

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of May 7, 2018

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held their monthly meeting. Discussion topics included a review of the SGVCOG's updated financial/accounting procedures manual, a draft 2018-19 capital projects budget, as well as an update on new legislative items. The Committee moved to approve the Governing Board agenda for the May 31 scheduled meeting.
- **Water Committee:** The Water Committee reviewed the latest draft of the Safe, Clean Water program and provided staff with comments. Staff is preparing a letter outlining where the SGVCOG disagrees with elements of the program. The other highlight of the meeting was a review of presentations that each E/WMP gave at a Regional Board MS4 workshop on May 10th.
- **LA Permit Group Meeting:** This group of LA area MS4 permittees met on Wednesday. The main topics were a review and discussion of the Safe, Clean Water program and sharing ideas for presentations to the Regional Board's MS4 workshop. There was a presentation on the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), an interest group with 1,600 members/agencies. The group works on stormwater policy at the state level.
- **LARWQCB Meeting:** The LA Regional Water Quality Control Board hosted an MS4 permit workshop. The workshop marks the kickoff of the crafting of the new MS4 permit. By hearing from permittees about what worked and what concerns they have about the current permit, the Board hopes to gain understanding of how best to craft the new permit. The Board invited 15 permittees/WMPs/EWMPs to give short presentations highlighting their accomplishments over the last five-year permit cycle.
- **Open Streets (Ciclovía) Grant Program:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff attended a workshop on Metro's Open Streets Program. The goals of the program are to encourage sustainable modes of transportation (biking, walking and transit), provide an opportunity to take transit for the first time, and provide an opportunity for civic engagement that can foster the development of a city's multi-modal policies through the temporary closure of streets to automobiles. The workshop covered the application process for the program, including highlights of new elements/requirements added for this cycle of funding. The workshop also provided the opportunity for organizations to share previously successful open streets events by sharing best practices and lessons learned. Applications are due online to Metro on June 8.
- **Consortium Meeting:** The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority conducted their SPA 3 quarterly meeting at the Consortium on Wednesday. In response to community requests, LAHSA is offering capacity building for nonprofits. PATH was present and offered to share resources to help SPA 3 providers to house their homeless clients. LAHSA will release an RFP for the winter shelter this year. The program will continue to offer shelter for 14 hrs. Daily. However, LAHSA is looking for new shelter locations that have capacity to stay open 24 hours during rain. The agency is also seeking new co-locations for outreach teams. One team will cover an area that will include So El Monte, West Covina, Alhambra up to Pasadena with the other to cover the Alhambra, Pasadena, and Monterey Park area. The Azusa police were represented at the meeting and provided an update on the work and successes of the HALO team. The COG provided an update on the Bus Tour and the progress of the city homeless plans.

- **Continuum of Care (COC) Meeting:** The SGVCOG participated in the LA COC Board meeting on Wednesday. New written standards were approved for Emergency Solutions Grants programs, which several cities in the San Gabriel Valley administer. The LAHSA finance department discussed spend-down on current HUD grants. The program administration department reviewed the program evaluation methodology. In anticipation of the 2019 NOFA, which is expected to be released after the end of May, discussions focused on priority rankings for current programs and the COC NOFA calendar.
- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the Transportation Committee met a week early for its May Committee meeting. First, representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation, The Trust for Public Land, and the Angeles National Forest presented on the U.S. DOT's Angeles National Forest Corridor Analyses. This analytical report studies multiple roads and access points into the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and identifies the opportunities and capacities for transit on those corridors. They also provided an update and data for the ridership of the Pasadena Transit "Transit to Trails" bus pilot project. The Committee also heard a presentation given by City of Monrovia staff whom discussed Monrovia's innovative new mobility program, "GoMonrovia." As the SGVCOG is currently working to implement bike share expansion throughout the SGV subregion, Monrovia provides an excellent case study for implementing and utilizing a dockless bike share technology to improve First-Last Mile and active transportation options for the City's residents. Moreover, the Committee considered AB 2417 (Rodriguez), which would add a sixth voting member, to be appointed by the City of Montclair, to the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority's Board of Directors. The Committee approved a motion to recommend that the Governing Board oppose AB 2417. This item will be on the Governing Board agenda on May 31. Additionally, SGVCOG staff provided a recap of the Metro Open Streets Cycle Three Applicant Workshop, and gave a short presentation on the guidelines and application of this grant program. SGVCOG staff also shared a brief update on the status of the SGV Bike Share Expansion.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of May 14, 2018

- **Capital Projects Committee:** The Committee met on Monday and approved the project definition report for the series of at-grade improvements at three railroad crossings in the City of Montebello. One aspect of the project is safety improvements, including installation of four-quad gates, to be constructed at Vail Avenue, Maple Avenue and Greenwood Avenue along with other improvements. The project is due to begin late 2019 and is expected to take approximately one year. The at-grade improvement project is one of three components of the Montebello projects. The Committee also approved an amendment to the design contract for the grade separation project at Montebello Blvd. The initial contract work authorized design to 35%. This approval will take the design to final design for a contract value of \$6,245,468. The Committee also authorized the Chief Engineer to negotiate an agreement for the sale of excess property that includes commercial units and a self-storage at 921 Fairway Drive, Walnut CA in the amount of \$16,025,000.
- **Joint Services Study:** Under the direction of the City Managers' Steering Committee, the SGVCOG is currently gathering a list of interested SGV cities to undertake a joint municipal service delivery study. The purpose of the study would be to explore and compare how individual cities in the San Gabriel Valley are performing across multiple municipal service areas. This would be modeled off the study recently completed by seven cities in the Gateway region (see link for reference). SGV City Managers have until May 31 to respond with interest via online survey. Please click the link to respond.
- **Grant Funding for ACE Project:** On Wednesday, the California Transportation Commission approved the award of \$78 million in grant funding for two ACE projects. The grant program will contribute \$49 million toward construction of a \$128.61 million roadway underpass on Montebello Boulevard in the City of Montebello and \$29 million toward an \$86.2 million roadway overpass on Turnbull Canyon Road in the City of Industry and unincorporated Los Angeles County. The Montebello crossing is the second most-hazardous freight rail crossing in Los Angeles County and the Turnbull Canyon crossing will see a near tripling of rail traffic over 20 years. Both projects are entering the final design phase with the construction phase anticipated to begin prior to summer 2020.
- **Board of Supervisors Measure H Funding Update:** On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$402-million spending plan for 2018-2019 for Measure H (homelessness) funds. This exceeds projected funding by \$47.172 M. It includes \$120 million for shelter and interim housing, \$73 million for rapid rehousing, \$49 million for permanent supportive housing, and \$30 million for outreach. It also includes funding to continue the COG regional coordinator positions, and earmarks funding for city implementation efforts. Funding for city implementation will be finalized in August, after city plans are completed and submitted to the County.
During discussions, the Supervisors suggested that consideration should be given to the number of voters by district who approved this funding. Concern for the aging homeless, Transition Aged Youth and the LGBTQ populations were expressed. Supervisors also recognized the distinction between the Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of homelessness, which governs the annual Point in Time Count, and the McKinney Vento homeless definition for families with school aged children. The Supervisors placed a value upon regional coordination and collaboration. Three of the five Supervisors

indicated support for setting aside Measure H dollars needed for cities to implement their homeless action plans. They are very interested in seeing best practices emulated in the funded programs.

Cruz Baca, City Council Member, Baldwin Park and Karen Herrera, Assistant City Manager of Duarte, and the SGVCOG addressed the Supervisors expressing appreciation for the funding for the cities' homeless plans and requesting that funds be reserved to support the funding recommendation in August. Claremont Council Member and Chair of the SGVCOG Homelessness Committee, Joe Lyons, submitted a written statement of support for the record. The City of Montebello attended the meeting. In all, sixteen city staff and supportive SGV residents represented the region.

- The SGV representatives also spoke in support of Supervisors Solis' and Barger's motion for an additional Homeless Engagement Team to conduct outreach on Saturdays and Sundays in the San Gabriel Valley. This motion, which the Board passed, instructed the CEO to report back to the Board in 30 days with an implementation plan to reserve a number of interim housing beds and/or motel vouchers for individuals engaged by the weekend homeless outreach teams.
- **EENR:** The EENR Committee received a presentation on Measure A, the "Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, and Beaches Measure." The presenter, reviewed the pending litigation, which contends that tax is non-uniform in its calculation, and clarified that cities can choose to draw down their funds from the measure. However, if the lawsuit prevails, cities will need to pay back those funds. If cities choose not to draw down their funds at this time they can do so when the lawsuit is resolved. Additionally, the Committee received a presentation on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation that aims to strengthen consumer protections.
- **SCAG Sustainable Communities Working Group:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff participated in the SCAG Sustainable Communities Working Group kickoff meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to support and provide feedback on development of SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. In particular, the Plan aims to identify achievable ways to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets of 19% by 2035, which are mandated by the California Air Resources Board. Various local jurisdictions participated in the Working Group meeting, to identify strategies that not only reduce GHG emissions, but also help the region adapt to a changing climate and improve the daily life of the Southern California region.
- **Community Outreach:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff conducted an energy efficiency workshop for residents at the Walnut Senior Center. The workshop focused on providing information on SCE's and SCG's Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) program, as well as included information on helpful energy efficiency tips and upgrades residents can perform. Workshop attendees were also shown demonstrations on proper insulation, sealing air gaps, energy efficient light bulbs, smart power strips, and other relevant items. If you're interested in scheduling a similar workshop in your community, please email Katie (kward@sgvcog.org).

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of May 14, 2018

- **Safe, Clean Water SAC:** On May 25th, the County released the latest draft of the Safe, Clean Water program. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee met on Wednesday of this week to review and comment on the changes. Unfortunately, most of the SGVCOG's recommendations on the earlier draft went unaddressed and, in fact municipalities lost ground in the areas of local control, focus of the program on MS4 compliance, project selection criteria, and added bureaucracy. The next steps are:
June 13th: County staff will send several sets of info to the BOS.
 1. Resolution calling for a vote and including the ballot language and key elements of the program that cannot be changed without another vote.
 2. Program Elements Document including key program elements. These are not subject to voter approval so could be changed by the BOS in the future.
 3. Implementation Ordinance. Memorializes the bulk of the program as guidelines that could be changed by the BOS in the future. The Implementation Ordinance would only go into effect if voters pass the Resolution.
- 4. June 26th: BOS will hear Public Comments and pass Resolution.
- **Homelessness Committee:** At the Committee meeting, Homeless Initiative staff provided an update on Measure H Implementation. The update outlined individuals served since October 2016. Since measure H was implemented, approximately 41,723 people have been served Countywide. The committee also received the updated County homeless numbers, and the Countywide homeless count numbers went down 5% to 53,195. This is the first decrease in nearly 4 years. Additionally, the Committee received a presentation from Metro on their Homelessness Outreach Teams. Metro has coordinated with service providers and various law enforcement agencies to help connect homeless individuals to housing and services. The Metro Outreach teams have begun to focus efforts within identified hotspots along the Gold Line. Over the next year a total of 8 teams will be deployed and they will conduct outreach 7 days a week throughout the day and night in shifts.
- **Executive Committee:** On Thursday, the Executive Committee held its June meeting as a special meeting. The Committee was provided updates on the 3rd Quarter Financial Report, #3 Budget Amendment and legislation. Also, the SGVCOG Treasurer Renee Graves of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP presented the Quarterly Treasurer Report for the period ending December 31, 2017. The report found no instances of concern regarding the quarterly reports prepared by ACE and COG are inaccurate or inadequate to meet the governance needs standards of the Executive Committee and Governing Board. Additionally, the Committee discussed implementing a strategic theme for the upcoming fiscal year, specifically, the theme of "Building Sustainable Solutions" was presented as a potential to consider. The Committee directed staff to further refine the theme and consider alternatives to present to the Governing Board.
- **New Finance Director:** On May 29th, the SGVCOG welcomed new Finance Director, Maritza Ramos. Maritza brings nearly 13 year of experience with her to the COG. She will take over the duties of recently retired Carlos Monroy. She will oversee and manage the accounting system, for the SGVCOG and ACE Project. We wish her great success in her

new role and we all look forward to working with her.

- **Homeless Count:** The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) released the 2018 Homeless Count data in a press release Thursday. Despite more people experiencing homelessness for the first time, there was an overall three percent decrease countywide with a total count of 53,195. However, the San Gabriel Valley count rose 5%, to 4,292, up from 4,094 in 2017. LAHSA attributed the new entries into homelessness to economic pressures. With over 4,000 individuals surveyed, a loss of income was cited as the primary reason for becoming homeless. This finding highlights the need for strategies that include workforce development, homelessness prevention, and increasing the availability of housing stock. Notably, LAHSA reported a discount in chronic homeless of 16% and veteran homelessness of 18%. More homeless youth were placed into housing than in previous years but the overall number of homeless youth remained flat. Data reports for communities should be available in a few weeks.



SGVCOG