

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 7, 2022

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The Committee convened for closed session with no reportable action taken upon the conclusion of the closed session.
 - **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the SGVCOG Water Policy Committee/TAC convened for its monthly meeting via Zoom. The Committee reviewed the following major items:
 - Upper LA River and Rio Hondo Scientific Study Updates: In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the SGVCOG was awarded scientific study funding by the ULAR Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) and the Rio Hondo WASC through the Safe Clean Water Program to conduct two scientific studies: Pre-Stormwater Investment Plan (preSIP) and Load Reduction Strategy (LRS) to Address the Los Angeles River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).
 - Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements Reissuance Process Updates: In January 2022, the official Tentative SSS WDR was released for public comments, which are due April 8, 2022. The reissuance aims to clarify existing prohibition of untreated waste discharge to waters of the State and provide increased public transparency of sewer spill data, among other things.
 - PreSIP Scientific Study Application for Upper San Gabriel River WASC: This application would be submitted on behalf of San Gabriel WASC cities by SGVCOG with Craftwater Engineering to the SCWP for funding in Fiscal Year 2023-24 to complete a PreStormwater Investment Plan (preSIP) scientific study for the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area.
 - **Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) Meeting:** On Wednesday, staff attended the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) meeting. The following presentations were made:
 - Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, City of Los Angeles, Third District, shared his perspective on the current homeless services system including barriers to shelter and family reunification, the importance of data, and the need for a more flexible system.
 - Councilmember Nithya Raman, City of Los Angeles, Fourth District, presented her district's accomplishments and challenges within the current homeless services system. She emphasized the importance of geographically focused efforts and retaining a sense of community when housing people experiencing homelessness.
 - Commissioners facilitated a public forum for discussion with invited guests from 15 cities and 3 Council of Governments, including Marisa Creter, SGVCOG Executive Director. Forum participants discussed proposed governance structures and possible application, local investment, their accomplishments in addressing homelessness, the need for system accountability, and the importance of accurate and accessible data.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 9 a.m. For more information and recordings for past meetings, you can visit the BRCH website [here](#).
- **Governing Board Recap:** Governing Board Recap: The SGVCOG Governing Board held a special meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. Major action items are summarized below:
 - **2022 SGVCOG Strategic Plan Update:** The Governing Board voted to adopt resolution 22-15 approving the 2022 SGVCOG Strategic Plan Update. The 2022

- Update identifies priorities and actions for the agency to undertake to support member agencies over the next few years.
- **FY 2017-2021 Measure M Subregional Program Reprogramming Requests:** The Governing Board voted to approve the received FY 2017-2021 Measure M Subregional Program Active Transportation, Bus System Improvements, and First/Last Mile Funding Reprogramming Requests. The SGVCOG administers the Measure M Subregional Program (MSP) fund, and, in Cycle 1 (FY 2017-2021) awarded more than \$37 million to 20 eligible active transportation, first/last mile, complete streets, highway efficiency, and bus system improvement projects in the San Gabriel Valley. Each selected project's funding allocation schedule can be changed, or "reprogrammed," at the approvals of both the SGVCOG Governing Board and the Metro Board of Directors. This year, the County of Los Angeles and City of Monrovia have submitted reprogramming requests for their awarded projects.
 - **SB 45 (Portantino):** The Governing Board voted to adopt Resolution 22-16 to support SB 45 (Portantino). The 2021-22 Budget Act appropriated \$195 million for organics recycling, with \$60 million for local government recycling grants, \$105 million for organics infrastructure grants, and an additional \$5 million for composting organic waste. SB 45, as amended on January 3, 2022, expressly directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to consult with the State Air Resources Board and provide assistance to local jurisdictions on any funding, including but not limited to that appropriated by the California Legislature in the annual Budget Act, to support local agencies' compliance with existing laws.
 - **Housing Incubator Technical Assistance Consultant Bench:** The Governing Board voted to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute master agreements with the selected vendors for the Housing Incubator Technical Project Consultant Bench for a total overall not-to-exceed amount of \$800,000. These master agreements, funded by SCAG's Regional Early Action Program (REAP) Subregional Partnership Program, will create a bench of consultants in a variety of disciplines which can be accessed by all member cities that can provide the technical resources they need to develop housing, especially at affordable levels.
 - **Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) Governance Options:** The Governing Board approved directing staff to submit a comment letter on the recommendations being considered by the BRCH, including the following key principles:
 - The County should establish a stand-alone department that oversees and administers the homeless services system in the County.
 - The County should work with all stakeholders to establish a consensus simplified vision and goals that guide the County's program, policy, and funding decisions.
 - COGs and cities should have increased representation on the decision-making body(ies) that oversee the homeless services system.
 - Subregions should have increased programmatic autonomy and funding discretion to allow for the implementation of locally-based and locally-supported solutions.
 - Input from subregions should be a driver of programmatic, policy, and funding decisions for the County.
 - The homeless services system should increase access to data for all stakeholders within the system - including those employed by a local

government - and enhance data sharing and data tracking in order to better evaluate the system.

- **Homeless Policy Deputies' Meeting:** On Thursday, the Homeless Policy Deputies convened for its biweekly meeting via Microsoft Teams.
 - **Homelessness and Incarceration:** Staff from the Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) office presented on the Rapid Diversion Program (RDP), a County-led collaboration that is currently operating at six courthouses, and that aims to rapidly identify defendants who are appropriate for mental health diversion and quickly link them to responsive services. The presentation also featured the Project 180 RDP team and Health Care and Housing for Vulnerable Populations, and the Incubation Academy, which is designed to train, support, and provide technical assistance for new and existing community-based organizations that serve underrepresented communities and people who are justice-involved.
 - **Men & Women's Community Reintegration programs:** La Tina Jackson, Department of Mental Health (DMH), presented on LA County's Men's and Women's Community Reintegration Programs (MCRP & WCRP), which provide services that reduce the mental health and psychosocial factors which impair an ex-offender's successful reintegration into the community and prevent recidivism within the legal and acute care psychiatric system.
 - **Intersection of Justice, Homelessness & Mental Health:** D'Artagnan Scorza, Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) presented on the intersection between race, place, and homelessness, while also providing a historical context of racial segregation and its effect on housing policies, structural racism and homelessness in Los Angeles.
- **Upcoming Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Implementation Workshop:** In coordination with the Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Team - Richard Watson and Julie Millett - the SGVCOG is holding a SCWP Implementation Workshop on **Monday, March 21**, at 12:00 p.m., immediately following the SGVCOG's Public Works Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. This workshop will share the SCWP funding opportunities for municipalities, including project design, construction, and O&M. The flyer is attached. Municipal stakeholders can register for the event by [clicking here](#).
- **Upcoming San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study Elected Officials Briefing:** The SGVCOG will be hosting an Elected Officials Briefing next Thursday, March 17th from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, inviting all San Gabriel Valley city councilmembers and elected officials to hear updates and provide feedback on the San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study. The Study aims to identify feasibility transit solutions that enhance communities by providing a high-quality mobility project to the San Gabriel Valley. This advances Metro's Strategic Plan goals to develop and provide equitable and accessible transit services. This will help to reduce travel times, manage roadway congestion, and enhance connections to the regional/local transit networks. City councilmembers and elected officials are encouraged to register for the briefing [here](#).
- **Upcoming SGVCOG Open House Event:** The SGVCOG will be hosting an open House on Thursday, April 28th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm to showcase our various transportation, capital projects, homelessness, and environmental programs. The event will be located at the San Gabriel Valley Corporate Campus at 4900 Rivergrade Road, Irwindale, CA 91706. Light refreshments will be provided and join us for an evening to learn about our various projects and network with San Gabriel Valley leaders! Interested individuals can RSVP for the event [here](#).
- **San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Economic Forecast:** On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP) will be holding the 2022

San Gabriel Valley Economic Forecast Summit, in coordination with Cal Poly Pomona. The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Pasadena City College. Join business leaders from across eastern Los Angeles County for an up-to-the-minute discussion of where the economy is headed. The event will include Baie Netzer of Bank of America, Dr. Robert Kleinhenz of Kleinhenz Economics, and a panel focused on the hospitality and tourism industries that are so central to the San Gabriel Valley (and SoCal) economy. For more information and to register for the event, click [here](#).

- **California Hybrid & Zero Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP):** On **Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**, the HVIP is set to re-open to voucher requests for standard HVIP funds. For FY21-22, \$196.6 million is available for standard HVIP voucher requests. Additionally, the following set-aside funds will also become available at the same date and time: \$65.5 million for public transit buses; approximately \$46 million for class 8 tractors performing drayage operations; and \$122 million for the Public School Bus Set-Aside for Small and Medium Air Districts. If a local trucking company, school district or city is interested, they should choose the category of vehicles in the program, and then coordinate with qualified dealers. **Interested entities must call immediately at 10:00 a.m. on March 30, 2022, as the money is subscribed in a matter of minutes.**



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 14, 2022

- **Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) Meeting:** On Wednesday, staff attended the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) meeting. The Commission heard a presentation from El Monte City Manager Alma K. Martinez on the City's Project Homekey sites and recommendations for the overall homeless services system. The Commissioners also discussed and voted on each of the options discussed for the proposed governance structure for the homeless services system. Most notably, the Commission recommended that the County create a new entity to oversee the County's homeless services system. The final report will be prepared over the next several weeks, and the Commission will hold a final vote at its next meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 9 a.m. The final report would then be forwarded to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for its consideration. For more information and recordings from past meetings, you can visit the BRCH website [here](#).
- **EENR Committee:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. The Committee reviewed the following major items:
 - **Bassett/Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community:** The Bassett/Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community (BAAEC) was formed to remove barriers to energy projects and inspire community members to build an advanced energy community in Bassett and Avocado Heights. The organization secured grant funding from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to provide services to support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other new energy technology efforts to meet the energy needs of local residents and support grid reliability and safety. The Energy Coalition (TEC) is leading the organization and is working with a variety of project partners, including the County of Los Angeles, Clean Power Alliance, and Bassett Unified School District, to implement BAAEC's programs. Additional information regarding the organization can be found [here](#).
 - **State Water Resource Control Board Emergency Water Conservation Mandates:** In January 2022, the State Water Resource Control Board approved emergency water conservation mandates in place for cities, individual property owners, and residents restricting the water activities they can conduct. These statewide rules are put forth in an effort to prevent wasteful water use and promote water conservation. As per the new regulations, the following water uses are now prohibited:
 - The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes more than incidental runoff;
 - The use of a hose that dispenses water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle;
 - The use of potable water for washing sidewalks, driveways, buildings, structures, patios, parking lots, or other hard surfaced areas;
 - The use of potable water for street cleaning or construction purposes;
 - The use of potable water for decorative fountains or the filling or topping-off of decorative lakes or ponds, with exceptions for those decorative fountains, lakes, or ponds that use pumps to recirculate water and only require refilling to replace evaporative losses;

- The application of water to irrigate turf and ornamental landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall of at least one fourth of one inch of rain; and
 - The use of potable water for irrigation of turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscaped areas between the street and sidewalk.
 - **San Gabriel Valley Regional Food Recovery Program Study Findings:** At the recommendation of member agencies, the SGVCOG launched the San Gabriel Valley Regional Food Recovery Program to support San Gabriel Valley cities with complying to SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) regulations. The Program, which began in September 2021, included activities such as assessing potential food recovery agencies and their capacities for cities to utilize for SB 1383 requirements, identifying Tier 1 and Tier 2 commercial edible food waste generators and assessing their current compliance with SB 1383's food recovery regulations, preparing guidance, assisting with education and outreach efforts, and implementing inspection and enforcement programs. Based on the results of surveys conducted for the study, existing capacity appears to be somewhat sufficient to recover the amount of edible food generated by Tier 1 and Tier 2 edible food waste generators in the Program's 14 participating cities. However, it is anticipated that the amount of food donated will significantly increase in the next few years as a result of SB 1383. In order to increase the food recovery organizations' processing capacity, it is recommended that participating cities review the food recovery organizations' resource needs to ensure that they can support local food recovery organizations through existing or additional municipal activities to avoid donated food being spoiled in the redistribution chain.
- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee convened via Zoom for its monthly meeting. The Committee reviewed the following major items:
 - **Gold Line Foothill Extension Project Updates:** The project to extend Gold Line tracks from Glendora to Montclair increases the existing Gold Line route by 12.3 miles and adds stations in Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont, and Montclair. The project segment from Glendora to Pomona is fully funded and is 43% completed as of March 2022, expected completion in 2025. The extension from Pomona to Montclair, which would add stations in Claremont and Montclair, can be completed if additional funding is secured. The Construction Authority has requested \$748 million from the State to complete the extension.
 - **Metro I-10 ExpressLanes Extension Updates:** In January 2017, the Metro Board of Directors voted to direct Metro staff to initiate project approval and environmental document procedures for Tier I ExpressLanes projects, which included the I-10 ExpressLanes Extension Project. The Project aims to evaluate the possibility of extending the existing I-10 ExpressLanes from the I-10/I-605 intersection to the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County Line to improve traffic flow and mobility for all vehicles, promote equitable and sustainable multimodal travel options, and addressing the gap between the existing I-10 ExpressLanes in Los Angeles County and the I-10 ExpressLanes that are in construction in San Bernardino County. Through this Study, Metro staff hopes to identify one or more of the following alternatives to recommend to the Metro Board of Directors:
 - Alternative 1: Do not proceed with extending the I-10 ExpressLanes in Los Angeles County.
 - Alternative 2: Conversion of single HOV lane to single ExpressLane.

- Alternative 3: Convert HOV to ExpressLanes and add a second ExpressLane in each direction.
- Alternative 4: Add a second HOV lane in each direction.

The Project's 45-day scoping period, which is the first step in the environmental review process and serves to introduce the project to the public, is anticipated to begin next month.

- **AB 773 (Nazarian) Legislative Updates:** During the previous legislative cycle, the California Legislature voted to pass AB 773 (Nazarian) to authorize local authorities to implement Slow Streets Programs – provides for the closing of streets to vehicular traffic or limiting access and speed on a street using roadway design features – by adopting an ordinance that provides for the closing of streets to vehicular traffic or limiting access and speed on a street using roadway design features. Before doing so, the authority must complete several activities, including conducting an outreach and engagement process, providing advanced notices and signage, maintaining a webpage with information about the project, and ensuring that closure or traffic restriction leaves a sufficient portion of the streets in the surrounding area for other public uses.
- **San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study Elected Officials Briefing:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG held a briefing for elected officials to share progress updates on the San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study with members of the public. The Study's project team shared updates on the Study Area Map, Study Area Definitions, Mobility Problem Definitions, and proposed initial concepts of route alternatives. Attendees were given the opportunity to express comments and concerns about the proposed routes. Additional community workshops and briefings will be held later this year as the Study progresses. Additional information regarding the Study can be found on the SGVCOG website [here](#).
- **Upcoming Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Implementation Workshop:** In coordination with the Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Team - Richard Watson and Julie Millett - the SGVCOG is holding a SCWP Implementation Workshop on **Monday, March 21**, at 12:00 p.m., immediately following the SGVCOG's Public Works Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. This workshop will share the SCWP funding opportunities for municipalities, including project design, construction, and O&M. The flyer is attached. Municipal stakeholders can register for the event by [clicking here](#).
- **Governing Board Preview:** The SGVCOG Governing Board will hold a special joint meeting with the Capital Projects and Construction Committee, Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee, Executive Committee, and Transportation Committee next Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. The Governing Board and committees are expected to pass a resolution enabling them to meet virtually in compliance with AB361.
- **Upcoming SGVCOG Open House:** The SGVCOG will be hosting an open House on Thursday, April 28th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm to showcase our various transportation, capital projects, homelessness, and environmental programs. The event is open to member agencies and will be located at the San Gabriel Valley Corporate Campus at 4900 Rivergrade Road, Irwindale, CA 91706. Lunch will be provided, and attendees will learn about our various projects and network with San Gabriel Valley leaders! Interested individuals can RSVP for the event [here](#).
- **Upcoming SGVCOG LATA Broadband Grant Workshop:** To ensure that residents have access to fast, reliable, and affordable broadband services, the CPUC will be administering a Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant program to encourage information gathering, planning, and creative problem-solving at the local level. Each eligible public agency can apply for up to \$500,000 each fiscal year. To support San Gabriel Valley cities with preparing for their LATA grant applications, the SGVCOG plans

on partnering with the Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League (LA DEAL) to host a workshop on Wednesday, May 4th from 9:00am to 11:00am. Interested individuals can register for the workshop [here](#).

- **SGVRHT Federal Funding Allocation:** This week, an appropriations bill was signed by President Biden which includes \$3 million in funding for the San Gabriel Valley Project Pipeline! This funding will support the development of additional affordable housing units in the San Gabriel Valley.
- **Esperanza Villa Tiny Homes CPRS award:** Esperanza Villa tiny homes in the City of Baldwin Park, was selected as a “Best of the Best” project by the California Parks Recreation Society (CPRS) District 13 for excellence in Facility or Park Planning & Design. The award celebrates projects that address a challenge, demonstrate resourcefulness and successful execution, and are mission oriented. We applaud the City of Baldwin Park’s Recreation and Community Services staff for their efforts. An awards ceremony will be held on March 31st.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 21, 2022

- **Village 143 Positive Period Packs Drive:** The SGVCOG is excited to launch a new program that aims to support people in need by hosting targeted drives that provide a venue where community members, SGVCOG staff, and City staff can donate items to support our unhoused neighbors.. We are hoping the program will inspire SGV community members to help our neighbors and show them that we care through these acts of kindness. For the first Village 143 drive, SGVCOG is collecting donations to create Positive Period Packs and distribute them to unhoused women who do not have access to hygiene products while on their periods. There are two primary options for donations:
 - **Amazon Wish List:** <https://tinyurl.com/POSITIVEPERIODPACKS>
 - Items should be delivered to the SGVCOG Irwindale office, which is the saved address for the Amazon Wish List registry.
 - **Donate an Amazon e-Gift Card:** [Amazon e-Gift Card](#)
 - Send an e-gift card of any amount to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments at sgv@sgvcoog.org, so we can purchase any additional items for the Positive Period Packs drive.

If you have any questions regarding the program or drive, please reach out to SGVCOG staff at vurenia@sgvcoog.org. To donate to the program or to learn more, please see the attached flyer.

- **SGVCOG Open House Event:** The SGVCOG will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, April 28th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm to showcase our various transportation, capital projects, homelessness, and environmental programs. The event is open to member agencies and will be located at the San Gabriel Valley Corporate Campus at 4900 Rivergrade Road, Irwindale, CA 91706. Lunch will be provided, and attendees will learn about our various projects and network with San Gabriel Valley leaders! Interested individuals can RSVP for the event [here](#).
- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee convened for a special meeting to pass a resolution enabling the TAC to meet online in compliance with AB 361.
- **Safe Clean Water Program Workshop:** On Monday, representatives of the Rio Hondo Watershed Steering Committee provided a workshop on the Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP). The three goals of the SCWP include:
 - Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water quality requirements
 - Increase drought preparedness by capturing more stormwater and/or urban runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins
 - Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space.

Revenue for the SCWP is generated through a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable surface area properties in the LA County Flood Control District. The program funds three types of projects: Infrastructure Projects, Technical Resources (for development of feasibility studies or project concepts), and Scientific Studies. Municipalities, public utilities, special districts, schools, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, federally-recognized Indian tribes, State recognized

Indian tribes, and mutual water companies are eligible to apply for funding. To access a recording of the webinar, please [click here](#) and begin watching at 22:06.

- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee convened for its monthly meeting. The TAC reviewed the following major items:
 - LA DRP Projects Overview: LA DRP has various projects in different phases of completion that impact that east and west San Gabriel Valley Areas, including the East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan, West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan, Chapman Woods Community Standards District Updates, Green Zone Ordinance, and Safety Element Update.
 - SoCalREN Public Agency Programs: The Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) was created to harness the collective power of residents, businesses, and the public sector to achieve energy savings across Southern California through its project delivery program, metered savings program, pathway to zero, and revolving savings fund. . Twenty-five member cities are already enrolled in the SoCalREN Program. For cities not already enrolled, they can [register to join](#) here.
 - 2022-2023 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards: The SGVCOG launched the 2022-2023 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards to encourage San Gabriel Valley cities and agencies to implement energy efficiency actions and engage in long-term energy planning activities. Requirements for cities and agencies to receive an award include implementing a combination of activities such as attending energy efficiency meetings or webinars, hosting an energy efficiency related event to the local community and submitting a project commitment form. Cities and agencies will have until November 9, 2023 to reach the highest tier.
 - SGV Surplus Land Inventory Update: The Surplus Land Inventory is the first SGVCOG-managed REAP project to kick off. This project will establish an inventory of publicly-owned land (e.g. city-owned, County-owned, public agency-owned) and privately-owned sites (e.g. faith-based and nonprofit organizations) that could potentially serve as sites for affordable and/or homeless housing development. This project seeks to identify the most feasible sites for development – including those that have officially been designated as surplus lands and other sites (including sites owned by faith-based or nonprofit organizations) – incorporating feedback and input from stakeholders, and to connect these sites with resources and/or potential funding for affordable housing development.
- **New Connect SGV Podcast Episode on LA Metro:** Earlier this week, SGVCOG staff released a new Connect SGV Podcast episode that features discussions with Pomona Mayor/Metro Board Director Tim Sandoval and Metro Board Deputy Young-Gi Kim Harabedian on Metro's role, projects, and programs in the San Gabriel Valley. The episode also focuses on exploring challenges that Metro is currently facing and how cities, residents, and communities can support Metro's goal to enhance the existing transit system and services. All episodes are available in both audio and video formats on the SGVCOG website [here](#).
- **San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study Public Comment Period:** The San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study is currently soliciting public comments on the proposed 15 alternatives until Thursday, March 31st. The Study aims to identify feasible transit solutions that enhance communities and lives through providing high-quality mobility projects to the San Gabriel Valley. Recently, 15 alternatives were unveiled to members of the public to showcase possible bus and rail routes that can provide improvements to existing transit services. An interactive map of the proposed 15 alternatives can be found

[here](#) and viewers may submit comments directly on the map. After the public comment deadline, the project team will analyze the alternatives' ridership data and narrow down the options based on data analysis. Questions and inquiries regarding the Study can be directed to SGVCOG staff at afung@sgvcog.org.

- **Homeless Policy Deputies' Meeting:** On Thursday, the Homeless Policy Deputies convened for its biweekly meeting via Microsoft Teams.
 - **Homekey 2:** Elizabeth Ben-Ishai, CEO-HI, provided an update on four upcoming projects as part of Project Homekey round 2.
 - **Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH):** Brandon D. Young, BRCH staff, provided an overview presentation of the BRCH and reviewed the recommendations that were voted on at the March 16th meeting.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 28, 2022

- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee convened for its monthly meeting in hybrid format via Zoom and in-person at the Diamond Bar City Hall. The Committee took action on two items:
 1. Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a waterline relocation agreement with the Southern Montebello Irrigation District (SMID) for the design and relocation of water transmission and distribution lines in the vicinity of the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project; and
 2. Authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Land Veritas Corp. for purchase of mitigation credits for the purchase price of Five Hundred Five Thousand (\$505,000) for the Diamond Bar Golf Course Project, the first phase of the State Route 57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Program.
- **Homelessness Committee:** On Tuesday, the SGVCOG Homelessness Committee convened for its monthly meeting via Zoom. The Committee heard the following presentations.
 - **El Monte Project Homekey:** Alma K. Martinez, City Manager, City of El Monte provided an overview of the city's Homekey program, which included accomplishments and challenges. The city was awarded funding totaling \$17,713,213 for two Homekey sites, both of which were renovated from existing hotel sites. The Budget Inn site provides 40 units of emergency shelter for transition age youth (TAY) with on-site wraparound services. The M Motel will provide 93 units of temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness for the first 5 years, then transition to permanent supportive housing in the 6th year.
 - **Redondo Beach Housing Initiative Court:** Joy Abaquin, Quality of Life City Prosecutor, Redondo Beach City Attorney's Office presented an overview of the city's Housing Initiative Court program. The Redondo Beach Housing Initiative Court Pilot Program was implemented as an alternative option designed for persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) that are in the court system, with a priority towards those individuals who suffer from chronic mental illness or substance abuse or are habitual offenders.
 - **Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court:** Staff presented on Governor Gavin Newsom's newly introduced framework to assist people with mental health and substance use disorders get the support and care they need, called the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court. The Proposal would utilize the court system to compel people in crisis into housing, treatment, and care, as an alternative to incarceration. The plan aims to serve those who are suffering from untreated mental health and substance use disorders. The committee approved a motion to recommend that the Governing Board support in concept the proposed Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program, with the appropriate levels of funding to effectively and fully implement the Program.

The next regular SGVCOG Homelessness Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

- **Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) Meeting:** On Wednesday, staff attended the final Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) meeting.

Commissioners approved the final draft Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Governance Report which provides a detailed overview of their actionable recommendations and key concerns for the homeless services system. Commissioners discussed the report and suggested edits, then voted to adopt the final draft of the report to submit to the Board of Supervisors. The final report can be found [here](#). To access the BRCH Governance Report and recordings from past meetings, you can visit the BRCH website [here](#).

- **Baldwin Park Award:** On Thursday, the City of Baldwin Park received a “Best of the Best” award from the California Parks Recreation Society (CPRS) District 13 for Esperanza Villa tiny homes. This project includes 25 units of interim housing developed in collaboration with the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust and SGVCOG. An awards ceremony was held at the Diamond Bar Center. The SGVRHT was represented by its Board Chair, Claremont Mayor, Jed Leano and the SGVCOG was represented by its President, Monrovia City Councilwoman, Becky Shevlin.
- **Durfee Ribbon Cutting:** The Grand Opening Ceremony for the Durfee Avenue Grade Separation in the City of Pico Rivera will be held on **Wednesday, May 25, 2022**, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. More information on the event will be forthcoming.

