

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 7, 2020

- **6th Cycle Draft RHNA Allocations & Appeals:** Last week, the SCAG Regional Council voted to officially adopt Connect SoCal in its entirety, which triggers the release of the 6th cycle RHNA allocations. The 45-day period during which municipalities can appeal their RHNA numbers begins on September 11, 2020. Local jurisdictions can file appeals of draft allocations based upon application of SCAG's methodology, local planning factors and information affirmatively furthering fair housing, or changed circumstances. Jurisdictions may file multiple appeals, and there is no limit on the number of appeals filed by each jurisdiction. Filed appeals may request increases or decreases to the draft RHNA allocations and do not have to be the same request. Appeals must be filed via e-mail by Monday, October 26, 2020 at 5:00pm. The released RHNA allocations, appeals procedures, and timeline can be found on the SCAG website [here](#).
- **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the Water Policy Committee and Water TAC convened its monthly meeting via Zoom teleconference. The Water Policy Committee voted to elect Gloria Crudginton as Chair and Diana Mahmud as Vice Chair of the Committee. The meeting also featured a presentation on an Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) and Rio Hondo Watershed Area Fire Effects Study to be submitted to the Safe, Clean Water Program by the SGVCOG on behalf of the ULAR Watershed Management Group (WMG). The study will examine the effects of wildfires on contaminants, particularly metals, nutrients, and sediment, in subsequent surface water runoff. Finally, the Committees discussed the 2020 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Draft Permit. SGVCOG staff and Water TAC members, along with technical support, will work to negotiate with the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board on better integrating LA County's Safe Clean Water Program into the Draft Permit.
- **SoCalREN Energy Training Opportunity:** The Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) Public Agency Program is partnering with the SGVCOG to offer cities a free virtual training program (valued at \$7,500)! Through this opportunity, participants will learn to analyze energy and money saving opportunities and maximize energy performance through energy assessments, screening audits, and selection of proper equipment. Courses will be led by a qualified instructor who has developed over 30 courses on energy efficiency and has served as an educator for all 4 California's investor-owned utilities. Please note that this fully-subsidized training is only available to agencies enrolled in the SoCalREN. Cities can become eligible by registering for a free toolkit of energy efficiency resources and completing a non-binding enrollment form on the SoCalREN website [here](#). Participants must also be available at the following times to attend the three courses that are offered under this program:
 - Part 1: Energy Efficiency - October 15, 2020 from 8:30am to 12:00pm
 - Part 2: Energy Assessments - October 22, 2020 from 8:30am to 12:00pm
 - Part 3: Energy Systems - October 29, 2020 from 8:30am to 12:00pmSpots for this free training program is extremely limited and interested individuals can register for the program [here](#).
- **Governing Board Preview:** The SGVCOG Governing Board will hold its monthly meeting next Thursday, September 17 at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. The full agenda packet may be accessed [here](#). Major action items are summarized below:
 - **Approve an Advance/Loan for MSP Funding for the I-605/Valley Boulevard Interchange Improvement Project and Assignment of the Project to the**

Capital Projects and Construction Committee: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is currently preparing the plans and specifications for high priority projects identified in the I-605 hot spot study to improve the I-605/Valley Boulevard interchange. One project will be ready to begin construction in 2022; however, construction funding included in the San Gabriel Valley Measure M MSP Highway Efficiency Program is not available until 2048. To allow this project to begin construction in a timely manner, SGVCOG and Metro staff are recommending a loan agreement with Metro of Measure M funding in 2022 to be paid back over the following seven years with future San Gabriel Valley Subregional Measure M MSP fund allocations. This project was previously reviewed at the Public Works Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Committee. Both committees voted to recommend the Governing Board to approve an advance/loan of future MSP funding for the I-605/Valley Boulevard Interchange Project and assign this project to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee.

- **Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Application:** The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is administering the Subregional Partnership Program, with funding awarded by the State's Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program. Funding is allocated to subregions based on its anticipated RHNA share for planning activities that advance the production of housing. The SGVCOG is eligible for approximately \$1,582,000 of REAP funds. The SGVCOG is required to submit an application indicating how it intends to use its funds or a letter of intent to apply by September 30, 2020. Staff is recommending several projects, including planning activities for the SGV Regional Housing Trust and feasibility studies for tax-increment financing or other tools to provide additional funding for affordable housing. Staff recommends the Governing Board to authorize the Executive Director to submit the application to SCAG.
- **SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy:** Earlier this year, the Governing Board voted to adopt the 2020 SGVCOG Legislative Priorities, which directed the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee to develop a Zero Waste Policy and provide support for cities to reduce single-use plastics in the San Gabriel Valley. The proposed Zero Waste Policy, which was developed and recommended for approval by the EENR Committee, states that the SGVCOG acknowledges the negative impacts of waste generation and the importance of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Additionally, the SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy will serve as a long-term guide for the agency's commitment to reducing and eliminating waste and provide a framework for San Gabriel Valley cities.
- **SB 1120 – Subdivisions: Tentative Maps:** On February 19, 2020, Senators Atkins, Caballero, Rubio, and Wiener collectively introduced SB 1120 to address California's housing shortage. The bill would require ministerial approval of housing developments with two units, known as duplexes, on parcels zoned for single-family residential development and subdivision maps on parcels that meet certain conditions. The SGVCOG acknowledges and supports efforts to address California's housing crisis through individual and collaborative efforts, including supporting the League of California Cities in working with the author of SB 1120 on amendments to improve the legislative intent while preserving local control. While the legislation has failed to proceed this year, it is expected that the initiative will be revived in the near future given the strong bipartisan support behind this bill. Based on the direction provided by the Executive Committee, it is recommended that the Governing Board oppose the legislation in principle.

- **Approval of Section 115 Trust Account with the California Public Employees' Retirement System:** In March 2019, the Governing Board approved several recommendations as a result of a comprehensive retirement benefits study, including authorizing the Executive Director to establish a Section 115 trust with CalPERS and place in the trust an amount of funding, from grants and other project funding sources (e.g. railroad contributions), to cover potential future costs associated with employees that have worked on the ACE Project. A Section 115 trust is a special irrevocable trust fund and has the advantage that funds deposited may be invested in higher-yielding instruments than the SGVCOG Investment Policy allows. Once funds are deposited into the irrevocable trust account, they may not be withdrawn for any purpose other than funding the costs of employer's retiree benefits. Funds can be used to prefund normal cost contributions, make additional discretionary payments or as a contingency fund for future volatility. Staff is recommending establishing a financial goal of having funds invested into the Section 115 trust equal to five years of employer contributions. Based on current staffing levels and salaries, staff has calculated that amount to be \$1,442,635. Of the total, \$1,227,257 (85%) of these costs are associated with staff working on the ACE project. The remaining \$215,378 (15%) reflects costs associated with staff working on the overall operations of the SGVCOG and other non-capital projects and programs. This fund would secure funding for potential future costs, including the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL), which, while not currently an issue, could increase, either due to reduction in staff size due to the completion of the ACE project - which would reduce normal payments - or a recession or depression, which would reduce the value of the portfolio.
- **FY 20-21 Board Officer Election:** At the August 20 Governing Board meeting, an action was approved to hold the FY 20-21 Board Officer elections using an electronic survey via SurveyMonkey and to have this election take place during the September 17 Governing Board Meeting. To be eligible for an office, nominations were required to be submitted in writing to the SGVCOG via email by August 31. The following nominations were received by the nomination deadline:

Nominee	Officer Position			
	President	1st VP	2nd VP	3rd VP
Margaret Clark (Rosemead)	X			
Becky Shevlin (Monrovia)		X		
Tim Hepburn (La Verne)			X	
Ed Reece (Claremont)				X
Diana Mahmud (South Pasadena)				X
Total Candidates:	1	1	1	2

Given that there was only one nomination received for the President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, these candidates will be presented to the Board for appointment to their respective offices with an effective date of office beginning October 1, 2020. Additional nominations from the floor will not be accepted. There were two

nominations received for the 3rd Vice-President position, so an election will be held via an electronic survey during the Governing Board meeting.

- **SGVCOG Legislative Program Update Presentation:** SGVCOG annually adopts a legislative program of objectives in the core regional policy areas of water, transportation, homelessness, energy and the environment, aligning closely with the adopted Strategic Plan. An update presentation will be provided at the meeting by Tim Egan, SGVCOG Legislative Consultant, Capital Representation Group; and Paul Hubler, Director of Government and Community Relations, SGVCOG. The update will include how legislative objectives and funding needs of SGVCOG member agencies have evolved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 14, 2020

- **Metro PAC:** On Tuesday, Mark Christoffels attended the Metro PAC meeting on behalf of the SGVCOG. Items discussed included the following:
 - Post-COVID Framework for Capital Project Prioritization
 - LRTP Update
 - Subregional Equity Fund
 - Joint Development Update

The Subregional Equity Fund was established when councils of governments advocated for sub-regional funding to ensure more equity after the City of Los Angeles representatives pushed for a project to fund transit access to Cal State Northridge before Measure M was to be placed on the ballot in 2016. Each Subregion was allocated additional funding that was included in the adopted expenditure plan for each Subregion in the latter years of the program of the Measure M Program. These equity funds were not project-specific and were to be made available for highway or transit projects at the discretion of the Subregion. For the SGVCOG, the equity program was funded at \$199M. In 2019, the SGVCOG allocated \$126 million of these funds to backfill a shortfall on the Gold Line Foothill Extension. We were the first Subregion to program these equity funds, and, at the time, there were no adopted expenditure guidelines, similar to the guidelines in place for the other Measure M Subregional funds. Metro will be developing expenditure guidelines for the use of these Equity Funds, with a goal of having the Metro Board adopt the guidelines by the end of the year. Metro staff will be reaching out to each Subregion for input on these proposed guidelines over the next few months. The other item of interest to the SGVCOG was an update on Metro's Joint Development Program. Through this program, Metro partners with various organizations to develop affordable housing on property Metro controls adjacent to their transit systems.

- **Board of Supervisors Meeting:** On Tuesday, September 15, the Board of Supervisors approved the FY 20-21 Measure H funding recommendations. These recommendations are substantially similar to the prior year's recommendations, and largely reflect the allocation of federal CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding and State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding to prevent cuts to most strategies which would have otherwise been necessary due to the sales tax shortfall caused by the pandemic. Supervisors Solis and Barger praised the cities of Pomona and El Monte for contributing ESG funds towards this effort, as well as cities who participated in Project Roomkey (PRK). The supervisors also heard a report on LAHSA's COVID-19 response, highlighting the impact of PRK, steps taken to ensure racial equity among those that program serves, and efforts to improve efficiency in the process of working with public housing authorities to more quickly place participants into housing. LAHSA reported that it has allocated funding to provide Recovery Rehousing to all current PRK sites. This will provide a rental subsidy for all participants, either until they can increase their income to afford their rent or can receive a more permanent subsidy, depending on level of disability. The County highlighted that there is currently a unique opportunity for landlord outreach, as more landlords are open to a reliable public subsidy due to the pandemic.
- **EENR Committee:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee convened for its September meeting. The Committee held its FY 2020-2021 Chair and Vice Chair elections and elected Denis Bertone from the City of San Dimas as Chair and Liz Reilly from the City of Duarte as Vice Chair. SGVCOG staff

presented on existing regulations surrounding Zero Waste practices and resources for cities and agencies to develop Zero Waste policies. While local jurisdictions are not required to adopt and implement Zero Waste policies, they are highly encouraged to adopt such policies to minimize pollutants and reduce the amount of waste generated by their respective communities. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) offers technical assistance support for local jurisdictions that are interested in developing or refining their Zero Waste policies. The Energy Coalition Project Manager, Natalie Espinoza, also presented on the Southern California Regional Energy Network's (SoCalREN) resources for public agencies. Administered by the County of Los Angeles, the SoCalREN utilizes comprehensive and customized methods to support the unique needs of public agencies and assist them to save energy and implement energy efficiency projects. Together with the SoCalREN, the SGVCOG has assisted in the implementation of 18 energy efficiency projects and 28 audits and the planning of 47 pipeline projects. These projects and activities led to the creation of 58 jobs and a reduction of 3,000,000+ kilowatt-hours and 5,000+ therms in annual energy savings. Finally, SGVCOG staff presented on the cities' progress in the 2020 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards. The Awards were introduced earlier this year to recognize San Gabriel Valley cities' efforts to increase energy efficiency in municipal facilities. Cities that meet certain thresholds in municipal energy efficiency and community outreach will receive awards and recognition towards the end of this year. The cities of South El Monte and South Pasadena recently reached the Silver Tier, and the City of San Gabriel has reached the Bronze Tier. The Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Diamond Bar, El Monte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Pomona, San Dimas, and Walnut are each one action away from achieving the Bronze Tier. Questions regarding the Energy Champion Awards can be directed to SGVCOG Management Analyst, Alexander Fung, at afung@sgvcoq.org. The EENR Committee is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 1:00pm.

- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee convened for its September meeting. The committee received a presentation from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) regarding the proposed FY 2021 Metro Budget. The proposed \$6.0 billion budget indicates that Metro will operate, on average, at 81% of the annual pre-pandemic bus and rail service level while anticipating 55% of ridership to provide a robust service network for essential workers in Los Angeles County. While the budget reflects a smaller reduction in service hours than the on-street reality of projected ridership, resources are allocated towards the first implementation of NextGen and MicroTransit. Progress will continue on all Measures M and R projects and Metro commits to working towards environmental clearance and shovel readiness for the construction of new highways and transportation infrastructure. Metro also plans on retaining its workforce while controlling expenses through vacancy savings and a reduction of overtime usage whenever applicable. Metro's FY 2021 Budget is scheduled to be adopted by the Metro Board of Directors on September 24, 2020. The Transportation Committee is scheduled to reconvene on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 2:45pm.
- **San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Working Group:** On Thursday the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) hosted a working group meeting to discuss proposed studies to shape the operational structure of the SGVRHT and ensure the SGVRHT is able to maximize the use of capital funds to produce affordable and homeless housing. The SGVRHT has several funding sources that can only be used for planning efforts, so staff is recommending efforts that will bolster affordable and homeless housing creation by increasing SGVRHT's ability to leverage other funding sources. The proposed studies are a SGVRHT Strategic Plan, Surplus Land Use Study, Housing Finance and Construction Innovation Study and Pilot Program, and SGVRHT First-time

Homebuyer Pilot Program. Staff provided valuable feedback that will maximize the impact of these studies and maximize the nexus between planning for housing and constructing housing.

- **Sustainable Claremont Dialog Event on GoSGV:** SGVCOG staff will be presenting on GoSGV, the COG's regional bike share program, at Sustainable Claremont's virtual Sustainability Dialog event on Monday, September 21 at 7pm. The Sustainability Dialog Series consists of presentations by professionals covering local sustainability topics, followed by a conversation between community members and the speakers. More information and the Zoom link can be found [here](#).
- **Governing Board Recap:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Governing Board held its monthly meeting via Zoom. A summary of major actions taken at the meeting are listed below:
 - **Approve an Advance/Loan for MSP Funding for the I-605/Valley Boulevard Interchange Improvement Project and Assignment of the Project to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee**
 - *Background:* The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is currently preparing the plans and specifications for high priority projects identified in the I-605 hot spot study to improve the I-605/Valley Boulevard interchange. One project will be ready to begin construction in 2022; however, construction funding included in the San Gabriel Valley Measure M MSP Highway Efficiency Program is not available until 2048. To allow this project to begin construction in a timely manner, SGVCOG and Metro staff are recommending a loan agreement with Metro of Measure M funding in 2022 to be paid back over the following seven years with future San Gabriel Valley Subregional Measure M MSP fund allocations.
 - *Action:* The Governing Board approved an advance/loan of future Measure M Subregional Programs (MSP) funding for the I-605/Valley Boulevard Interchange Project and assigned this project to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee.
 - **Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Application**
 - *Background:* In September 2020, the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) approved the Sub-Regional Partnership Program guideline and applications, which will make funds available for planning activities to accelerate housing production and facilitate implementation of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Approximately \$23 million is being allocated to this program, which will be allocated based on each subregion's RHNA allocation share. San Gabriel Valley's initial anticipated RHNA share is 6.7%, which would make the SGVCOG eligible for approximately \$1,582,000 of REAP funds. SGVCOG staff is currently preparing the REAP Program Application based on the guidelines that were approved by the SCAG Regional Council. The application process requires that an application or a letter of intent be submitted by September 30, 2020.
 - *Action:* The Governing Board authorized the Executive Director to submit a REAP application to SCAG.
 - **SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy**
 - *Background:* Earlier this year, the Governing Board voted to adopt the 2020 SGVCOG Legislative Priorities, which directed the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee to develop a Zero Waste Policy and provide support for cities to reduce single-use plastics in the San Gabriel Valley. In August, the EENR Committee reviewed the proposed

Zero Waste Policy for the SGVCOG and ultimately voted to recommend the Governing Board to adopt the proposed SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy. The proposed Zero Waste Policy states that the SGVCOG acknowledges the negative impacts of waste generation and the importance of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Additionally, the SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy will serve as a long-term guide for the agency's commitment to reducing and eliminating waste and provide a framework for San Gabriel Valley cities.

- *Action:* The Governing Board approved Resolution 20-17 adopting the SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy.
- **Approval of Section 115 Trust Account with the California Public Employees' Retirement System**
 - *Background:* In March 2019, the Governing Board approved several recommendations as a result of a comprehensive retirement benefits study, including authorizing the Executive Director to establish a Section 115 trust with CalPERS and placing in the trust funding to cover potential future costs associated with employees that have worked on the ACE Project. A Section 115 trust is a special irrevocable trust fund and has the advantage that funds deposited may be invested in higher-yielding instruments than the SGVCOG Investment Policy allows. Once funds are deposited into the irrevocable trust account, they may not be withdrawn for any purpose other than funding the costs of employer's retiree benefits. Funds can be used to prefund normal cost contributions, make additional discretionary payments or as a contingency fund for future volatility. While the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) is not a concern for the SGVCOG at this time, having these funds reserved in a Section 115 Trust would help to protect the SGVCOG in the event of an increase to its UAL. At the Board's direction, a payment to CalPERS of \$30,105 was previously made to cover the UAL for the SGVCOG's PEPPRA plan. Staff recommended working with CALPERS to establish the Section 115 Trust.
 - *Action:* The Governing Board approved the following:
 - An Agreement with the California Public Employment Retirement System (CalPERS) to participate in the California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT) Fund; and
 - Delegation of Authority to Request Disbursements to the Executive Director; the Director of Finance and the Administrative Services Manager; and
 - Authorization to the Executive Director to sign the agreement and all associated documents; and
 - Making an initial deposit of \$1,227,257 into the Trust account from unrestricted Union Pacific Railroad contributions and make pre-payments in the amount of \$43,076 annually for employer contributions over the next five years from SGVCOG general fund/other non-capital program funds into the Trust account; and
 - To select CEPPT Asset Allocation Strategy 2.
- **Letters Supporting Federal COVID-19 Aid for Cities**
 - *Background:* As Congress considers new COVID-19 relief legislation, the League of California Cities and local government coalitions in Washington, DC are requesting support for advocacy efforts to urge additional and flexible pandemic relief assistance to cities and counties. Funding assistance is needed to sustain core services for residents and to support

public health and economic recovery in our communities and is consistent with previous SGVCOG advocacy efforts on this issue.

- *Action:* The Board approved sending letters to the San Gabriel Valley representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and California's U.S. Senators expressing support for providing \$500 billion in direct and flexible federal assistance to local governments of all sizes.
- **FY 20-21 Board Officer Election**
 - *Background:* The Governing Board appointed Board Officers for FY 20-21. Only one nomination was received for the President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, these candidates were presented to the Board for appointment to their respective offices with an effective date of office beginning October 1, 2020. There were two nominations received for the 3rd Vice-President position, and an election was held via an electronic survey during the Governing Board meeting.
 - *Action:* The Governing Board appointed the following Board officers for FY 20-21 (effective October 1, 2020):
 - President: Margaret Clark
 - 1st Vice President: Becky Shevlin
 - 2nd Vice President: Tim Hepburn
 - 3rd Vice President: Ed Reece
- **SGVCOG Legislative Program Update Presentation**
 - *Background:* Tim Egan, SGVCOG Legislative Consultant, Capital Representation Group; and Paul Hubler, Director of Government and Community Relations, SGVCOG provided an update on the SGVCOG's legislative program. The update included how legislative objectives and funding needs of SGVCOG member agencies have evolved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.
 - *Action:* Staff was directed to report to the Executive Committee on a regular or as-needed basis on state and federal legislation not currently overseen by the existing SGVCOG Policy committees.

Additionally, the meeting was adjourned in memory of La Puente Councilmember Dan Holloway. After retiring as an Aerospace Manager at Raytheon, Dan ran for La Puente City Council in 2007 and was re-elected in 2012 and 2016. Dan served as Mayor three times and as Mayor Pro Tem four times at the City of La Puente. Dan was born in Hollywood in 1947 and he recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Hilda, last year. Dan proudly provided a lifetime of selfless service to his family, the La Puente community, and the San Gabriel Valley. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers and we will miss Dan dearly.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 21, 2020

- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee convened via Zoom for its September meeting. The committee voted to re-elect Rene Guerrero from the City of Pomona as the FY 2020-2021 Committee Chair and David Liu from the City of Diamond Bar as the FY 2020-2021 Committee Vice Chair. Caltrans District 7 Chief Deputy Direct, Gloria Roberts, presented on District 7's City Ambassador Program. Caltrans recently launched the program to allow for additional comprehensive discussions regarding transportation-related projects in the region. The program will also provide opportunities for cities to further engage and coordinate transportation and infrastructure projects with Caltrans representatives. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Civil Engineer, Kirk Allen, provided the second presentation of the meeting on the progress of the Safe Clean Water Program. Mr. Allen reported that the program generates approximately \$281 million in annual revenue through a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot for impermeable surface area, which is allocated between sub-regions, municipalities, and for Flood Control District programs. The Safe Clean Water Program call-for-projects for FY 2021-2022 funding is now open for applications in the categories of infrastructure program, technical resources program, and scientific studies program. Deadline for consideration for FY 2021-2022 projects is set for October 15, 2020. Finally, staff provided an update on the 2020 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards, which recognize San Gabriel Valley agencies' efforts for increasing energy efficiency in municipal facilities. Agencies that meet certain thresholds in municipal and community energy efficiency and outreach activities will receive awards and recognitions towards the end of this year. The cities of South El Monte and South Pasadena recently reached the Silver Tier and the cities of Alhambra and San Gabriel have reached the Bronze Tier. Furthermore, the committee held a discussion on the procedures and protocols that cities are implementing to re-open municipal facilities. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 12:00pm.
- **SCAG Executive Directors' Meeting:** On Monday, I attended the quarterly meeting of the COG Executive Directors in the SCAG region. Topics of discussion included Connect SoCal, RHNA and REAP funding. The COG Executive Directors urged SCAG staff to expand its legislative platform to advocate for funding for implementation rather than solely planning activities. One example of that would be direct formula allocation of capital funds to regional housing trusts in the region.
- **LAHSA Working Group:** Representatives from 11 cities met with COG staff to discuss a response to County efforts to reform LAHSA and overall homelessness efforts. Participants highlighted problems with the current system, potential options for reform, and made plans to meet further. At this stage, the COG plans to push for San Gabriel Valley to be involved in this process while the working group produces a whitepaper to present.
- **SCAG Listening Session:** On Wednesday, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) presented at the SCAG listening session for newly-appointed SCAG president, Rex Richardson. Along with SGVRHT Board of Director's chair, Jed Leano, I presented on the creation of the SGVRHT and its successes within the first few months of operations, including awarding funds to support the development of 125 new units of affordable housing. We also highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and the

pooling of individual city resources to bring more affordable and homeless housing to the region.

- **Infrastructure LA's SWARM Subcommittee Meeting:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff participated in Infrastructure LA's Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee meeting. Los Angeles County Legislative Representative, Faith Conley, reported on AB 793, which would require all plastic bottles covered by the State's container redemption program to average at least 15% post-consumer recycled resin starting in 2022. The Bill has passed the Legislature and has been presented to the Governor for consideration. Ms. Conley also reported on legislation that did not reach the Governor's Desk - including AB 1080 and SB 54 - and it is unclear if those bills will be reintroduced in the upcoming Legislative Session. Additionally, Culver City Environmental Programs & Operations Manager, Kim Braun, reported that the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury issued a [report](#) to all cities and school districts on reducing food waste. The report contains 12 recommendations for cities and school districts to reduce food waste and requires mayors of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County to respond by October 30, 2020. Ms. Braun expressed that the report's recommendations should be implemented at a later time due to the lack of funding as a result of COVID-19.
- **Homeless Working Group:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Homeless Working Group met for its monthly meeting. Phil Ansell, Executive Director of the County Homeless Initiative (HI), presented an overview of the final approved Measure H funding recommendations. Funding will be allocated between the approved funding strategies, including funding for prevention programs for homeless families and individuals, rapid rehousing, interim/bridge housing, increasing employment, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelters, and homeless outreach. Due to the reduction in Measure H sales tax revenue, some funding from other sources have been integrated to prevent the reduction in funding. The Working Group also had a lively discussion on the implementation of cities' homeless prevention and diversion programs, which are aimed to prevent individuals and families from falling into homelessness. Staff from the cities of Duarte and Montebello provided an overview of their prevention programs. The next Homeless Working Group meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22.
- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee convened over Zoom for its September meeting. The committee received a presentation from the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) regarding its programs. The SGVRHT was established in February 2020, thanks to legislation from Senator Susan Rubio, to fund and finance the planning and construction of homeless housing and extremely low, very low, and low-income housing projects. The SGVRHT Board of Directors has approved the San Gabriel Valley Project Pipeline, which includes 13 projects and 585 affordable housing units. The SGVRHT also submitted an application to the State's Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) Program to provide funding to 3 projects, which would provide a total of 125 affordable housing units to the San Gabriel Valley region. The SGVRHT Board of Directors also embarked on a capital campaign to recruit additional private and public funding. Additionally, the committee held a discussion on San Gabriel Valley cities' progress on updating their Housing Elements. While many of the cities are in the process of updating or preparing to update their Housing Elements, committee members expressed concerns over SCAG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers. Several committee members also commented that their city councils are currently considering submitting RHNA appeal letters to SCAG. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 12:00pm.
- **Los Angeles County COVID-19 Internal Briefing:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended a COVID-19 internal briefing held by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH). DPH officials announced that the County of Los Angeles has made

significant progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19 as the numbers of hospitalizations and deaths have steadily decreased since July. Officials also emphasized that positive test rates have fallen as a result of an expansion in the County's testing capabilities; however, the positivity rate has stayed consistent at 3% for the past few weeks. Additionally, DPH officials explained the State's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy," which assigns every county in California to a tier based on its positivity and adjusted case rates. Counties in Tier 1 are designated as areas with widespread transmissions and counties in Tier 4 are designated as areas with minimal transmissions. These tier levels determine the types of businesses that would be allowed to operate within counties. A county must stay at a tier for at least three weeks, then meet the next tier's criteria for two weeks before moving to a less restrictive tier. Counties with data falling in two different tiers are assigned to the more restrictive tier. Currently, Los Angeles County is designated as a Tier 1 County, as the 7-day average case rate is 7.0 people per 100,000 individuals; however, DPH officials remain hopeful that the County can move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 within the next few weeks, which would allow additional indoor businesses to operate.

- **Upcoming Pedestrian Safety Twitterchat:** SGVCOG staff will be hosting a Twitterchat event with several cities and agencies next Monday, September 28th at 12:00pm to discuss pedestrian and road safety issues. Cities are welcome to join the discussion by following #SGVRoadSafety 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.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of September 28, 2020

- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee convened for its September meeting. The committee approved a sole source contract with OHL for emergency interim site maintenance activities on the Fullerton Road Grade Separation Project in an amount not to exceed \$314,000. Task Order #2 for AECOM for construction management services for the Montebello Blvd Grade Separation Project was also approved in the amount of \$8,433,687. The contract for these services will be valid from October 1, 2021, to May 31, 2025. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Monday, October 26, 2020, at 12:00pm.
- **Pedestrian Safety Twitterchat Session:** On Monday, SGVCOG staff held a Pedestrian Safety Twitterchat event with several San Gabriel Valley cities and external stakeholders to discuss road safety and pedestrian safety planning topics. Participants shared resources that cities can use to develop pedestrian-friendly communities and recommendations for residents to promote safety in the community. Discussion posts from the one-hour Twitterchat event reached more than 108,000 users and garnered more than 1.15 million impressions. The SGVCOG sincerely extends gratitude to the Cities of Duarte and San Gabriel, ActiveSGV, Day One, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, Los Angeles Walks, Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Metrolink, and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for sharing their insights and perspectives during the Twitterchat.
- **Energy Work Group:** On Tuesday, the SGVCOG Energy Work Group convened for its Fall meeting. The first presentation was from SoCalGas, on their Food Service Equipment Center, Commercial Direct Install Program, and existing rebates for local jurisdictions. SoCalGas recently increased its rebate amounts by 50% to support residents, businesses, and cities during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which is eligible for equipment purchased from September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Additional information regarding SoCalGas' commercial equipment rebates can be found [here](#). SGVCOG staff presented on the Green Path Career Program, which supports youth transitioning out of the foster care system and at-risk of homelessness by providing technical training that would allow them to be qualified for jobs in the high growth energy efficiency industry. Participants will receive technical training, personal enrichment training, and paid work experience. This program is a collaborative effort between the SGVCOG, the cities of Baldwin Park, Duarte, Irwindale, La Verne, and West Covina, the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN), the Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services, and Hathaway Sycamores. The program is scheduled to launch in Fall 2020 and questions regarding this program can be directed to SGVCOG Management Analyst, Samantha Matthews, at smatthews@sgvcog.org. Finally, SGVCOG staff presented on the cities' progress on the San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards, which provide recognition for agencies that increase energy efficiency in their facilities. The cities of South El Monte and Walnut recently reached the Gold Tier, and the City of South Pasadena reached the Silver Tier. The City of Alhambra has also recently reached the Bronze Tier. The Energy Work Group is scheduled to reconvene on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 1:30pm.
- **Water TAC:** On Wednesday, the Water Technical Advisory Committee met via Zoom. The Committee discussed the Tentative 2020 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

Permit, the Tentative Permit's updates from the Working Proposal, and key points of points of negotiation with the LA County Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). The Committee discussed the need to find alignment with other regional Permittees and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the need for an extension of the public comment period deadline of October 23. The SGVCOG and TAC members will be submitting letters to the Regional Board requesting this extension, and will provide public comments at the Regional Board meeting on Thursday, October 8. Finally, the Committee discussed key concerns with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) second proposed order of nine watershed management plans (WMPs) and one enhanced watershed management plan (EWMP). SGVCOG staff will provide public comments on these concerns at the State Board workshop on the proposed order on Tuesday, October 6, and at the next Regional Board meeting on Thursday, October 8.

- **SCAG:** On Thursday, SCAG's three policy committees and the Regional Council met for their monthly meetings. There were no major action items at the SCAG meetings; however, there were a number of important information items. There was a presentation on the future of the office after COVID-19, which is an important emerging issue that SCAG will be exploring over the next several years, and whether the significant growth in teleworking will sustain after the pandemic ends. There were also a presentation on SCAG's Regional Data Platform (RDP) will provide an online tool for local jurisdictions to access data necessary for local general plan development and general decision making by monitoring transportation, land development trends, housing and economic growth, and sustainability conditions. This tool will be extremely useful for the completion of Housing Element Updates. It will also provide a data-driven collaboration hub for local jurisdictions to engage with stakeholders for individual projects, such as local and regional land use planning, active transportation planning, greenhouse gas reduction strategies, and development impact assessments.
- **Bike Share Launch:** On Thursday, the City of Baldwin Park became the second city to launch the GoSGV e-bike share program. Riders in Baldwin Park will be able to access 45 e-bikes at 9 stations throughout the City. The City held a small ribbon-cutting ceremony, which featured Baldwin Park Mayor Manuel Lozano, Vice-Mayor Paul Hernandez, Councilmember Monica Garcia, and La Verne Mayor and SGVCOG Second Vice President Tim Hepburn. Attendees were then able to try the e-bikes. The SGVCOG is excited for the next GoSGV launch in the City of Covina in early December.
- **SB 1212:** This week, Governor Newsom signed SB 1212, legislation introduced by Senator Susan Rubio on behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT). SB 1212 will strengthen the Board of the SGVRHT by expanding eligibility for jurisdictional representatives on the Board of Directors, ensure continuity of experience by staggering the two-year terms of Board members, expand housing and homelessness expertise on the Board, and ensure that Board decisions are equitable by requiring City representatives on the Board be from different cities.