



Southern California Association of Governments
January 3, 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN 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). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Art Brown, President	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Sup. Curt Hagman, 1st Vice President		San Bernardino County
Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President	<i>RCTC</i>	Riverside
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair, CEHD	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Vice Chair, CEHD	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Luis Plancarte, Vice Chair, EEC		Imperial County
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC	<i>VCTC</i>	Ventura County
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President’s Appt.	Eastvale	District 4
Hon. Marshall Goodman, President’s Appt.	<i>La Palma</i>	District 18
Hon. Larry McCallon, President’s Appt.	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Tim McOsker, President’s Appt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice President	<i>Long Beach</i>	Los Angeles County
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26
Hon. Deborah Robertson, Chair, EEC	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Michael Maurer, Assistant Board Counsel
Jeffery Elder, Acting Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Art Brown called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. President Brown asked Immediate Past President Jan Harnik, RCTC, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Brown 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.

The Clerk of the Board acknowledged there no written public comments received before or after the deadline.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Amendments to the Regional Council Policy Manual

There were no public comments on Items 1.

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, reminded the EAC that President Brown convened an EAC special strategic working session in Buena Park earlier this year which included several items on the agenda. One was the consideration of the Regional Council Policy Manual (RCPM) amendments. He

explained there were no bylaws amendments last year; however, there were several updates to the RCPM that had been in the queue for some time now. He also reminded the members that they already provided input/direction on the updates at the EAC working session. He explained that they were planning on bringing these updates earlier in the year; however, one of the items regarding increasing stipends and how it relates to board members being treated as employees or 1099 was pending. He explained they received some information and were continually reviewing how they would move forward with this matter. Since they were still waiting on additional information, he explained that they did not want to delay bringing these updates forward any longer.

Richard Lam, Deputy Legal Counsel, provided an update on the RCPM items that were discussed at the EAC retreat. He explained there were four separate items that were considered and generally agreed upon, and that staff was given feedback on. He described the four items as follows:

- **Voting for No Confidence Votes:** He explained that currently the RCPM allows all council members to vote in a no confidence vote and that was inconsistent with their voting for district elections. He noted that the proposal would change it to five members, so cities with seven members would have to limit their number of votes to five which would create parity or make it fair;
- **Teleconferencing for District Elections:** He explained that one part of the RCPM states that it is allowed and another portion stated that it was not allowed. He clarified that they wanted to make it consistent and for it to state that it is not allowed unless the President specifically authorizes it;
- **Code of Conduct Complaint Process:** He explained that there was a placeholder in the RCPM and as good governance, they thought it would be prudent to fill that section and provide a concise yet very flexible process to address code of conduct violations; and
- **Stipends:** He explained that the feedback received was to increase the stipend amount per meeting to \$150. He also noted that now there would be a difference between a SCAG clerked meeting versus a non-SCAG clerked meeting. He clarified that the SCAG clerked meetings would be paid automatically upon the submission of attendance sheets, this way council members would not have to submit any type of requests for stipends and would be automatically paid after the meeting is attended. He further clarified that non-clerk meetings would require submission of a request for stipend and would be due within 45 days after the end of the month in which the meeting took place. He also noted that these meetings would be subject to a hard cap which is 12 for the President, nine for the Vice President, and six for regional council members.

Lastly, Mr. Lam explained that there was an addition that the RCPM or the stipend policy be reviewed every five years.

First Vice President Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County, shared that about a third of his committees were moving from 1099 to the W-2 employee status and asked if this issued changed their thought on stipends or if it made it more complicated.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, stated that this does not change the stipend issue itself and that they were just trying to figure out what the full ramifications of a W-2 environment was as they had been operating in a 1099 environment. He indicated they were considering other things that may be involved such as employment taxes or benefits, and as a result had done a first round of research with the attorneys and were doing another round with their employment attorneys so that they could do the transition right. He noted they were trending towards doing W-2's.

First Vice President Hagman expressed that he would be happy to move the item when they were ready.

Immediate Past President Jan Harnik, RCTC, expressed concern over having a mayor from a city appoint five council members to vote in the no confidence vote. She indicated that she couldn't help but question if this may create some issues. She noted that if they have a mayor appointing, they were dealing with a delegate issue, and that it was almost safer to draw straws to avoid a problem.

Mr. Chidsey shared that this issue was brought into the policy manual several years ago and indicated that Council Member McCallon was the one who raised the issue of some cities having more council members than others. He explained that in an effort to balance the election process it would be better to have an equal number of council members represented when voting for that district election. He clarified that when they made this change under the district elections in the RCPM back then it was not made to the no confidence process, and now this was just to make the language consistent between the district election of the official as well as the no confidence vote. He expressed that it was a valid point but that if they did make this suggested changed then they would also want to add it to be consistent with the election of members as well. He noted that most cities defer to the mayor to make appointments and that's why it was recommended at that time, and continued to recommend putting it in the hands of the mayor to identify who would be representing the city in those votes.

Regional Council Member Frank Yokoyama, Cerritos, RC District 23, stated he agreed with Immediate Past President Harnik's proposal and stated he would second the motion if she was making a motion to do the selection by random drawing. He also asked if under teleconferencing for district elections if they were referring to the SCAG President and not the President for the subregional organizations.

President Brown confirmed they were referring to the President of SCAG.

Regional Council Member Larry McCallon, Air District Representative, stated he also agreed with Immediate Past President Harnik and suggested having something to the effect of drawing straws, which would remove the subjectivity of the mayor out of the equation. He indicated he would support doing this across the board on district elections as well as no confidence votes.

President Brown expressed concern over how they would enforce this and asked if they could make this a rule.

Immediate Past President Harnik indicated that at least having the rule in place, people would have the tendency to go along with it.

Executive Director Ajise clarified that the proposal was to change both the no confidence vote and the district elections representative vote to a straw vote.

Mr. Chidsey suggested adding language to say randomly selected to provide some flexibility for the implementation of it with the understanding that it not be the mayor and that five council members be randomly selected. He expressed concern over the implementation of this as he thought it becomes challenging but understood the sentiment.

Regional Council Member McCallon suggested pulling names out of a hat.

Mr. Lam confirmed that he was clear on the language and would state randomly selected for both district elections and no confidence votes.

Michael Maurer, Assistant Board Counsel, clarified that there was a motion made by First Vice President Hagman before the suggested change.

First Vice President Hagman amended his motion to include the suggested change.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting audio is also available on the SCAG website.

A MOTION was made (Hagman) to approve staff recommendation, as amended, that the Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) consider and finalize the amendments to the Regional Council Policy Manual (Policy Manual) as presented in this report and recommend approval by the Regional Council (RC) at the January 4, 2024 meeting, and to add language under District Elections and No Confidence Votes that members would be randomly selected. Motion was SECONDED (Shapiro) and passed by the following votes:



AYES: Brown, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Lorimore, McCallon, Plancarte, Sandoval, Shapiro, and Yokoyama (11)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting – November 1, 2023
3. Contract Amendments \$150,000 or Greater: Contract No. 22-011-C01, On-Call Services: Strategic Plan and Organization Assessment
4. Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Guidelines
5. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

6. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Hagman) to approve the Consent Calendar Item 2 through 5; and Receive and File Item 6. Motion was SECONDED (Shapiro) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Brown, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Lorimore, McCallon, Plancarte, Shapiro, and Yokoyama (10)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that this past month they had done a lot of work on executing MOU agreements and preparing them for REAP 2.0 grant programs, specifically, working

on the CTC Partnership Program, the REAP 2.0 Subregional Partnership Program MOU's and the Civic Engagement Equity and Environmental Justice Program. She explained that together these programs would push out \$108 million in funding out to their region. She noted that while this is certainly a lot of work for SCAG, they do realize that the heavy lifting is really with their partner agencies who will be receiving these funds and implementing some truly transformative projects. She also reported that staff was also evaluating applications received under the RUSH Program, where an additional \$35 million would be awarded. Lastly, she reported that a lot of work had been done in preparing the fiscal year 2024-25 budget in addition to planning for their agency work post REAP.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Brown stated that he hoped people would join the 14th Annual Southern California Economic Summit at the Sheraton Grand in Downtown LA. He noted that this year's event would explore the economic potential in Connect SoCal 2024, SCAG's draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. He also reported that the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) – Los Angeles Chapter recognized SCAG's Executive Director Kome Ajise with the prestigious Honorable Ray LaHood Award which recognizes men in transportation who have exemplified the WTS mission by contributing to the advancement of women and minorities in the transportation sector. He informed members the next meetings of the Policy Committees and Regional Council were scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., respectively. He wished everyone happy holidays.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, provided an update on the Connect SoCal 2024 elected official briefings. He explained that the public comment period for the draft Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and the Connect SoCal 2024 Draft Program Environmental Impact Report was open through January 12, 2024. He also shared that SCAG hosted two public hearings, on December 4 and 5, and would hold a final hearing on December 8. He also reported that he represented California's four major metropolitan planning organizations last month at a local government roundtable hosted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the California Association of Governments. He shared that his remarks highlighted challenges and opportunities for the delivery of infrastructure and community planning goals. He also noted that he talked about their work to support local planning activities through Connect SoCal 2024, and specifically SCAG's Regional Early Action Planning program to support jurisdictions in meeting their housing allocation targets. He also congratulated the Finance Division for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for SCAG's annual comprehensive financial report for the 2022 fiscal year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Council Member McCallon wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

Regional Council Member Lucy Dunn, Business Representative, congratulated everyone who worked on the opening of the 405 freeway and express lanes in Orange County.

First Vice President Hagman congratulated Brightline West who received a \$3 billion grant from the Federal Government to build the high-speed rail from San Bernardino to Las Vegas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Brown adjourned the Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 3:30 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report

2022-23																Total M Attend To Da
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	31-May	29-Jun	30-Jun	JULY	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	
Hon. Art Brown, President, Chair	Buena Park	District 21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Curt Hagman, 1st Vice Chair		San Bernardino County	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Cindy Allen, 2nd Vice Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0						6
Hon. Jan Harnik, Chair, Imm. Past President		RCTC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Frank Yokoyama, Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Vice Chair, CEHD	Cerritos	District 44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Deborah Roberston, Chair, EEC	Rialto	District 8	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0						5
Hon. Luis Plancarte, Vice Chair, EEC		Imperial County	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						6
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	Pomona	District 38	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1						6
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC		VCTC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0						6
Hon. Jose Luis Solache, Vice Chair, LCMC	Lynwood	District 26	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0						5
Hon. Marshall Goodman, President's Appt.	La Palma	District 18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Clint Lorimore, President's Appt.	Eastvale	District 4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.		Air District Representative	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						6
Hon. Tim McOsker, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	District 62	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1						3
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0						4
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Ma	Business Representative	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						8

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Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2023-24 (Minutes of the Meeting - December 6, 2023)