

[SGVCOG] Valley Voice - August 2023 Issue

1 message

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Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 10:59 AM



Valley Voice

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

August 2023

Bridging Progress and Safety: Fairway Drive Underpass Opens to Traffic



On Monday, July 24th, a leap forward was taken for residents of the City of Industry and the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of Rowland Heights as we celebrated the completion of the long-awaited Fairway Drive Grade Separation Project. Federal, state, and local officials joined us to commemorate the auspicious occasion that was collectively realized through

the efforts of several stakeholders and funding sources, including the State Prop 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund, Section 190 Grade Separation Program, Los Angeles County Metro Prop C and Measure R funds, City of Industry, and Union Pacific Railroad.



(Click the video to watch the City of Industry's exciting recap of the event!)

The \$250.1 million project, now open, will see over 26,000 vehicles daily and accommodate up to 91 trains by 2025, greatly enhancing the region's traffic flow. Additionally, the underpass effectively eliminates the possibility of crossing collisions, a longstanding concern for this location, evidenced by 17 accidents, including three fatalities and 11 injuries recorded by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Residents and businesses in the vicinity also stand to benefit from this project in more ways than one. The roadway underpass reduces vehicle emissions by curtailing idling times for cars and trucks waiting for trains at the railroad crossing. Furthermore, the nuisance caused by the noise generated by train horns and gate alarms has now been effectively eradicated.





Fairway Drive is the 16th completed grade separation project constructed by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) as part of the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Project. This program is part of a larger comprehensive initiative to improve safety at 19 railway crossings in eastern Los Angeles County due to increased trade carried by trains along the high-volume transcontinental ACE Trade Corridor, designated by Congress as a Project of National and Regional Significance. The Corridor transports 16% of all waterborne containerized trade in the nation and connects Southern California's San Pedro Bay ports, the busiest in the nation, handling 40% of the country's containerized imports and 25% of its exports to and from destinations across the country.

This completion marks more than just a project milestone. It is a testament to our commitment to the community's safety, traffic efficiency, and environmental sustainability. As we commemorate this achievement, we look forward to continuing our work on creating a better, safer, and more efficient transportation system for all residents of the San Gabriel Valley.

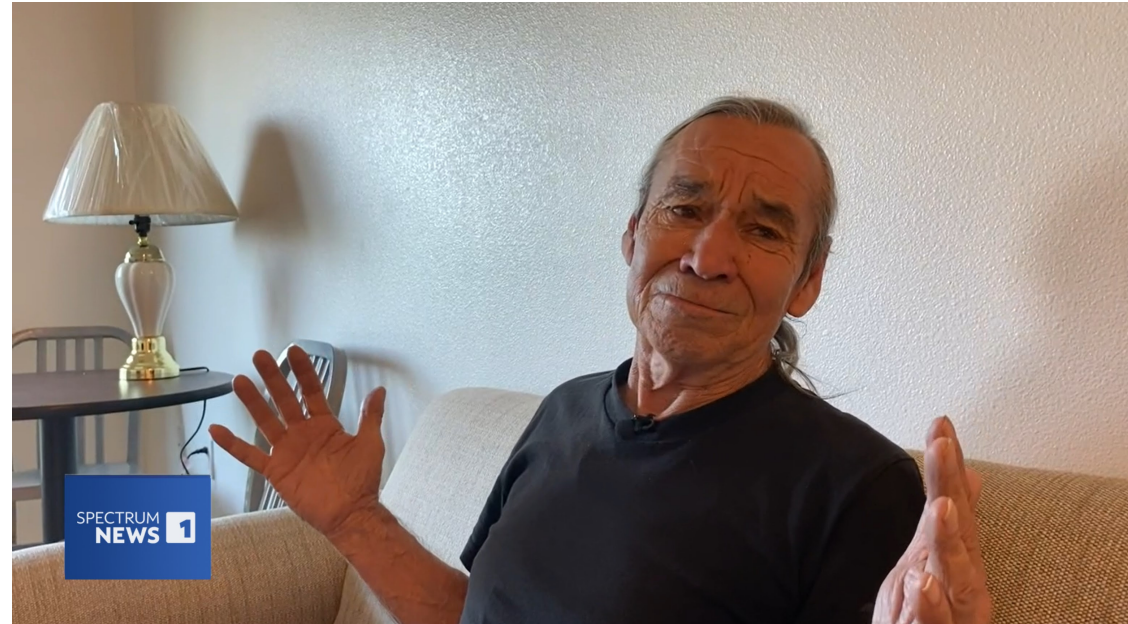
GoSGV Bike Share Program Awarded \$2.6 million in REAP 2.0 Grant Program Funding



Last month, the Regional Council at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) approved an award of \$2.6 million for GoSGV, the SGVCOG's subscription-based e-bike share program that provides San Gabriel

Valley residents with a high-quality e-bike for a flat monthly cost. GoSGV received funding through SCAG's County Transportation Commission (CTC) Partnership Program, which was funded by the state's Regional Early Action Planning Program of 2021 (REAP 2.0). The CTC Partnership Program is an \$80 million competitive program to fund a diverse set of transformative planning and implementation projects that expand access, increase mobility options, bring jobs and housing closer together, and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern across the region. The funding will allow GoSGV to expand the regional bike share program and focus on extending its engagement, subsidies, and resources to disadvantaged communities. For more information about the GoSGV, please visit gosgv.com.

Spectrum News: Baldwin Park Tiny Home Village Resident Finds Permanent Housing



Spectrum News 1 filmed a follow-up profile story on Joe Quijas, a 71-year-old former tenant at the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust's tiny home village, Esperanza Villa, in Baldwin Park. Joe Quijas was among the first residents to move into San Gabriel Valley's first tiny home village back in November 2021 and recently transitioned to permanent housing after finding an apartment he now calls "home." Click on the [link](#) to watch this fantastic piece on the transformative work being done to give hope and positively impact people's lives, like Joe, at our tiny home sites.

Ignite Change and Resilience! Join Our Regional Wildfire Panel Discussion on August 17th!

My World's on Fire, How About Yours?
A REGIONAL WILDFIRE PANEL

August 17
10:30 AM

Zoom

Questions?
jread@sgvcog.org

Click here to register!
Or visit tinyurl.com/wildfire-panel-sgv

Presented by:

FIRE PREP
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

SGVCOG

Are you feeling the heat from the wildfire crisis? Are you concerned about the impact of wildfires on your community and the environment? We've got exciting news for you! Join us on [Zoom](#) for a thought-provoking and action-oriented wildfire panel discussion **on August 17th at 10:30 AM**. Get ready to learn, engage, and take a step towards increasing resilience within our communities.

Knowledge and collaboration are the keys to tackling the challenges posed by

wildfires. That's why we've brought together an esteemed panel of experts who will illuminate the crucial intersection between wildfire resilience and various pertinent topics, such as energy, land use planning, policymaking, climate change, and air and water quality.

Now is your chance to be a part of the change! Mark your calendar for **August 17th at 10:30 AM**, and remember to invite your friends, family, and colleagues who might be interested in this pressing topic. Joining the discussion is simple. Register for the event by clicking on the following [link](#).

Together, we can make a difference and work towards building a more wildfire-ready San Gabriel Valley.

SGVCOG staff Attends Department of Mental Health's Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Summit



On July 20th, SGVCOG staff attended an Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Summit organized by the L.A. County Department of Mental Health. The meeting brought together ACR initiatives from all over the County and supplied updates about the execution of the 9-8-8 system. Representatives from the City of West Hollywood discussed their forthcoming Care Program, and those from the City of Los Angeles provided information about their CIRCLE Program. It was an informative summit, and staff is looking forward to utilizing the invaluable information from this gathering to continue improving the lives of residents in the San Gabriel Valley.

Breaking the Homelessness Cycle: A Tour of the Revolutionary HOPE Center in Orange County



On Wednesday, July 5th, the SGVCOG staff received a tour of the Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Center located in Fullerton, California. This insightful trip brought together representatives from across the San Gabriel Valley, all congregating with one agenda: to understand better and participate in the effort to combat homelessness.

The HOPE Center is a cooperative effort among eleven cities in north Orange County to address homelessness. This coalition of cities includes Cypress, La Palma, Buena Park, La Habra, Brea, Placentia, Fullerton, Anaheim, Orange, Yorba Linda, and Stanton. The center works with cities to combine resources and collaboratively develop strategies to help homeless individuals overcome challenges within their service area.

It is important to note that the HOPE Center is not just another shelter. Functioning as an operational hub or command center, the center directs its efforts toward providing on-the-spot assistance for people experiencing homelessness. The assistance offered extends to critical areas such as addiction, medical, and mental health. This "open source" model of addressing homelessness is an important characteristic of North Orange County's HOPE Center and is an underlying factor in this region's success around this issue.

The tour of the HOPE Center was a stark and inspiring reminder of the power of collaborative efforts to address systemic issues such as homelessness. It further cemented our resolve to work in synergy with our partners, using all our resources and strategies to make a substantial difference in our community.

Highlighting Wildfire Risks: SGVCOG in Action with City and County Fire Departments



Throughout July, SGVCOG staff and partners embarked on a series of site visits across the region's foothills, targeting areas at high risk from wildfires. These visits were part of the San Gabriel Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development. These field verifications aimed to examine fuel conditions closely and ensure that the plan accurately mirrors the existing wildfire environment. This comprehensive approach assists the team in validating hazard and risk assessments regarding public and firefighter safety, existing evacuation routes, and points of safe refuge. Additionally, it ensures appropriate measures are in place for structural hardening, defensible space, landscaping conditions, and water sources, among other critical factors.

In addition to this, earlier in the month, the SGVCOG launched the inaugural

Stakeholder Working Group meeting for the Regional CWPP. Attended by City and County Fire staff, the US Forest Service staff from the Angeles National Forest, and various nonprofit and community stakeholders, the meeting marked an essential step in fostering a community-centric approach to wildfire management. SGVCOG consultants from Jensen Hughes offered a thorough overview of the CWPP process, and the ensuing discussion focused on establishing top priorities for the working group.



SGVCOG President Tim Hepburn, who provided the opening remarks at this meeting, emphasized the importance of this joint effort. The SGVCOG's continued dedication to developing a comprehensive and practical CWPP helps ensure that the San Gabriel Valley is well-equipped to mitigate the threat of wildfires and protect its community members and landscapes.

Please stay tuned for future updates as the SGVCOG continues its crucial work in wildfire risk mitigation and community protection.

A Heartfelt Thank You: Montebello Community Assistance Program Supports Serenity Homes



The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) extends its deepest gratitude to the Montebello Community Assistance Program (MCAP) for their commendable charity for the residents at Serenity Homes.

MCAP, with support from the well-known shoe brand Vans, has donated numerous pairs of shoes and other essential items to the children residing at Serenity Homes interim shelter. This generous act is far more than a simple contribution. It symbolizes hope and camaraderie, providing much-needed aid to families who rely on Serenity Homes' support. Each pair of shoes, each item

donated, helps to alleviate the burden of these families, further empowering them on their path to stability and independence.

Inspiring gestures like these urge us to call upon others who might be willing to contribute to SGVCOG's interim housing sites. If you, too, are moved by this spirit of giving and wish to make a difference, please reach out to Meredith Sharkey at msharkey@sgvcog.org. Even the smallest contribution can go a long way in profoundly impacting the lives of those we serve.

Once again, we express our sincere appreciation to MCAP and Vans for their generous support.

SGVCOG Staff Member Spotlight: Alcira Godoy, Accounting Manager



What do you like most about working with the SGVCOG?

I am grateful to be part of the SGVCOG team and enjoy contributing to capital projects. Witnessing the dedication and passion COG staff have on different programs, especially supporting the implementation of tiny homes in the City of Baldwin Park and Montebello.

What is a fun fact about you?

My family and I enjoy taking vacations to visit new places and enjoy outdoor activities. One of my favorite hobbies is photography, I enjoy taking pictures to capture moments and share experiences with family and friends.

August 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](#).

City Managers' Steering Committee - Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 12 PM

Regional Housing Trust Board - Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 1 PM

Mental Health AD HOC Committee - Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 10 AM

Capital Projects and Construction Committee - Cancelled

Water Committee - Cancelled

Homelessness Committee - Cancelled

EENR Committee - Cancelled

Transportation Committee - Cancelled

Public Works Working Group - Cancelled

Governing Board - Cancelled

Planning Directors Working Group - Cancelled

Homelessness Working Group - Cancelled

Executive Committee - Cancelled

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