



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
February 2, 2022

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). A VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically), given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A). A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Clint Lorimore, President</b>	<i>Eastvale</i>	<b>District 4</b>
<b>Hon. Jan Harnik, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>		<b>RCTC</b>
<b>Hon. Carmen Ramirez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>		<b>Ventura County</b>
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David Pollock, Chair, EEC	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Sean Ashton, Chair, TC	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. Art Brown, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Kathryn Barger, President’s Appt.		Los Angeles County
Hon. Alan D. Wapner, Chair, LCMC		SBCTA
Hon. Peggy Huang, Vice Chair, LCMC		TCA
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Donald P. Wagner, President’s Appt.		Orange County
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Vice Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8

**Members Not Present**

<b>Hon. Rex Richardson, Imm. Past President</b>	<i>Long Beach</i>	<b>District 29</b>
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, President’s Appt.	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1

**Staff Present**



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Kome Ajise, Executive Director  
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer  
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer  
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer  
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning  
Carmen Fujimori, Human Resources Director  
Javiera Cartagena, Director of Government and Public Affairs  
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer  
Michael Houston, Chief Counsel, Director of Legal Services  
Jeffery Elder, Deputy Legal Counsel  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable Clint Lorimore called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. President Lorimore asked Regional Councilmember Larry McCallon, Highland, District 7, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Given the declared state of emergency (pursuant to State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020) and local public health directives imposing and recommending social distancing measures due to the threat of COVID-19, and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A), President Lorimore announced the meeting was being held both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically).

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period and outlined instructions for public comments. He noted this was the time for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda.

He reminded the public to submit comments via email to [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov). Board Counsel Ruben Duran acknowledged there were 334 written public comments received by email before the 5 p.m. deadline and 152 had been received after the 5 p.m. deadline yesterday.

The Clerk announced that the public comments received before the deadline were posted on the website. She also announced that comments received after the 5 p.m. deadline would be posted on the website and transmitted to members.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Lorimore closed the Public Comment Period.

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**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, noted that there were probably several speakers who wanted to speak on an item [No. 2] on the agenda and suggested taking the other items first.

Mr. Duran clarified that 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ramirez was suggesting that they consider Item No. 3 and the Consent Calendar first, followed by Item No. 2. He suggested that the EAC take Item No. 1 first.

Item No.s 1, 3 and the Consent Calendar were considered and acted upon first, followed by Item No. 2. The order of items is reflected below.

**ACTION ITEM****1. Findings to Continue Holding Virtual Regional Council and Committee Meetings under AB 361**

A MOTION was made (McCallon) that the Executive Administration Committee (EAC) (1) make the following findings required by Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) on the basis of the staff report, which is incorporated by this reference, that (i) a proclaimed state of emergency remains active in connection with the COVID-19 public health crisis, (ii) the EAC has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and (iii) state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing in relation to the COVID-19 public health crisis and, further, (2) authorize all legislative bodies of the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG), including the EAC, RC and all committees and task forces established by the RC or SCAG's Bylaws, to utilize remote teleconference meetings pursuant to and in compliance with Brown Act provisions contained in Government Code Section 54953(e). Motion was SECONDED (Marquez) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Robertson, Wagner, Wapner and Yokoyama (14)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

**3. SCAG-Sponsored Legislation**

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

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Seeing no public comment speakers, President Lorimore closed the Public Comment Period.

Javiera Cartagena, Director of Government and Public Affairs provided a brief introduction noting that at the Strategic Plan Planning Session last year, there was a great deal of interest among members of the Executive/Administration Committee and SCAG's leadership to sponsor a legislative bill in Sacramento. She indicated that President Lorimore tasked the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee (LCMC) with brainstorming ideas for a potential sponsor bill. She noted that at its December 21, 2021 meeting, the LCMC made a recommendation for a SCAG-sponsored legislative bill. She called on Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager to walk them through this item and give a more detailed presentation.

Mr. Gilhooley reported that during outreach to individual LCMC members, almost half of all the responses expressed support for a funding tool to help cities implement their local housing programs, and in consultation with the Committee Chair, staff developed five concepts for the LCMC to consider, which were presented at the December LCMC meeting. He indicated that the Committee members discussed, deliberated, and formally voted to recommend that the Regional Council approve moving forward with a first and second choice legislative idea: 1) an expansion of the existing Infill Infrastructure Grant program; and 2) The creation of an incentive for the production of Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) units at the local level. He briefly described both legislative ideas. He also noted that the LCMC recommended that the agency pursue a long-term legislative goal of serving as a leader and convener to modernize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Lastly, he stated that upon the approval of the LCMC's recommendation, staff, along with SCAG's lobbying team, would pursue opportunities relating to an expansion of the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program, and between now and then, SCAG staff, lobbyists, the Board officers and LCMC leadership would be conducting outreach to identify a bill sponsor and build a coalition to support the idea.

A detailed report is included in the agenda packet and is posted on the website.

A MOTION was made (Ramirez) that the EAC approve SCAG-Sponsored Legislation. Motion was SECONDED (Ashton) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Robertson, Wapner and Yokoyama (13)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Lorimore closed the Public Comment Period.

Approval Items

4. Minutes of the Regular Meeting – December 1, 2021
5. Resolution No. 22-639-1 Authorizing Acceptance of One-Time Funds from Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on Behalf of the California Energy Commission (CEC) in the Amount of \$600,048 to Support SCAG's Study of Supporting Infrastructure for Medium and Heavy Duty Zero Emission Trucks
6. Resolution No. 22-639-2 Authorizing Acceptance of One-Time Funds from the California Emerging Technology Fund to Support SCAG's Broadband Program
7. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: Contract No. 21-020-C01 Go Human Safety Strategies
8. Contract Amendment Greater Than 30% of the Contract's Original Value and \$75,000 or Greater: Contract No. 22-005-C01, Gartner IT Leaders
9. Inclusion of Project Budget in Requests for Proposals
10. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

11. Executive/Administration Committee Strategic Work Plan Progress Report Quarter Ending December 31, 2021
12. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999
13. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Robertson) to approve Consent Calendar, Items 4 through 10; Receive and File Item 11 through 13. Motion was SECONDED (Barger) and passed by the following votes:

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**AYES:** Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, Marquez, McCallon, Pollock, Ramirez, Robertson, Wagner, Wapner and Yokoyama (14)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

**ACTION ITEM**

2. Community Planning Voter Initiative

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

Julie Tomanpos, on behalf of the South Bay Association of Realtors, urged the EAC to oppose the Community Planning Initiative.

Rian Barrett, Pasadena Foothills Association of Realtors, stated that the economic and ethnic segregation will get worse if the Community Planning Voter Initiative is approved and asked the EAC to rethink this.

Jerard Wright, Government Affairs Director of Greater Los Angeles Realtors, expressed opposition of the initiative.

Henry Fung asked that SCAG staff address for the record whether they were recommending this initiative or whether they were just forwarding the Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee's recommendation. He also expressed opposition of the initiative.

Seeing no further public comment speakers, President Lorimore closed the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Cartagena provided a brief report and indicated that the LCMC was recommending support for the proposed voter initiative called Californians for Community Planning. She noted that the proposed initiative would amend the State's constitution to specify that local city and county land-use and zoning laws override state laws when they conflict. Additionally, that the proposed initiative did make some exceptions for coastal land-use regulations, power generating facilities, and development of water, communication, or transportation infrastructure projects. She further noted that proponents took the first step in initiating the initiative's process and submitted the draft text to the Attorney General on August 25, 2021 and that on November 1, 2021, the Attorney General issued the official title and summary. She stated that this set off the signature gathering process and proponents had 180 days to collect nearly 1 million signatures to appear on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 election. She mentioned that the LCMC received informational reports from SCAG staff at its September and November meetings and that during the last update,

Committee Members voted to forward a “support” recommendation on the proposed initiative to the Regional Council by a vote of 13 to two (2), with one (1) abstention. Lastly, she reported that the staff report included information on the discussion and subsequent action taken by the League of California Cities Board of Directors where they voted unanimously, with one (1) abstention, to take no position or remain neutral for the time being on the initiative.

A detailed report is included in the agenda packet and is posted on the website.

Regional Councilmember David Pollock, Moorpark, District 46, reported that at the LCMC meeting they had a robust discussion, but only heard from one of the proponents of this measure. He stated that they had also been discussing this at the League of California Cities, spent several hours reviewing it [the initiative], and made a recommendation to the Board of Directors to not take a position. He urged the EAC to also recommend a neutral position to the Regional Council.

Regional Councilmember Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County, stated that she wholeheartedly supported any initiative that was going to allow voters to decide the future of their communities. She expressed that she felt that the state had attempted to solve the housing crisis through a one size fits all approach and thought that was not going to work. She noted that the erosion of local land use authority was a huge concern for the cities and communities that she represented and stated they had to do their part to address the housing shortage and affordability crisis.

Regional Councilmember Peggy Huang, TCA, stated she was one of the proponents for this initiative. She indicated the initiative was about local control and was not anti-housing or NIMBY legislation. She indicated that this initiative gave cities the local control they want. She further stated that they needed to fight for the local control and for their community because one size fits all did not work. She noted that there was a lot of work that needed to be done to produce housing and urged them to join her in supporting this initiative.

Regional Councilmember Alan Wapner, SBCTA, stated this was not SB 9 and instead was a local control measure. He noted that one of the inherent problems of SB 9 was that there was no affordable housing element. He stated it was important that they maintain control locally and therefore was in support of the proposition.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ramirez stated she was concerned about this initiative and encouraged a no vote, or a backup position to remain neutral. She expressed that she thought there were some unintended consequences here. She stated she really liked the legislative work that staff had put together for them. She asked why they couldn’t engage their representatives across Southern California and get what they needed for local control, housing, and support. She stated it was unfortunate and they needed to do more work on that. She noted that she would not support this measure.

Regional Councilmember Donald Wagner, Orange County, stated that Sacramento had its chance and had proven that it was not receptive to the idea of local control. He noted that the government that governs best was the one that was closest to the people and that was what they were trying to get back into the hands of that local government with this initiative. With respect to the League of Cities, he stated it was great that they were working on another approach and thought it was to be applauded. He stated that when that initiative was before them, they could evaluate it, but what was before them was this current initiative. He stated this initiative was worth supporting.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jan Harnik, RCTC, stated they were just asking to do the right thing for their community and to protect the integrity and character of their neighborhoods. She indicated that she did not like to talk about local control and preferred to talk about local information, local understanding, and the best decisions for their communities. She expressed that she thought this was what it [the initiative] provided for them.

A MOTION was made (Wapner) to support the Community Planning Voter Initiative. Motion was SECONDED (Ashton) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Ashton, Barger, Brown, Harnik, Huang, Lorimore, McCallon, Robertson, Wagner, Wapner and Yokoyama (11)

**NOES:** Pollock and Ramirez (2)

**ABSTAIN:** Marquez (1)

#### **INFORMATION ITEM**

##### 14. Update on 2022 RC/EAC/Committee Meeting Options

President Lorimore opened the Public Comment Period.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Lorimore closed the Public Comment Period.

Mike Houston, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services, provided a brief update on staffs review of the meeting structure options per the discussion that was held at the November EAC meeting. He stated they were seeking input on how to conduct the February Regional Council and Joint Policy Committee meetings for next month.

A detailed report is included in the agenda packet and is posted on the website.



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Regional Councilmember Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, expressed support for a hybrid option so they can have the flexibility of adjusting accordingly.

Regional Councilmember Wapner stated he appreciated staff providing the numbers as far as seating configurations and noted that none of the seating configurations, utilizing social distancing, would allow for very much public participation, and thought that was important. He stated there were some lessons learned out of COVID and found that virtual meetings worked. He stated they had talked about sponsoring legislation to expand the Brown Act to encompass on present day technology. He indicated he could support hybrid meetings.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ramirez stated she agreed with Regional Councilmember Wapner but expressed concern for keeping staff safe if more people came in [to the office]. She stated she supported virtual and that they had the technology to continue doing the work they needed to do.

Regional Councilmember Sean Ashton, Downey, District 25, expressed concern over the exposure to the Omicron variant and echoed comments by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ramirez regarding staff safety. He stated he was okay with hybrid but would prefer just keeping it virtual for the upcoming meeting in February, at least until they knew where they were heading with the Omicron variant and for the safety of staff.

Regional Councilmember McCallon stated he was a great proponent of meeting in person and hopefully they would eventually get back to that. He expressed that a medium solution was hybrid and would support staying as a hybrid. He recommended that they not go back to just virtual meetings.

President Lorimore asked Mr. Houston if enough direction and feedback had been provided. Mr. Houston reasserted that there was a desire by some to offer a hybrid alternative and others felt that virtual format was beneficial to the public.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, stated they got the sense of the direction and would act accordingly.

President Lorimore reiterated they were doing hybrid and maintaining virtual as one of those options.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ramirez asked what the impact was from the local rules in Los Angeles County and the limitation on how many people could come to the meeting.

Regional Councilmember Barger stated that the city and county of Los Angeles did not have anything specific other than the masking requirement. She expressed that the hybrid format was the best way to go.

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Mr. Houston noted that public participation would remain virtual.

### **CFO REPORT**

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer reported they received the application for REAP 2021 grant funding and that staff was working on preparing to bring an additional \$246 million in funding to the region. She stated that Caltrans had approved budget amendment No. 2, which increased their total current year overall work program to \$135 million. She indicated work was underway for the preparation of budget amendment No. 3 and would be presented in April. She also reported that the fiscal year 2023 budget would be presented in March. Lastly, she noted that SCAG had collected nearly all outstanding membership dues and only two cities remain unpaid with just under \$8,000 of total dues remaining outstanding. She stated this brought them to 99.6% collected, which at this time last year they were only 73% collected and that was a huge improvement.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lorimore reported that the next EAC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Ajise expanded on Ms. Giraldo's report regarding REAP and stated that by February they expected to receive the guidelines of the program on how to spend the remaining 90% of the grant funds. He indicated that REAP 2.0 would be able to fund other activities like VMT reduction and SCS implementation. He also reported that in February they would be holding a meeting of the Joint Policy Committees and stated that the joint meeting would set the stage for the policy discussions that they would be having over the upcoming two years as they work to develop Connect SoCal 2024. He further stated that they were looking forward to hosting several guests for a panel discussion on the emerging trends and changing policy landscape in their region. Lastly, he provided an update on broadband, reminding the members that last year in February, they formally adopted a resolution pledging the digital divide. He noted that they joined forces with SANDAG to issue a request for qualifications for broadband partnerships to pursue funding opportunities.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Lorimore adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 4:17 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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