the discussion by following #SGVairquality during the scheduled Twitterchat. Additionally, cities are recommended to follow the COG on Twitter at [@SGVCOG](https://twitter.com/SGVCOG) to receive updates and event notices around the San Gabriel Valley.

- **San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust:** Over the last several months, SGVCOG staff has been working with member cities to develop the joint powers agreement that will govern the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT). The agreement was finalized in early February. The SGVRHT Fund will provide funding for the planning and construction of homeless, extremely low, very low, or low income housing. This week, the SGVRHT was officially formed after 4 cities adopted the SGVRHT joint powers agreement. An additional seventeen cities have indicated that they intend to join as well, and city councils will continue to consider the agreement over the next several weeks. The next step will be for the Governing Board to seat the SGVRHT Board of Directors. The application period for serving as a Director on the SGVRHT Board of Directors will be underway next week, and the Governing Board is expected to appoint members at its April 2020 meeting.

The logo for SGVCOG (San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments) features a stylized sunburst or starburst graphic in shades of blue and green above the text "SGVCOG" in a light blue, sans-serif font.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 24, 2020

- **Homeless Leadership Committee (HLC) Meeting:** The San Gabriel Valley Consortium held a meeting of key stakeholders on Monday in Irwindale. The discussion centered on the Housing Policy Summit being hosted tomorrow, February 29, 2020. The meeting will discuss housing policy formulation and is being hosted by Assemblymember Holden, with Supervisor Barger appearing as well. Additionally, a future summit will be held through the Consortium to discuss and analyze the impact of providing health care to homeless people and the impact it has on achieving housing. The meeting briefly touched on LAHSA's expected release of the 2020 PIT Count numbers (Late May-Early June) and Everyone In's ongoing engagement with service providers.
- **Homeless Deputies Meeting:** On Thursday, the Los Angeles County Homeless Deputies Meeting included a review of LAHSA's and the City of Los Angeles Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HAPP) Funding application. The HAPP application filed by the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) is for \$66.3 million dollars spread across the categories of Rapid Re-Housing, Prevention & Diversion, Systems Support & Development, Transition Age Youth (TAY) specific funding, Navigation Centers and Shelters. The conversation focused largely on the build-out of the prevention & diversion funding and Problem Solving training. Given the high demand for Problem Solving funding and training, LAHSA will be expanding their training capacity to accommodate over 1,000 city staffers in the coming year and creating a data-entry portal to remove the need for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) access for each organization that obtains the training. There was also a discussion of a study of Los Angeles County's efforts to expand interim housing and emergency shelters. Key findings included the need for consistency in acuity assessments - thus avoiding the need for revision by providers - strong interagency cooperation that would lead to faster placements into housing, and the need for enhanced supportive services, including workforce readiness, financial literacy, and job training.
- **Los Angeles County Public Agency Coronavirus Briefing:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff participated in Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (DPH) telebriefing on the coronavirus situation in Southern California. As a public outreach partner of the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, SGVCOG staff plans on coordinating with cities to streamline public outreach efforts regarding coronavirus updates in the San Gabriel Valley. DPH staff reiterated that there is only one confirmed case of novel coronavirus in Los Angeles County, who is a non-resident traveller from the City of Wuhan in mainland China. Recent travellers who have visited mainland China are

screened at the airports and provided with information about restricting their movements, monitoring their health, and connecting with their provider and local public health department should they feel ill for 14 days after last being in mainland China. Guidance has been sent to school districts, universities, and colleges to identify individuals who may have been exposed to the virus and reduce the spread of the virus to others. DPH continues to recommend that the public should stay home when sick, wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. SGVCOG staff will continue to participate in the DPH's coronavirus telebriefing in the coming weeks and will provide further updates in upcoming weekly recap reports. Additionally, representatives from DPH will be attending the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 1:00pm at the Monrovia Community Center to present on the coronavirus issue.

- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee (Planners TAC) visited the Pomona Hope for Home Services Center. More than 40 elected officials, city staff, and external stakeholders from over 20 agencies and organizations joined the tour group to explore the year-round interim housing site that provides access and navigation services for individuals facing homelessness that are seeking permanent housing solutions. Hope for Home pursues a mission of restoring hope by creating opportunity and transforming the lives of individuals who desire to break free from the cycle of homelessness. The organization strives to help participants and individuals overcome barriers in order to obtain permanent housing, increase their income, improve their health, and achieve independence. The committee will reconvene on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 12:00pm at the Monrovia Community Center for its March meeting.
- **Air Quality Twitterchat Session:** On Monday, SGVCOG staff held an Air Quality Twitterchat event with several San Gabriel Valley cities and agencies to discuss cities' air quality management efforts. Participants shared both short-term and long-term strategies on how communities and cities can work together to mitigate air pollution. The discussion posts from the one-hour Twitterchat event reached more than 61,000 individuals and garnered more than 333,000 impressions on Twitter. The upcoming Twitterchat event is scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2020 at 12:00pm.
- **Update on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension:** After attending the Metro Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, the COG is happy to report good news on the Gold Line Eastside Transit Corridor Extension Project. While the Metro Board approved Metro staff's recommendation to only move forward with further consideration of the Whittier alignment, they also unanimously approved a

motion (coauthored by Directors Solis, Hahn, Butts, Garcia, Fasana and Garcetti) to take the following actions:

- Honor the commitment of \$635.3M made to the SGV region as part of Measure R documentation. This commitment will be recognized consistent with the funding years in the Measure R Expenditure Plan.
- Report back to the Metro Board by May 2020 on the following:
 - Recommendations for funding and cash flow for SGV and Gateway that encompasses all Measure R and M funding for the Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase 2 to demonstrate subregional equity for both regions.
 - Implementation plan to design, environmentally clear and construct a high-quality transit service option that will serve the SR-60 corridor cities.
 - Consider, as part of the feasibility study for the SGV, high-quality transit service options including BRT and Alternative Rail Transit Technology (e.g. Monorail).

This amendment to the original proposed action is a huge win for our subregion and addresses the concerns that were raised by the legal opinion issued by Metro earlier this week. The COG sincerely thanks everyone that submitted a letter or was able to attend in person to speak at the Metro Board meeting on Thursday. We had a strong showing with representatives from the Cities of Claremont, Diamond Bar, San Gabriel and South El Monte. Thank you very much for taking the time to attend and represent. Additionally, we would also like to thank John Fasana and Mary Lou Echternach for their hard work to develop the motion and gain the support of so many co-authors.

SGVCOG