

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of October 5, 2020

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Executive Committee held its monthly meeting. The SGVCOG Treasurer Renee Graves of CliftonLarsonAllen presented the Quarterly Treasurer Report for the period ending June 30, 2020. Additionally, the Committee received an update on the updated SGVCOG Purchasing and Procurement Policies and Procedures, which is the result of an effort to combine the existing SGVCOG and ACE Project procurement procedures. The Committee also discussed developing legislative goals related to housing to collaborate with Senator Rubio and other members of the SGV Legislative Caucus. The SGVCOG President (Margaret Clark, Rosemead), 1st Vice President (Becky Shevlin, Monrovia) and 2nd Vice President (Tim Hepburn, La Verne) volunteered for a small working group to develop these goals.
- **NextGen Bus Study Working Group:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff participated in Metro's NextGen Bus Study Working Group. The NextGen Bus Study was developed to implement a new competitive bus system in Los Angeles County that is frequent, reliable, and accessible. In 2018, Metro started the Study to reimagine the bus system to meet the needs of current and future riders. The Study yielded thousands of comments and input from members of the public, including local stakeholder groups, riders, and agencies. Based on the submitted comments, Metro plans to minimize discontinued segments, improve mid-day, evening, and weekend services, provide better service in equity-focused areas, and increase Metro's transit share of short-distance trips. The finalized NextGen Bus Plan is scheduled to be approved by the Metro Board of Directors later this month, and implementation of the NextGen Bus Plan will begin as early as December 2020. During the first phase of implementation, Metro aims to adjust trips to balance passenger loads, consolidate 8 Metro Rapid/Local services and create additional all-day frequent key corridors, and introduce Metro's new MicroTransit. Additional information regarding the NextGen Bus Study can be found [here](#).
- **LAHSA Working Group:** On Tuesday, the LAHSA Reform Working Group held its second meeting, expanding on problems with the current system and identifying specific examples that demonstrate the issues that the cities face. This section is the first of three parts of the white paper to be produced by the group, which is expected to be presented to the Homelessness Committee and City Managers' Steering Committee in December.
- **Homeless Committee:** On Wednesday, the Homelessness Committee met via Zoom. The Committee heard a presentation on Pallet Shelters, stand-alone "tiny home" style structures that can be constructed faster and more cheaply than other interim housing models, potentially making smaller scale programs more feasible. Rick Cole, the COG's Advisor on Housing and Homelessness and former City of Manager of the City of Ventura, also presented a case study on the City of Ventura's efforts to transition a large number of people experiencing homelessness living in a riverbed - which had a high risk of deadly flooding - into alternative housing without making any arrests. The case study highlighted the community-driven approach that brought together all stakeholders - including businesses, residents, churches, nonprofits, and the persons experiencing homelessness - to develop and implement a solution. This model could be replicated in San Gabriel Valley cities when handling similar concerns. A representative from Senator Susan Rubio's office also presented on SB 1212, which provides updates to the structure of the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust.

- **City Managers' Steering Committee:** On Wednesday, the City Managers' Steering Committee held its monthly meeting virtually via Zoom. The Committee received an update from Foothill Transit Executive Director Doran Barnes on COVID-19 response, ridership/service levels, transportation fund exchange, and the Foothill Transit Class Pass. Additionally, the Committee also received a comprehensive update on various SGVCOG projects/programs, including:
 - CalPERS Section 115 Trust Setup
 - San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust
 - SGVCOG Homelessness Programs (including cities' homeless plan implementation, pilot programs, and the hygiene program);
 - MS4 Permit Negotiations;
 - Upper LA River Watershed Management Group;
 - Regional Bike Share Program;
 - Regional VMT Analysis and Screening Tool;
 - SCAG REAP funding and other regional planning studies;
 - Neighborhood Coyote Program
- **Homeless Deputies Meeting:** On Thursday, the Board of Supervisors' Homelessness Policy Deputies held its bi-weekly call. The call focused primarily on the implementation of the winter shelter program. This program typically offers 14-hour overnight beds from December 1 – March 31, aiming to prevent life threatening exposure to inclement weather. Due to COVID-19, the majority of these shelters have remained open since last winter and have shifted to a 24-hour model to offer participants a dedicated bed in order to better isolate. Social distancing requirements have substantially reduced their capacity, so most sites are still mostly full. Plans are underway to add additional sites to ensure there is new capacity available in the colder months starting in November. There is also a need to replace sites which cannot accommodate this 24-hour model. Many churches that typically host winter shelters in the San Gabriel Valley are not able to accommodate the 24-hour model. LAHSA has been working to replace these sites, and Districts 1 and 5 both listed addressing this as a top priority. They directed LAHSA to issue a targeted request for information to identify property owners willing to host a winter shelter. Additionally, the call included a discussion on ensuring there were adequate resources to serve unsheltered homeless families.
- **Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff participated in the monthly meeting of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). The most notable item on the agenda was a discussion of the Tentative Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, which was released at the end of August. The Regional Board heard comments from various stakeholders, including representatives from public agencies and non-profits. SGVCOG staff commented on the high cost of compliance and the limited stormwater funding options available to municipalities. SGVCOG staff is currently working with a technical consultant and the Water Policy Committee and Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to participate in the negotiations for the MS4 Permit. The public comment period for the MS4 Permit was extended to December 7, 2020.
- **Governing Board Preview:** The SGVCOG Governing Board will hold its monthly meeting next Thursday, October 15 at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. Major Action items are summarized below:
 - **Authorize the Executive Director to Execute an Agreement with Metro to Undertake a Transit Feasibility Study for the San Gabriel Valley:** In 2019, Metro initiated the Supplemental/Recirculated Draft EIS/EIR for the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project, which included three LRT alternatives that would extend the Metro L (Gold) Line further east from the existing terminus station at

the Atlantic Station in the unincorporated area of East Los Angeles to eastern Los Angeles County. The project alternatives included the SR-60 Alternative, the Washington Alternative, and the Combined Alternative. Due to the design constraints, environmental impacts, outreach efforts, and consistency with updated Metro policies, the SR 60 Alternative and Combined Alternative were withdrawn from the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 environmental study. Instead, in May 2020, the Metro Board directed a motion to transfer funding to the SGVCOG for a transit feasibility study as part of the FY21 Metro budget. Staff is recommending authorizing the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement with Metro to undertake the study.

- **Updated SGVCOG Purchasing and Procurement Policies and Procedures:** As a component of the SGVCOG's integration with the ACE Project, staff has consolidated the Purchasing and Procurement Policies and Procedures. The significant changes of note include the following:
 - **Contract Authority:** The policies/procedures have been updated to clarify that the Executive Director is the only authorized SGVCOG staff member to approve and enter into contracts and contract modifications on behalf of the SGVCOG.
 - **Contract Cancellation:** Allows the Executive Director to cancel a contract without approval by the Board if the contract was executed by an employee not designated to execute such contracts.
 - **Prohibition of Bidder Working with SGVCOG:** A bidder may be prohibited from bidding on future contracts for, among other things, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes; embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property; lacking business integrity/business honesty; or any other cause so serious it substantially affects the contractor's present responsibility.
 - **Addition of a Revolving Door Prohibition:** restrictions for post-employment of SGVCOG employees to prevent the appearance of impropriety, an unfair competitive advantage to companies hiring former SGVCOG employees, and the potential to compromise the loyalty of the SGVCOG employees who may desire future employment with a SGVCOG contractor.
- **Employment Contract with Mark Christoffels:** The current Director of Capital Projects/Chief Engineer, Mark Christoffels, is set to retire on December 30, 2020. Recruitment for the next Director of Capital Projects commenced in late August, with a deadline for potential applicants to submit applications on October 5th. While recruitment/selection is expected to conclude by the end of the year, staff recommends hiring Mark Christoffels as a part time retired annuitant, to provide comprehensive training to the new staff and help transition his responsibilities as Chief Engineer. Under CalPERS guidelines, Mark may be hired as "extra help" to provide training and transition responsibilities, but his title/duties and pay rate must be in a current, Board adopted posted salary schedule. Therefore, staff recommends hiring Mark Christoffels as Extra Help. In his current position, as Chief Engineer he currently provides oversight of all elements of the SGVCOG's capital projects program that includes the three active construction projects, three in design nearly ready to begin construction, in addition to other responsibilities, so having his expertise and adequate time to provide training is crucial to the continued success of the capital projects program.

- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will also give a brief presentation and introduction of the District 7 City Ambassador Program presented by John Bulinski, District 7 Director of Caltrans. The meeting will conclude with recognition of former SGVCOG President Cynthia Sternquist and SGVCOG Board Member, John Fasana, as well as welcoming the newly elected/appointed Governing Board Officers.



SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of October 12, 2020

- **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the Water Policy Committee and Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) convened its monthly meeting via Zoom teleconference. The Water TAC voted to elect Alex Tachiki of the City of Monrovia as Chair and Tom Love of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District as Vice Chair of the Committee. The Committees spent the bulk of the meeting discussing the Tentative Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and key points of Permit negotiation with the LA County Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). The deadline for comments on the Tentative Permit was recently extended to December 7, 2020. The Committee also discussed the second proposed State Water Resources Control Board order on Watershed Management Programs (WMPs), especially focused on its potential impact on the Tentative Permit. The Committees also voted to recommend the Governing Board direct staff to work with the Water Policy Committee to submit a letter to the Regional Board reflecting the need to ensure that, in the adoption of the new MS4 Permit, Permittees are only required to complete a reasonable assurance analysis (RAA) once.
- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee held its October committee meeting via Zoom. The Committee elected San Gabriel Councilmember Jason Pu as the FY 2020-2021 Transportation Committee Chair and Claremont Councilmember Ed Reece as the FY 2020-2021 Transportation Committee Vice Chair. Metro representatives provided the first presentation of the meeting on Metro's proposed Fareless System Initiative. This proposal aims to reduce the transportation cost burden for all residents, increase ridership growth, serve essential workers, and contribute to Southern California's economic recovery. A task force was recently established to study and identify alternative funding sources to support the Fareless System Initiative and understand the correlation between free fare and the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the Metro bus and rail systems. Over the next few months, Metro staff will survey members of the public, meet with regional partners and stakeholders, and study costs and implementation considerations. Metro Senior Director of Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Tham Nguyen, provided the second presentation of the meeting on the Metro Traffic Reduction Study. This Study was launched to examine traffic reduction methods by managing roadway demand through congestion pricing and high-quality options. Throughout the course of this Study, Metro commits to a process that is defined by transparency, data-driven decision-making, and inclusive engagement to gather input and inform the design of a recommended pilot traffic reduction program. Ms. Nguyen also stated that engaging members of the public and a diverse range of stakeholders will continue to be a priority. At the anticipated conclusion of the Study in 2022, a traffic reduction pilot program that reduces traffic, enhances mobility, and improves public health and safety will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for consideration. Finally, Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority Chief Executive Officer, Habib Balian, provided an update on the Gold Line Extension Construction Project. Major construction of the project to extend Gold Line tracks from Glendora to Pomona began earlier this summer. Over the next six months, the Construction Authority will continue project design activities, implement brush clearing efforts, begin mid-block grading, drainage, and utilities in Glendora, San Dimas, and La Verne, and implement grade crossing improvements, and relocate seven freight bridge structures. The committee is expected to reconvene on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 2:00pm.

- **SEEC Webinar:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff participated on a webinar hosted by the Statewide Energy Efficiency (SEEC) Forum as a panelist to highlight the SGV SoCalREN Regional Partnership alongside other regional partners, including the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, High Sierra Energy Foundation, and San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization. The partners presented on how they are matching SoCalREN resources with the unique needs of their individual regions, including disadvantaged and rural communities. Specifically, discussion centered on the recent shift towards virtual services and how it can actually benefit these hard-to-reach communities. Over 40 local governments participated in the webinar. To learn more about the SEEC Forum visit the website: <https://californiaseec.org/2020-forum>.
- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee Meeting Schedule Updates:** The SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee has cancelled its October meeting and will be meeting on the third Mondays of the month in November and December due to holidays. Questions and inquiries regarding the committee's meeting schedule can be directed to SGVCOG Administrative Services Manager, Deanna Stanley, at dstanley@sgvcoq.org.
- **Governing Board Recap:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Governing Board held its monthly meeting via Zoom. A summary of major actions taken at the meeting are listed below:
 - **Authorize the Executive Director to Execute an Agreement with Metro to Undertake a Transit Feasibility Study for the San Gabriel Valley:** In 2019, Metro initiated the Supplemental/Recirculated Draft EIS/EIR for the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project, which included three Light Rail Transit (LRT) alternatives that would extend the Metro L (Gold) Line further east from the existing terminus station at the Atlantic Station in East Los Angeles to eastern Los Angeles County. The project alternatives included the SR-60 Alternative, the Washington Alternative, and a combination of both alternatives. Due to design constraints, environmental impacts, outreach efforts, and consistency with updated Metro policies, the SR-60 Alternative and the Combined Alternative were withdrawn from the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Environmental Study. Instead, the Metro Board of Directors directed a motion to transfer funding to the SGVCOG for a transit feasibility study as part of the FY21 Metro budget. Members of the Governing Board voted to authorize the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement with Metro to undertake the study.
 - **Updated SGVCOG Purchasing and Procurement Policies and Procedures:** As a component of the SGVCOG's integration with the ACE Project, SGVCOG staff has consolidated the Purchasing and Procurement Policies and Procedures. Members of the Governing Board voted to adopt Resolution 20-18 to update the SGVCOG Purchasing and Procurement Policies and Procedures. The significant changes of note include the following:
 - **Contract Authority:** The policies/procedures have been updated to clarify that the Executive Director is the only authorized SGVCOG staff member to approve and enter into contracts and contract modifications on behalf of the SGVCOG.
 - **Contract Cancellation:** Allows the Executive Director to cancel a contract without approval by the Board if the contract was executed by an employee not designated to execute such contracts.
 - **Prohibition of Bidder Working with SGVCOG:** A bidder may be prohibited from bidding on future contracts for, among other things, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes; embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property; lacking business integrity/business honesty; or

any other cause so serious it substantially affects the contractor's present responsibility.

- **Addition of a Revolving Door Prohibition:** Restrictions for post-employment of SGVCOG employees to prevent the appearance of impropriety, an unfair competitive advantage to companies hiring former SGVCOG employees, and the potential to compromise the loyalty of the SGVCOG employees who may desire future employment with a SGVCOG contractor.
- **Employment Contract with Mark Christoffels for Director of Capital Projects/Extra Help:** The current Director of Capital Projects/Chief Engineer, Mark Christoffels, is set to retire on December 30, 2020. Recruitment for the next Director of Capital Projects commenced in late August, with a deadline for potential applicants to submit applications on October 5th. While recruitment/selection is expected to conclude by the end of the year, it was recommended that hiring Mr. Christoffels as a part-time retired annuitant to provide comprehensive training to the new staff and help transition his responsibilities as Chief Engineer. Under CalPERS guidelines, Mr. Christoffels may be hired as “extra help” to provide training and transition responsibilities, but his title/duties and pay rate must be in a current, Board adopted posted salary schedule. In his current position as Chief Engineer, he currently provides oversight of all elements of the SGVCOG’s capital projects program that includes the three active construction projects, three in design nearly ready to begin construction, in addition to other responsibilities. Members of the Governing Board voted to adopt Resolution 20-19 for a 180-day wait period exception and approve an employment contract with Mr. Christoffels for Director of Capital Projects/Extra Help.
- **Caltrans District 7 City Ambassador Program Presentation:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7 Director, John Bulinski, provided a presentation on the District 7 City Ambassador Program. This program will provide opportunities for cities to further engage and communicate and coordinate transportation and infrastructure projects with Caltrans representatives. Questions regarding Caltrans projects can be directed to D7inquiries@dot.ca.gov.
- The meeting concluded with members of the Governing Board recognizing the achievements of former SGVCOG President Cynthia Sternquist and SGVCOG Board Member John Fasana. Additionally, members of the Governing Board welcomed the new FY 2020-2021 Executive Officers:
 - President: Margaret Clark
 - 1st Vice President: Becky Shevlin
 - 2nd Vice President: Tim Hepburn
 - 3rd Vice President: Ed Reece

The Governing Board is scheduled to reconvene on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 4:00pm.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of October 19, 2020

- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee convened via Zoom for its October meeting. SoCalGas Franchise, Fees, and Planning Manager, Geoffrey Danker, provided the first presentation of the meeting on franchised utilities and how they can effectively work with jurisdictions. Franchised utilities bear the responsibilities to secure permits to work in the public right-of-way, comply with all ordinances that are not in conflict with franchises, repair any damages to public properties, indemnify municipalities and their officials, relocate facilities at no cost for government projects, and follow local requirements and work standards. Local jurisdictions can restrict activities by adopting ordinances related construction, passing moratorium ordinances, and establishing permit fees; however, jurisdictions cannot pass laws that impair the obligation of contracts or substantially impairs rights under the franchise. Cities are encouraged to work with utilities to develop a balanced perspective that provides effective public policies benefiting all stakeholders and ratepayers. Metro Senior Director of Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Tham Nguyen, provided the second presentation of the meeting on the Metro Traffic Reduction Study. The Study was launched to examine traffic reduction methods by managing roadway demand through congestion pricing and high-quality transportation options. Metro aims to explore the possibility and feasibility of implementing a traffic reduction pilot program in Los Angeles County and identify willing local partners to collaborate on a potential pilot program, which will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors following its anticipated conclusion in 2022. Additionally, SGVCOG staff provided an update regarding upcoming SGVCOG RFPs and RFQs to committee members. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 12:00pm.
- **Napolitano Briefing:** On Tuesday, Mark Christoffels, Paul Hubler and I participated in a briefing meeting with Congresswoman Napolitano and the Gateway Cities COG. Mark provided updates on various capital projects, including the ACE Project and the 57/60 confluence project. I presented information on the SGV Regional Housing Trust and the COG's various homeless programs.
- **LAHSA Reform Working Group:** On Tuesday, the LAHSA Reform Working Group held its third meeting, finalizing language on problems with the current system and discussing potential solutions. The group will meet twice more before finishing its white paper, which is expected to be presented to the Homelessness Committee and City Managers' Steering Committee in December.
- **RHT Working Group:** On Wednesday, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) hosted a working group to discuss a potential pilot program for homeless housing. The proposed tiny home shelters represent an opportunity to address the emergency shelter needs of the San Gabriel Valley quickly and at a relatively low cost. SGVRHT would provide capital for the tiny homes and work with member cities and the County to ensure onsite service provision. The tiny home shelters are a smaller scale solution than a large emergency shelter. If your city may be interested in participating, please contact Brielle Acevedo, bacevedo@sgvrht.org. The Working Group also discussed Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds dedicated to SGVRHT for application towards member and affiliate dues. PLHA will be discussed at the November Board meeting. Staff proposes that 10% of a city's PLHA allocation to SGVRHT may be applied to member dues, up to 50% of the annual member dues and up to 100% of affiliate dues.

- EENR Committee:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee convened via Zoom for its October meeting. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Senior Civil Engineer, Christopher Sheppard, provided the first presentation of the meeting on the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Food Waste Reduction Report. The Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury investigated how the County of Los Angeles will reduce organic waste sent to landfills by 75% by 2025, given China's initiative to limit the allowable contamination levels in imported bales of recyclables and recent State organic waste laws. After conducting thorough investigations, the Civil Grand Jury discovered that only 4% of the County's organic waste recycling infrastructure can accept food waste and that the County faces a significant shortfall of food waste recycling facilities. Based on these findings, the Civil Grand Jury issued a report to recommend Los Angeles County jurisdictions to implement activities and programs to reduce food waste. Details of the report can be found in the 2019-2020 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report [here](#). RMC Project Development Analyst, Joseph Gonzalez, provided the second presentation of the meeting on RMC's Proposition 68 Call-for-Projects. RMC recently opened a second round of call-for-projects for Proposition 68 projects and over \$20 million will be made available for open space, watershed planning, flood protection, and riverfront greenways projects during this cycle. Grant applications for the second round of RMC Proposition 68 call-for-projects are due December 16, 2020. Additionally, MWD Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer, Deven Upadhyay, provided the third presentation of the meeting on the MWD Regional Recycled Water Program. MWD is currently partnering with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to develop a program that will purify wastewater to produce high-quality water that could be used again. Once completed, this program can become one of the largest advanced water treatment plants in the world. It is expected that this program will be fully operational as early as 2032. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 1:00pm.
- Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office City Summit:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff attended the Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office's (CSO) 2020 City Summit. Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Congressman Adam Schiff provided keynote remarks for attendees and encouraged cities to partner with the County to implement actions in the OurCounty Sustainability Plan. CSO staff also announced that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently declared sustainability to be a Board-directed priority and directed the CSO to annually develop sets of priorities to inform budget processes and align the County's legislative advocacy efforts with actions stated within the OurCounty Sustainability Plan. During the summit, SGVCOG staff participated in breakout groups to discuss Los Angeles County's climate risks and vulnerabilities with city staff and officials and provided recommendations for CSO staff to implement the "OurCounty" Plan.
- Planners' TAC:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee convened via Zoom for its October meeting. Metro Senior Manager of Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Ryan Wiggins, provided the first presentation of the meeting on the Metro Traffic Reduction Study. The Study was launched to explore the possibility of implementing a traffic reduction pilot program in Los Angeles County and identify willing local partners to collaborate on a potential pilot program. At the anticipated conclusion of the Study in 2022, a proposed traffic reduction pilot program will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for consideration. Personal Insurance Federal of California Legislative Advocate, Deanna LaTour-Jarquin, provided the second presentation of the meeting on telematics technology. Telematics technology, which uses data accessed through a driver's smartphone or ports located in vehicles, can measure behaviors such as braking, acceleration, speeding, and distraction. This technology can measure the drivers' actual

driving behavior as a factor in deciding the amounts they should contribute to their automobile insurance policies. Additionally, SGVCOG staff provided an update on San Gabriel Valley cities' progress in the 2020 Energy Champion Awards and congratulated cities that have reached the designated recognition levels. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 12:00pm.

- **Homeless Working Group:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Homeless Working Group met for its monthly meeting. The group heard a presentation on Pallet shelters, the tiny-home style interim housing option being considered for implementation. Union Station Homeless Services presented on its Shared Housing Navigation program, which will launch in the coming weeks, and their plan for managing the Prevention and Diversion programs for those cities that had requested that support. COG staff provided recommended guidelines for cities managing their own Prevention and Diversion programs, highlighted the importance of detailed reporting to securing and targeting future funding, and explained a new system for sharing resources.
- **Homeless Deputies' Meeting:** On Thursday, the Homelessness Policy Deputies discussed the process for developing Fiscal Year 2021-22 funding recommendations given the uncertainty of the pandemic. It was decided to repeat the process used this year, with the preliminary recommendations to be used from July – October 2021 and the final recommendations approved in September as more data is available. LAHSA highlighted the current uncertainty and the ongoing conversation with HUD surrounding the 2021 Homeless Count given likely decreased volunteer participation due to COVID-19. On winter shelter, LAHSA reported that no sites had yet been identified to replace the San Gabriel Valley sites which cannot accommodate the 24-hour model required by public health recommendations. However, one “augmented” site has been identified. This 37 bed facility in a County park in Altadena will be activated on a short-term basis when it is forecasted to rain or fall below 50 degrees for two consecutive days.
- **SGV Connect Podcast Episode 2: Energy Efficiency:** Earlier last month, the SGVCOG proudly launched a new podcast series that features Southern California and San Gabriel Valley leaders speaking on their unique stories and providing 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. The second episode, which was released earlier this week, focuses on discussing energy efficiency planning efforts with Los Angeles County Internal Services Department Environmental Initiatives Manager, Lujana Medina, and Statewide Energy Efficiency Best Practices Coordinator, Angie Hacker. The episode is available in both audio and video formats on the SGVCOG website [here](#).

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of October 26, 2020

- **MMASC Conference:** On Tuesday and Wednesday, SGVCOG staff led panels at the Municipal Management Association of Southern California (MMASC) Conference. On Tuesday, I participated in a panel discussion moderated by RHT Administrator Brielle Acevedo with SGV Regional Housing Trust Chair and Claremont Councilmember Jed Leano and SGV Regional Housing Trust Vice Chair and Monrovia Councilmember Becky Shevlin on the SGV Regional Housing Trust. The presentation and panel discussion showcased the region's efforts to establish the Regional Housing Trust and discussed best practices. On Wednesday, COG staff led a panel discussion with representatives from Gotcha, ActiveSGV, and the City of South El Monte discussing the roll-out of GoSGV, the region's regional bike share program that launched in July. That panel discussed the challenges of launching the bike share program during the pandemic, as well as opportunities moving forward.
- **Public Officials COVID-19 Briefing:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended a COVID-19 briefing for public officials held by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Director, Dr. Barbara Ferrer. Dr. Ferrer announced that Los Angeles County remains at Tier 1 in the State's ["Blueprint for A Safer Economy" Model](#) given that the County's cases remain above 7.0 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 individuals per day. The County also experienced the highest daily number of cases yesterday since August as 1,745 new cases were reported. Dr. Ferrer emphasized that actions that residents are taking today will impact case numbers over the next few weeks, as recent increases in celebratory sport events will likely lead to an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases over the next two weeks. Local jurisdictions are recommended to implement safer alternatives to Halloween celebrations, such as drive-in movie nights and trunk-or-treat events, to protect residents from being exposed to COVID-19. While trick-or-treats are not prohibited in Los Angeles County, they are strongly discouraged given that it can be very difficult to maintain proper social distancing on porches or at front doors. Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment, and haunted house attractions are strictly prohibited under the existing Health Orders. Residents and their households are allowed to gather with one or two other households as long as the gathering is outside, lasts no more than two hours, and everyone is wearing face coverings and stays at least six feet from non-household members. The County's guidance for celebrating Halloween and Dia de los Muertos can be found [here](#).
- **SCAG Roundtable Convening: Planning for Housing Production:** On Thursday, I participated in a SCAG Roundtable discussion on planning for housing production. The Roundtable featured presentations from other regions throughout the State on their planning efforts to support the production of housing and a discussion on opportunities and best practices in the Southern California region.
- **RMC Proposition 68 Call-for-Projects Announcement:** Proposition 68, known as the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act, was passed in 2018 to authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) was subsequently charged with the responsibility of administering Proposition 68 grants to the San Gabriel Valley region. RMC recently announced that the second round of Proposition 68 call-for-projects is open until December 16, 2020. Funds will be made available for

urban recreation, habitat protection, and restoration projects. Funding guidelines can be found on the RMC website [here](#).

- **Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee:** Metro recently created a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to work with Metro’s System Security and Law Enforcement, Office of Civil Rights & Inclusion, Office for Equity and Race, and the Executive Officer for Customer Experience to develop a community-based approach to public safety on the transit system. Applications for individuals that are interested in serving on the PSAC are open from now until November 13, 2020. Metro will also be hosting a PSAC information session on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00pm. Additional information regarding the information session and application can be found on the Metro website [here](#).
- **Upcoming LGP Energy Efficiency Webinar:** The SGVCOG is excited to partner with the Gateway Cities Energy Leader Partnership, the North Orange County Cities Energy Partnership, the Westside Cities Energy Partnership, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments to host “Game of Therms: Winter is Coming” on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 11:00am. This webinar will provide an overview of SoCalGas’ financing offerings and municipal energy efficiency projects. Interested individuals can register for the webinar [here](#).

