

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 1, 2021

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The Committee authorized the SGVCOG President to send a letter to San Gabriel Valley legislators and the authors of Senate Bill 9 (Atkins, et al.) to oppose the Bill unless amended. This legislation would require localities to issue ministerial approvals of duplexes and lot splits in single-family residential neighborhoods. The Committee also recommended the Governing Board send a letter to Senator Feinstein in support of federal legislation that would provide \$1.5 billion annually to help state and local governments or nonprofit organizations acquire and rehabilitate existing buildings for use as affordable housing and request that “eligible entities” be clearly defined in the legislation to include entities such as the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT). Additionally, the Executive Committee reviewed applications for the SGVRHT Board of Directors’ Central District Seat and ultimately recommended the Governing Board appoint Maria Morales (City of El Monte) as the Central District Delegate and Emmanuel Estrada (City of Baldwin Park) as the Central District Alternate.
- **Family CES Briefing:** LAHSA held a briefing for COGs to highlight the serious resource shortages currently faced by the family homelessness services system and to provide guidance on how best to assist families in need at this time. While motel vouchers are typically available for homeless families, funding impacts and increased need related to COVID-19 mean most funding must be reserved to sustain families currently residing in motels, leaving few new openings. Families in need should first be connected to the Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) to see what mainstream resources they can be connected to, which may include temporary or permanent housing assistance. If your city has a COG funded prevention/diversion program, that program can help the family determine if they can pursue options such as staying with family, or whether limited financial assistance can stabilize their situation. A referral to the local Family Solution Center, Union Station Homeless Services, should be considered a last resort, as it is unlikely they will be able to provide an ongoing motel voucher at this time. LAHSA is currently looking to lease additional properties to provide interim housing for families to expand this capacity. The attached document provides more detail on this issue and how to respond to it.
- **Homeless Committee:** On Wednesday, February 3, the SGVCOG’s Homelessness Committee convened over Zoom. The committee heard a presentation from the City of El Monte on their Project Homekey program, through which they received \$17 million from the State to purchase and operate two motels. These properties collectively have 133 rooms, and will be used as interim housing for people experiencing homelessness. Staff described the process of securing the funding and purchasing the properties, as well as highlighting challenges related to renovations. The program will serve adults and youth for one year, at which time it will transition to serve families until it is subsequently renovated to become permanent supportive housing. A second presentation from Affordable Living for the Aging described their program of matching those in need of affordable housing with seniors interested in renting out an extra room in their home. Tenants pay a modest rent, reduced further if they provide assistance with household tasks. This model can support homeowners in need of income or companionship as they age, and takes advantage of existing housing stock with extra bedrooms. Many areas of the San Gabriel Valley have this type of housing, and so such a program may be an effective way to address

homelessness locally. The next Homelessness Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3, at 8:30 a.m.

- **LeaseUp:** LeaseUp is a County-funded program that matches property owners and underserved renters, such as people experiencing homelessness, to make renting easier and more reliable for everyone. PATH, the agency which operates the program, is hosting three Community Ambassador Training webinars in February to learn about the program and how to engage property owners in your communities, which will be held as follows:
 - Wednesday, February 10, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, February 11, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, February 18, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

If you would like to RSVP to one of the webinars, please send an email to carleyb@epath.org

- **RHT:** On Wednesday, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) Board of Directors met via Zoom. The Board approved the budget for the Non-congregate Emergency Shelter Pilot Program, which will provide capital funds and technical assistance to interested member cities to provide tiny home shelters as interim housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. A fact sheet for the program can be found [here](#). The Board also received a presentation BAE Urban Economics, Sadlon and Associates, and The Future Organization, the consultant team developing the strategic plan, funding strategy, and housing needs assessment. The housing needs assessment will produce data specific to the San Gabriel Valley, demonstrating the types of units needed regionally and in member cities in terms of household size, household income, population, and supportive services needs. The funding strategy will identify opportunities for public and private fund leveraging and develop a fundraising implementation plan and toolkit. The strategic plan will engage the Board of Directors and other stakeholders to develop goals for the SGVRHT and will serve to guide the operations of the SGVRHT for the next 3-5 years. The strategic plan is anticipated to be completed in June 2021 and adopted by the Board of Directors.
- **City Managers' Steering Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG City Managers' Steering Committee held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The Committee heard a presentation from Resource Development Associates on the SGVCOG Regional Homeless, Mental Health & Response Study. The goal of the study is to provide a San Gabriel Valley regional homeless, mental health, and crisis response program as well as a detailed implementation plan. Additionally, the Committee was provided an update on the accomplishments of the SGVCOG housing and homelessness programs.
- **Measure H Funding Recommendations:** The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative has opened the FY 2021-22 Measure H Funding Recommendations public comment period. Public comments can be submitted [here](#) on any or all of the strategies included in the Homeless Initiative Action Plan. Public comments must be received by **February 25, 2021**. The COG will be drafting its own public comment and will happily provide that to any jurisdictions that are interested. The draft recommendations will be released in mid-April 2021, initiating a second public comment period. Public hearings will be held in early May 2021, and it is anticipated that final FY 2021-22 Measure H Funding Recommendations will be made to the Board of Supervisors at its June 24, 2021, meeting.
- **SCAG:** On Thursday, SCAG convened its monthly meetings of its policy committees and Regional Council. At its meeting, the Regional Council approved the guidelines and authorized release of the application for the Sustainable Communities Program: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations. This funding opportunity will support the development of innovative solutions that address challenges associated with curbside management and also support multimodal environments, decrease greenhouse (GHG) emissions, and help

manage and mitigate parking and congestion challenges. The four project types for which agencies can submit applications are as follows:

- Curb-Space Data Collection & Inventory
- Technology Assessment or Adoption Plan
- Parking Management Plan
- Permitting Process Evaluation

The program application will be posted [here](#). Application workshops will be held on March 8, 2021, and April 5, 2021. Applications are due on Friday, April 23.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 8, 2021

- **Governing Board Preview:** The SGVCOG Governing Board will hold its monthly meeting next Thursday, February 18, 2021 21 at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. The full agenda packet may be accessed here: <https://www.sgvco.org/governing-board-agenda>. Major Action items are summarized below:
 - **Support for Federal Affordable Housing Grant Funding:** Senator Feinstein has drafted legislation to authorize \$1.5 billion in discretionary appropriations to be allocated as a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds could be used to purchase blighted, vacant, abandoned, foreclosed, or surplus properties, and convert them into affordable housing. Eligible projects would include mixed-use development and conversions of non-residential office and retail properties. Staff is recommending authorizing the SGVCOG President to send a letter to Senator Feinstein in support of this federal legislation that would provide \$1.5 billion annually to help state and local governments or nonprofit organizations acquire and rehabilitate existing buildings for use as affordable housing, with a request that “eligible entities” be clearly defined in the legislation to include entities such as the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT). At the February meeting, the SGVCOG Executive Committee recommended the Governing Board support this legislation.
 - **Updated SGVCOG Energy, Open Space and Solid Waste Policies:** The SGVCOG adopts various policies and white papers to outline the position of the agency on priority issues and matters that impact the San Gabriel Valley. SGVCOG staff drafted updates to the dated Energy, Open Space and Solid Waste Policies to be presented to the Governing Board for adoption. The revised Policies were reviewed by the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee last month and the committee voted to recommend the Governing Board to adopt the proposed revisions.
 - **Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act:** Senator Dianne Feinstein is expected to introduce the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act, which would provide funding to local governments for capital and services for supportive housing. The bill would provide \$1 billion per year, available through a competitive process administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Grants of up to \$25 million would be available to governmental entities at the county, city, regional, or locality levels, or to Indian tribe or tribal organizations. It is anticipated that the SGVCOG and the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust would both be eligible under this definition. In addition, there is no minimum population limit for cities to receive funding. It is anticipated that most applications will represent partnerships among several entities, including non-profit service providers. At its February meeting, the Homelessness Committee reviewed the bill and recommended that the Governing Board adopt a resolution of support for the legislation.
 - **Measure H Innovation Funds Programming Recommendation Updates:** In November 2019, the Governing Board of the SGVCOG approved the recommended homelessness funding plan – including a \$5.6 million State Budget Allocation and an approximately \$1.5 million allocation from Los Angeles County’s Measure H Innovation Funds – to support homeless programs in the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVCOG Governing Board elected to allocate funding to the SGVRHT

in two categories: Capital and Operations. To maximize flexibility and capital funding available and ensure that the SGVRHT meets its funding deadline, staff recommends eliminating the distinction between the two SGVRHT and combining them into one funding category for the SGVRHT. There is no fiscal impact to the overall SGVCOG budget.

- **Update SGVRHT Board of Directors Appointment Process:** SB 751 (Rubio) established that the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) would be governed by a nine-member Board of Directors – made up of seven elected officials that serve on the Governing Board that represent jurisdictions that are parties to the SGVRHT joint powers agreement and two housing/homeless experts – named by the SGVCOG Governing Board. In April 2020, the Governing Board appointed representatives to the SGVRHT Board of Directors at its April 2020 meeting. In September 2020, Governor Newsom signed SB 1212 (Rubio) which updated the requirements to serve on the SGVRHT Board of Directors and provided a requirement for staggered term lengths. Staff is recommending that the Governing Board update the SGVRHT Election Procedures to address the new requirements provided for in SB 1212 (Rubio) and to address other questions that have arisen during the SGVRHT’s first year of operation. Specifically, the revised SGVRHT Election Procedures include the following modifications:
 - Clarify the appointment schedule
 - Clarify the requirements for serving as a member of the Board of Directors
 - Allow for the appointment of and establish the process for the appointment of alternates to the SGVRHT Board
 - Establish the process for the Governing Board to address vacancies on the SGVRHT Board.

Additionally, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) will provide an update presentation on COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

- **LHTF award:** On Wednesday, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) received notification of a \$1,000,000 award as part of the State’s Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) program. The LHTF program is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and provides matching grant funds for the construction of homeless and affordable housing. This award enables the SGVRHT to effectively double its contribution to supported projects in Claremont and Pomona. The two projects were selected based on HCD’s scoring criteria which prioritized projects with a high percentage of extremely low income units and most ready to begin construction. Together the projects will produce 71 units of new affordable housing in the San Gabriel Valley. The Pomona project will close its loan in the spring and the Claremont project will follow this summer. For more information, please view the press release linked [here](#).
- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee convened its monthly meeting via Zoom. SGVCOG staff provided the first presentation of the meeting on the Energy Champion Awards. Last year, the SGVCOG launched the Energy Champion Awards to encourage cities and agencies to implement energy efficiency actions and engage in long-term strategic energy planning activities. With the success of the 2020 award structure, the SGVCOG revamped the recognition model and introduced the 2021 Energy Champion Awards. Cities and agencies will be awarded if they implement activities such as attending energy trainings and meetings, benchmarking municipal facilities, and conducting outreach activities. Cities and agencies can track their progress in the 2021 Energy Champion Awards on the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership website [here](#). Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) Senior Civil Engineer, Christopher Sheppard, provided the second presentation of the meeting on the County’s solid waste legislative updates. Mr. Sheppard provided

updates on AB 1 (Cristina Garcia & Santiago), AB 51 (Quirk), AB 96 (O'Donnell), AB 246 (Quirk & Mathis), AB 318 (Levine), AB 322 (Salas), AB 332 (Assembly Committee on ESTM), AJR 4 (Cristina Garcia), SB 37 (Cortest), SB 38 (Wieckowski), SB 54 (Allen, Stern, & Weiner), SB 207 (Becker), SB 240 (Eggman), SB 244 (Archuleta), and SB 289 (Newman). Questions or inquiries regarding these bills can be directed to Mr. Sheppard at csheppard@dpw.lacounty.gov. Mr. Sheppard will also be providing additional updates on solid waste legislation to the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee at its upcoming meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1:00pm. Additionally, committee members shared their respective cities' efforts to respond to COVID-19 during the Chair's Report. It was mentioned that the League of California Cities is currently drafting a letter to request the Governor to provide vaccinations for government employees sooner. The committee is expected to reconvene on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 12:00pm.

- **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the Water Policy Committee and Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) convened its monthly joint meeting via Zoom. The meeting featured the following two presentations:
 - **CASQA Petition to DTSC on Zinc Tire Content Regulation:** California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) presented on their petition to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to list motor vehicle tires containing zinc as a Priority Product under Safer Consumer Products regulations. This petition was granted in January 2021. DTSC will soon issue a document explaining the decision and will solicit stakeholder feedback prior to deciding whether to list tires containing zinc as a Priority Product.
 - **Watermaster PFAS Updates:** Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster provided updates on PFAS, a group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, in our region. In February 2020, the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) set new Response Levels (RLs) of 10 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS. Exceedance of the RL requires the affected well to be shut down or provide public notification. In May 2020, DDW revised its drinking water sample collection guidance for PFAS and in September 2020 issued new PFAS monitoring orders. 19 producers in the Main San Gabriel Basin received these orders. Wells with detection of PFOA and/or PFOS above an RL must remove the chemicals through various treatment technologies.

The Committees also heard the following legislative and litigation updates.

- **AB 377:** Introduced on February 1, AB 377 would set a specific date for Clean Water Act compliance and would accelerate compliance measures with no additional funding being made available. A major concern to municipalities, the bill will be discussed further at the next Committee meeting in March.
- **City of Duarte/Gardena v. State Water Resources Control Board (State Board):** The California Court of Appeal reversed the trial court decision in the Duarte and Gardena cases and directed the trial court to deny their petitions. Unlike the trial court, the appellate court found that the State Board did sufficiently consider the factors required by California law, including economic factors, in issuing the Permit. The cities could now ask for a rehearing or could seek review by the Supreme Court.
- **Department of Finance v. Commission of State Mandates (Commission):** The appellate court found that certain State-mandated stormwater permit requirements, particularly certain stormwater permit trash receptacle requirements, imposed on local governments are subject to cost reimbursement under the California constitution. This analysis is particularly important because it makes it much more

likely that the Commission will grant the numerous storm water test claims currently pending on its docket.

- **Solid Waste Working Group:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Solid Waste Working Group convened for the first time this year to discuss SB 1383 mandates and food recovery programs. Working Group members heard a presentation from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works on food recovery operations and infrastructure and discussed challenges that cities are facing to comply with upcoming SB 1383 regulations. Cities also expressed support for regional advocacy efforts to obtain additional funding to implement food recovery programs and the establishment of a regional effort to assist with implementing such programs. The Solid Waste Working Group will reconvene next month to receive presentations on edible food donation programs and discuss solid waste legislation with the League of California Cities.
- **Homeless Deputies Meeting** On Thursday, staff attended the LA County Board of Supervisors' Homeless Deputies' Meeting. The Department of Health Services reported on the progress of COVID-19 vaccinations of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) over the age of 65. While the program has been limited by supply, nearly 1,000 PEH have received the vaccine, including both sheltered and unsheltered individuals. The deputies also heard a report on the family homeless services system and previously reported shortages of capacity there. The County reported on changes made to their programs to move families more quickly into permanent housing or to motel programs and other benefits through the Department of Public Social Services which are supported by mainstream Federal funds. These efforts have seen early success, and may free up funding to serve more families in the future.



SGVCOG

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 15, 2021

- **EENR Committee:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. Community Outreach Manager, Christian Cruz, from the Clean Power Alliance (CPA), provided a presentation on the organization, which is the community choice aggregate (CCA) that purchases and sells power and administers programs and operations. Residents and businesses of participating cities are automatically enrolled in the CPA, at a default rate - based on the level of renewable energy provided - chosen by their respective cities. Customers have the choice to opt-up or opt-down to different rates based on the level of renewable energy provided or to opt-out and return to Southern California Edison service at any time. Within the San Gabriel Valley, the Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Claremont, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City are currently enrolled in the Alliance. DPW Civil Engineer, Christine Wartman, provided the second presentation of the meeting on the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The Plan, which was originally adopted in the 1990s, serves as a guideline for the Los Angeles River to become 51 miles of connected public open space that provides landmark opportunities to reduce flood risk and improve resiliency, support healthy and connected ecosystems, address potential adverse impacts to housing affordability and individuals experiencing homelessness, and create jobs that foster opportunities for arts, culture, and community engagement, and is currently being updated. The draft 2020 Los Angeles River Master Plan is currently available for public comment [here](#) until March 14, 2021. DPW Senior Civil Engineer, Christopher Sheppard, provided the final presentation of the meeting on the County's solid waste legislative updates. Mr. Sheppard provided updates on AB 1 (Cristina Garcia & Santiago), AB 51 (Quirk), AB 96 (O'Donnell), AB 246 (Quirk & Mathis), AB 318 (Levine), AB 322 (Salas), AB 332 (Assembly Committee on ESTM), AB 478 (Ting), AB 504 (McCarty), AJR 4 (Cristina Garcia), SB 37 (Cortest), SB 38 (Wieckowski), SB 54 (Allen, Stern, & Weiner), SB 207 (Becker), SB 240 (Eggman), SB 244 (Archuleta), SB 289 (Newman), and SB 343 (Allen). Questions or inquiries regarding these bills can be directed to Mr. Sheppard at csheppard@dpw.lacounty.gov. The EENR Committee is expected to reconvene on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00pm.
- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. SGVCOG staff presented on the proposed San Gabriel Valley Regional Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Mitigation Fee Structure Program, which can be used to streamline VMT-related impact analysis and ensure successful implementation of the associated mitigations. A total of 25 San Gabriel Valley cities have expressed interest in participating in this regional endeavor and SGVCOG staff plans on soliciting professional services to develop this program in Spring 2021. Additionally, committee members voted to recommend the Governing Board to appoint Walnut City Councilmember, Allen Wu, to serve as the SGVCOG Delegate and La Canada Flintridge City Councilmember, Keith Eich, to serve as the SGVCOG Alternate to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Community Noise Roundtable. This Roundtable provides a platform to ensure cooperation between LAX and the impacted communities in achieving aircraft noise impact reduction without shifting noise from one community to another. Furthermore, the committee received updates from the Metro Service Council, Foothill Transit, and the Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority. The committee is expected to reconvene on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 2:00pm.

- **Governing Board Recap:** The SGVCOG Governing Board held its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 4PM via Zoom. Major action items taken at the meeting are summarized below:
 - **Regional Energy Action Planning (REAP) Application:** The Governing Board authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with SCAG for completion of SGVCOG REAP projects for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,482,000. In March 2020, the SCAG Regional Council approved an approach to utilize 50% of the REAP funds – equal to \$23,735,000 – to incentivize and support local partnerships that supported the development of housing. REAP funds are being made available to subregions based on the subregion’s share of the adopted Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The San Gabriel Valley’s anticipated RHNA share is 6.7%, which would make the SGVCOG eligible for approximately \$1,582,000. As requested by SCAG, the SGVCOG submitted an application and was approved to complete the following tasks for the REAP program: 1. Surplus Land Inventory, SGVRHT Funding/Implementation Strategy, Affordable Housing Incubator, Housing Leadership Academy, and SGVRHT.
 - **Support for Federal Affordable Housing Grant Funding:** Senator Feinstein drafted legislation to authorize \$1.5 billion in discretionary appropriations to be allocated as a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds would be used to purchase blighted, vacant, abandoned, foreclosed, or surplus properties, and convert them into affordable housing. The Governing Board authorized the SGVCOG President to send a letter to Senator Feinstein in support of this federal legislation that would provide \$1.5 billion annually to help state and local governments or nonprofit organizations acquire and rehabilitate existing buildings for use as affordable housing.
 - **Updated SGVCOG Energy, Open Space and Solid Waste Policies:** The SGVCOG adopts various policies and white papers to outline the position of the agency on priority issues and matters that impact the San Gabriel Valley. SGVCOG staff drafted updates to the dated Energy, Open Space Preservation and Solid Waste Policies. As a result, the Governing Board adopted Resolution 21-06 updating the Energy Policy, Resolution 21-07 updating the Open Space Preservation Policy and Resolution 21-08 updating the Solid Waste Policy.
 - **Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act:** Senator Dianne Feinstein is expected to introduce the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act, which would provide funding to local governments for capital and services for supportive housing. The Governing Board approved adopting Resolution 21-10 supporting the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act.
 - **Measure H Innovation Funds Programming Recommendation Updates:** In November 2019, the Governing Board of the SGVCOG approved the recommended homelessness funding plan – including a \$5.6 million State Budget Allocation and an approximately \$1.5 million allocation from Los Angeles County’s Measure H Innovation Funds – to support homeless programs in the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVCOG Governing Board elected to allocate funding to the SGVRHT in two categories: Capital and Operations. Based on its current work and anticipated additional funding, staff anticipates that the SGVRHT will have operational funds remaining and would like the flexibility to reallocate any remaining operational funds to capital projects. Specifically, this funding would support the SGVRHT’s Emergency Shelter Pilot Program (Pilot Program). The Governing Board adopted Resolution 21-11 regarding the allocation of funds to

homelessness programs by combining the Regional Housing Trust funding categories.

- **Update SGVRHT Board of Directors Appointment Process:** The Governing Board appointed representatives to the SGVRHT Board of Directors at its April 2020 meeting. In September 2020, Governor Newsom signed SB 1212 (Rubio) which updated the requirements to serve on the SGVRHT Board of Directors and provided a requirement for staggered term lengths. As a result, the Governing Board approved Resolution 20-12 updating the SGVRHT Election Procedures to address the new requirements provided for in SB 1212 (Rubio) and to address other questions that have arisen during the SGVRHT's first year of operation.

Additionally, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an update presentation on COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

- **Metro Traffic Reduction Study Public Meeting:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff participated in the Metro Traffic Reduction Study Public Meeting. Metro launched the Traffic Reduction Study to examine traffic reduction methods by managing roadway demand through congestion pricing and high-quality transportation options. The Study explores the possibility and feasibility of implementing a traffic reduction program pilot in Los Angeles County and identifies willing local partners to collaborate on a potential pilot program. At the anticipated conclusion of the Study in 2022, a traffic reduction pilot program that reduces traffic, enhances mobility, supports environmental and economic justice, and improves public health and safety will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for consideration. SGVCOG staff thanked Metro staff for the inclusive stakeholder process that they have undertaken and commented that the Traffic Reduction Study should be developed in a manner that supports Metro's other objectives in other strategic documents such as the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Recovery Task Force Report. Metro plans to hold an individual Traffic Reduction Study Public Meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 1:00pm and interested individuals can RSVP for the meeting [here](#).
- **Upcoming Energy Efficiency Webinar:** In partnership with the Gateway Cities Energy Leader Partnership, the Western Riverside Energy Leader Partnership, the Orange County Cities Energy Partnership, and the West Side Energy Partnership, the SGVCOG is thrilled to co-host the "No Party, Like a Therm Party!" energy efficiency webinar on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00am to present on ways for cities to save energy through the Direct Install Program. Cities and agencies are encouraged to RSVP for the webinar [here](#). Attending this webinar, as well as following through with the Direct Install Program, can help cities and agencies advance in the 2021 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of February 22, 2021

- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. The Committee voted to approve the establishment and appointment of a Capital Projects Ad-Hoc Committee to examine the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) program costs and funding. Additionally, the committee received-and-filed an update on the construction management services contract with AECOM for the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project. Committee members also received project reports on ongoing construction projects as well as the Durfee Avenue Grade Separation Project. The committee will hold a special meeting next Monday, March 1st at 11:00am to hold a closed session with legal counsel to discuss an anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4).
- **Connect SGV Podcast Episode on Regional Housing Trust:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff released a new Connect SGV Podcast episode that features discussions with the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Chair and Vice Chair, Jed Leano and Becky A. Shevlin, on the Trust's efforts to implement affordable housing projects in the San Gabriel Valley. The episode also explores the Trust's affordable housing projects and how residents and the local community can support the Trust's endeavors. Launched in August 2020, Connect SGV is a new SGVCOG podcast series that features Southern California and San Gabriel Valley leaders sharing their unique stories and insights on handling emerging issues. Each episode provides an opportunity for residents, city staff, elected officials, and stakeholders to learn about cities, programs, and issues impacting the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley region. All episodes are available in both audio and video formats on the SGVCOG website [here](#).
- **SCAG CEHD Committee Special Meeting:** On Tuesday, SCAG's Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Committee held a special meeting to discuss and recommend the final housing allocations for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). SCAG released the draft RHNA allocations in the fall of 2020 and opened the appeals process for jurisdictions. In January and February 2021, the RHNA Appeals Subcommittee heard appeals for 47 jurisdictions and ultimately, the RHNA Appeals Subcommittee granted appeals for 2 jurisdictions: the County of Riverside (215 units) and the City of Pico Rivera (2,917 units). These units were then reallocated proportionally to all other jurisdictions. The CEHD Committee voted to recommend that the Regional Council adopt the final RHNA allocations, which can be found [here](#) on pages 23-28. In addition, the Committee discussed modifications that should be made to RHNA moving forward, directing SCAG to coordinate with the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on RHNA reform that allows for more flexibility and more ability at the local level to support housing development that meets affordability needs. Ultimately, the Committee recommended the Regional Council adopt a resolution that directed SCAG to work with HCD and the State Legislature to reform RHNA to allow for more flexibility for housing element development and implementation to better address the housing affordability needs of the SCAG region, including working with County Transportation Commissions to ensure that transportation improvements are consistent with housing development. The Regional Council will hold a public hearing on March 4, 2021, to consider the final RHNA allocation and to consider the resolution recommended by the CEHD Committee.
- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. SGVCOG staff provided an

update on the Metro Active Transportation (MAT) Program Cycle 1 Awards Recommendations. The Program awarded \$6,366,225 to the City of Monterey Park to implement a 5.3 mile bikeway project travelling through Rosemead, South San Gabriel, Montebello, and Monterey Park that will connect the existing Riggin Street bike lane to the future bike lanes on First Street in East Los Angeles. The Program also awarded \$6,056,160 to the City of South Pasadena to eliminate existing and potential conflict areas on North Fremont Avenue between Alhambra Road and Columbia Street and on Huntington Drive between Alhambra Road and Atlantic Boulevard. SGVCOG staff subsequently provided a presentation on the 2021 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards. Building upon the success of the 2020 Energy Champion Awards, the 2021 Energy Champion Awards will award cities and agencies if they implement activities such as attending energy trainings and meetings, benchmarking municipal facilities, and conducting outreach activities. Cities and agencies can track their progress in the 2021 Energy Champion Awards on the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership website [here](#). Additionally, SGVCOG staff provided legislative updates on AB 115 (Bloom) and SB 6 (Caballero). AB 115 would require - notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of a city or county's planning or zoning documents or regulation - that a housing development be an authorized use on a site designated in any local agency's zoning code or maps for commercial uses if certain conditions apply, including that at least 20% of the units were set-aside for affordable housing and that the site satisfies specified criteria. Additionally, SB 6, known as the Neighborhood Homes Act, would deem a housing development project an allowable use on a neighborhood lot (a parcel within an office or retail commercial zone that is not adjacent to an industrial use) and require that the density for the housing development must meet or exceed the density deemed appropriate to accommodate affordable housing in a local jurisdiction, a minimum of 20 units per acre for a suburban jurisdiction. Currently, AB 115 has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Assembly Local Government Committee and SB 6 has been referred to the Senate Governance and Finance Committee and the Senate Housing Committee. Furthermore, the committee voted to recommend Scott Reimers from the City of Temple City and Brian Lee from the City of Covina to serve as the Committee's representatives on the SGVCOG Regional Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Mitigation Fee Structure Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC). The TEC will evaluate consultant proposals for the implementation of the Regional VMT Mitigation Fee Structure. The SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to reconvene on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 12:00pm.

- **Homelessness Working Group:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Homelessness Working Group met for its monthly meeting via Zoom. The group heard a presentation from Union Station Homeless Services (USHS) on the SPA 3 CES referral system - LA-HOP, a centralized, tracked, and monitored system to connect a person experiencing homelessness to an outreach team. USHS also presented on Access Centers, which connect adults and youth experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness with resources. COG staff then provided the following update on SB 91 eviction moratorium resources:
 - SB 91 extended the AB 3088 eviction moratorium protection through June 30, 2021 to protect tenants who can't pay rent. If tenants pay at least 25% of their total rent from September 2020 to June 2021 by June 30 2021, landlords can't legally evict them. Tenants must also submit a declaration form each month stating COVID-19 hardship. If tenants make this 25% payment, while they will still be responsible for back-rent, they cannot be evicted for non-payment of rent for that period. SB 91 also provides rental assistance for landlords or tenants. Landlords are eligible to apply for 80% of the back-rent owed for the period from April 1, 2020,

to March 31, 2021, but then must consider all back-rent settled. If a landlord opts not to apply, a tenant can apply for relief valued at 25% of unpaid back rent for the same period. As always, all tenants facing any uncertainty about their housing should be referred to www.stayhousedla.org for up-to date information, workshops, and free or low-cost legal assistance. More details, and access to the rental relief applications once they are available (reportedly by March 15), can be found at: <https://www.bcsd.ca.gov/covidrelief/>.

Finally, the Cities of Duarte, Irwindale, and South Pasadena provided updates on their COG-funded homelessness programs:

- Duarte: Along with the LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH) Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) team, the City is conducting outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness. The City is also reaching out to community partner organizations, like the Duarte Unified School District, Foothill Unity, food banks, and the faith-based community to identify individuals and families in need of prevention and diversion program assistance.
- Irwindale: The City is working with their Union Station shared housing navigator, who will soon conduct outreach in the City. The City is also working on connecting transition aged youth (TAY) in the City to the workforce development pilot program.
- South Pasadena: With support from Union Station, the City is working with their shared housing navigator on outreach and rapid rehousing. The City is also hosting hygiene facilities in a park that serves 25-30 participants per day.
- **Homeless Deputies Meeting:** On Thursday, staff attended the Homelessness Deputies call. The Department of Health Services reported on their efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to people experiencing homelessness (PEH), including an outreach campaign to encourage acceptance of the vaccine. To date, over 1,750 PEH and staff serving them have been vaccinated. The pending approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires only one dose, is expected to greatly assist with this effort. The deputies also heard a report on the progress of the Homeless Initiative in fiscal year 2019-20 from its contracted evaluators. They reported that in 2019-20, the length of time the average person spent homeless decreased, there was a modest increase in the number of housing placements, there were low rates of returns back into homelessness, and there were significant increases in the number of persons/households prevented from becoming homeless. They reported that challenges related to COVID-19 significantly reduced the capacity of the system, but this was offset by the growth of Project Roomkey and similar activities. The evaluators highlighted the growing number of people who have been homeless for six months or more, and suggested efforts to identify such people earlier on to connect them with more intensive services.