



Valley Voice

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

January 2024



Happy New Year from SGVCOG! We are thrilled to extend our warmest wishes to you for a fantastic year ahead. As we enter this new year, we are excited and enthusiastic about the many exciting projects we have planned as we celebrate our 30 years of service to the San Gabriel Valley region. Our team is fully committed to delivering top-notch regional projects across a wide range of areas, including housing, homelessness support services, sustainability, natural resource management, transportation, and capital projects.

Our driving goal is to make life better for all residents of the San Gabriel Valley and provide exceptional service to your communities throughout the year. We

can't wait to keep serving you with the same passion and dedication this coming year. If you have any questions about our ongoing initiatives or suggestions for how we can improve our programs in the new year, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team or contact our office at (626) 457-1800 or at sgv@sgvcog.org. Here's to a fantastic and collaborative 2024!

SGVCOG Staff Spreads Holiday Cheer at Esperanza Villa and Serenity Homes



Last month, SGVCOG staff in collaboration with the City of Baldwin Park and City Net, organized holiday celebrations for residents at Esperanza Villa and Serenity Homes. These heartwarming festivities included crafting activities, festive meals, and a surprise visit from Santa, making it a special and memorable experience for all residents.

As a testament to the SGVCOG's staff commitment to our tiny home residents, these holiday activities were volunteer-driven, fostering community spirit and spreading joy during the holiday season.

Claremont Gardens Breaks Ground: A New Chapter in Senior Affordable Housing



On December 11th, San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) Board Chair Jed Leano, along with local officials and staff,

celebrated the start of construction on Claremont Gardens. Located in the City of Claremont on Baseline Road, this initiative aims to provide 15 affordable housing units for senior citizens. Financially backed by a \$1,000,223 SGVRHT loan, which includes \$277,375 from the Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF), the project stands out for its \$6 million budget achieved without tax credits.

Claremont Gardens streamlined funding structure incorporates a land gift from Tri-City Mental Health, contributions from LA County, a Claremont City loan, and the SGVRHT loan. Notably, the per-unit development cost of this project is remarkably lower than average. For funding inquiries about similar projects, visit the [SGVRHT website](#) or contact Brielle Salazar at bsalazar@sgvrht.org.

SGVCOG Energy Work Group Honors Cities and Agencies with Energy Champion Awards

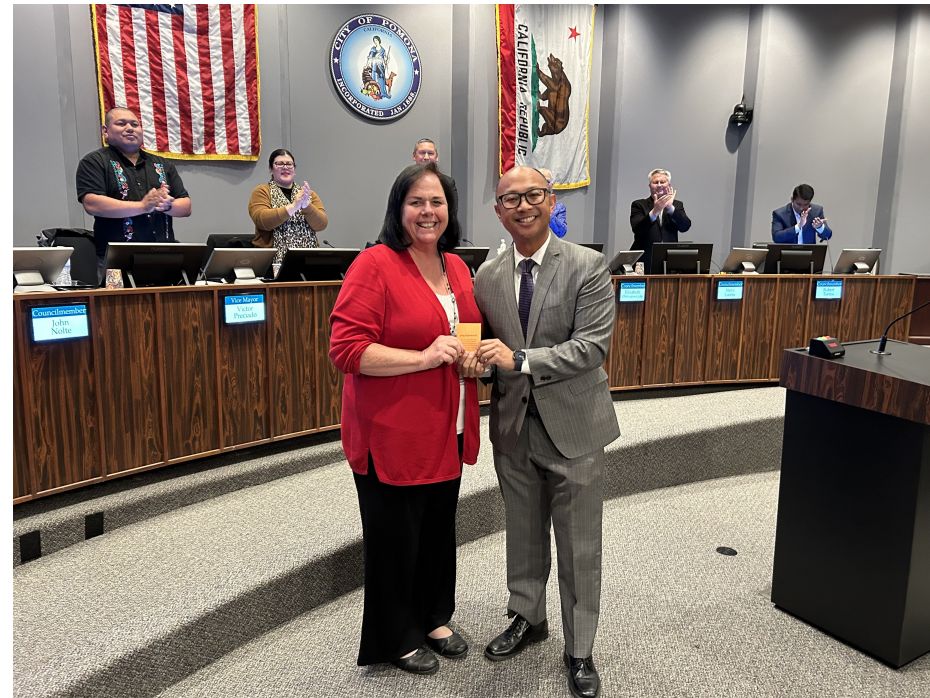


On December 14th, the SGVCOG Energy Work Group gathered for its End-of-Year Celebration and Energy Champion Awards Ceremony. The affair featured

engaging discussion sessions, festive holiday games, and the much-anticipated awards presentation. Honors were distributed across several categories: The Cities of San Gabriel, Monrovia, and South El Monte were recognized with Silver-level awards; SCAQMD, along with the Cities of Alhambra and Arcadia, were honored with Gold-level awards.

The City of Irwindale stood out with a Platinum-level award. Additionally, Foothill Transit and the Cities of Duarte, El Monte, Pomona, South Pasadena, and Walnut were distinguished with Champion-level awards. Heartfelt congratulations to all the deserving awardees for their remarkable achievements in energy excellence!

Benita DeFrank Celebrated for Her Impactful Role on SGVRHT Board



On Monday, December 4th, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) Board Chair Jed Leano formally recognized the remarkable contributions of Benita DeFrank, who was retiring from her role as Neighborhood Services Department Director with the City of Pomona after over 20 years of dedicated service. DeFrank has been a cornerstone of the SGVRHT since its establishment in 2020, serving as the Board's Housing and Homelessness Expert. Her expertise and dedication have been pivotal to the Trust's achievements.

Chair Leano's commendation highlighted DeFrank's extensive impact. In addition to her board contributions, she was also honored with the Pomona Goddess Award, reflecting her exceptional service to the community. DeFrank's legacy includes her key role in launching the SGVRHT's inaugural Revolving Loan Fund. Her tireless advocacy for housing initiatives, notably the West Mission project in Pomona, has left an indelible mark on the San Gabriel Valley, reinforcing her significant legacy in regional housing and community development.

***CALCOG Board Meeting: Discussing Future
Transportation and Legislative Priorities***



On Friday, December 8th, the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) held its Board of Directors Meeting and Board Retreat in Riverside. SGVCOG President Tim Hepburn and staff attended the meeting, which was filled with discussions on the strategic priorities of the organization. The board delved into future transportation funding needs, the projected state budget deficit, and legislative priorities, underscoring the importance of collaborative regional planning and decision-making.

This meeting demonstrates CALCOG's dedication to serving its member

agencies, including the SGVCOG, and supporting regional collaborative efforts to address the pressing issues of the state.

January Committee Meeting Schedule

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

(Special Meeting) Executive Committee -January 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM

(Special Meeting) Capital Projects and Construction Committee -January 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM

(Special Meeting) EENR Committee - January 10, 2024, at 10:15 AM

(Special Meeting) Transportation Committee - January 10, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Regional Housing Trust Board - January 16, 2024, at 1:00 PM

Public Works Working Group - Monday, January 15, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Governing Board - January 18, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Planning Directors Working Group - January 25, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Homelessness Committee - Cancelled

City Managers' Steering Committee - Cancelled

Water Committee - Cancelled

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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