

**Executive/Administration Committee (EAC)**

**List of Public Comments**

Received after 5pm on Tuesday, February 1, 2022

	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Sender Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Agenda Item (AI #)</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>
1.	2/1/2022	Heather Vaikona/Agustin Arreola Leon	Life to Rise	AI #2 REAP 2.0 Application for Advance Funding	Urge SCAG to move towards implementation

---

**From:** Agustin Arreola <agustin@lifttorise.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 6:15 PM  
**To:** ePublic Comment Group  
**Cc:** Heather Vaikona; Ian Gabriel  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Action Item 2 on Executive/Administration Community  
**Attachments:** Public Comment for Action Item 2\_Executive Administration Committee\_LTR.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached a public comment on behalf of Lift to Rise in the form of a letter. We apologize for submitting it late, we had broadband issues.

Best,

**AGUSTIN ARREOLA LEON | Lift to Rise**

o 760-636-0420 (ext. 1301)

p 760-281-2528

[agustin@lifttorise.org](mailto:agustin@lifttorise.org)

73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100

Palm Desert, CA 92260

he/him/his

[Schedule a check-in with me here.](#)

February 2, 2022

Chair Clint Lorimore  
900 Wilshire Blvd Ste 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

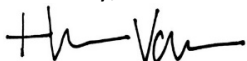
Vice Chair Jan C. Harnik  
900 Wilshire Blvd Ste 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Chair Lorimore and Vice Chair Harnik:

We write to offer public comment on Item 2 (REAP 2.0 Application for Advance Funding). The roughly \$25 million REAP award that SCAG is requesting financing for would only be duplicative of efforts carried out by the region. Instead, we urge SCAG to move towards implementation and simply:

1. SCAG should be using the \$25 million that was awarded under REAP 1.0 to move the projects and initiatives funded to implementation.
  - a. Many of the groups that were funded out of REAP are doing the community outreach and engagement already with a clear plan on how to move forward with tangible plans to see results.
  - b. The use of REAP 1.0 is referenced in the Connect SoCal Implementation Plan (page 169) to develop the regional framework referenced.
2. The proposed strategies toward implementation do not lead toward results but perform items that are duplicative of existing efforts that are carried out by cities or the State.
  - a. HCD already has a performance dashboard on how jurisdictions are doing in complying with their local housing elements.
  - b. HCD is taking aggressive looks at local jurisdictions housing elements on issues such as AFFH, proximity to amenities, etc. HCD is taking a closer look at how jurisdictions are actually moving projects towards production, and not simply numbers on a page.
3. The 8 staffers to be hired under this program takes needed funding away from jurisdictions and nonprofits that will carry the needed work of implementation. Jurisdictions across Southern California are struggling to fill existing staffing shortages, and this move will make it harder for these jurisdictions to fill these positions. We recommend that SCAG first look to the work that is already being done across jurisdictions and find ways to minimize the number of positions held at SCAG.

Sincerely,



Heather Vaikona,  
CEO & President, Lift to Rise