



NO. 655
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

The Regional Council (RC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held a special meeting at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa, Sinatra Ballroom, 74-855 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Jan Harnik, President

Hon. Art Brown, 1st Vice President

Supervisor Curt Hagman, 2nd Vice President

Hon. Clint Lorimore, Imm. Past President

Supervisor Luis Plancarte

Supervisor Don Wagner

Supervisor Vianey Lopez

Hon. Maria Nava-Froelich

Hon. Brian Goodell

Hon. Mike T. Judge

Hon. Gil Rebollar

Hon. Kathleen Kelly

Hon. Linda Krupa

Hon. Zak Schwank

Hon. Frank Navarro

Hon. Deborah Robertson

Hon. Ray Marquez

Hon. Randall Putz

Hon. Wendy Bucknum

Hon. Lauren Kleiman

Hon. Marshall Goodman

Buena Park

Eastvale

Brawley

Palm Desert

Hemet

Temecula

Colton

Rialto

Chino Hills

Big Bear Lake

Mission Viejo

Newport Beach

La Palma

RCTC

District 21

San Bernardino County

District 4

Imperial County

Orange County

Ventura County

ICTC

OCTA

VCTC

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 5

District 6

District 8

District 10

District 11

District 13

District 15

District 18



Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. Claudia Frometa	<i>Downey</i>	District 25
Hon. José Luis Solache	<i>Lynwood</i>	District 26
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Cindy Allen	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Keith Eich	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Lauren Meister	<i>West Hollywood</i>	District 41
Hon. David J. Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Hon. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Traci Park	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Elizabeth Becerra	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Oscar Ortiz	<i>Indio</i>	District 66
Hon. Marsha McLean	<i>Santa Clarita</i>	District 67
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Supervisor Hilda Solis
 Supervisor Kathryn Barger
 Supervisor Karen Spiegel
 Hon. Alan Wapner
 Hon. Trish Kelley
 Hon. Larry McCallon
 Hon. L. Dennis Michael
 Hon. Sandy Rains
 Hon. Tammy Kim
 Hon. Leticia Clark
 Hon. Ashleigh Aitken
 Hon. Ray Hamada

Members Not Present

Highland
Rancho Cucamonga
Laguna Niguel
Irvine
Tustin
Anaheim
Bellflower

Members Not Present

Los Angeles County
 Los Angeles County
 Riverside County
 SBCTA
 TCA
 District 7
 District 9
 District 12
 District 14
 District 17
 District 19
 District 24



Hon. Rex Richardson	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Steve De Ruse	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	<i>Alhambra</i>	District 34
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Konstantine Anthony	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. Ken Mann	<i>Lancaster</i>	District 43
Hon. Eunisses Hernandez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 48
Hon. Paul Krekorian	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 49/Public Transit Rep.
Hon. Bob Blumenfield	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 50
Hon. Nithya Raman	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Katy Young Yaroslavsky	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 52
Hon. Monica Rodriguez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 54
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 55
Hon. Curren D. Price, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 56
Hon. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. John Lee	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 59
Hon. Hugo Soto-Martinez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 60
Hon. Kevin de León	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 61
Hon. Tim McOsker	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Casey McKeon	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Karen Bass	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.

Staff Present

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

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Harnik called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and asked Riverside County Auditor-Controller Ben Benoit to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Resolution No. 23-655-1 Approving the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Final Comprehensive Budget

There were no public comments speakers for Item No. 1.

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief update on the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Final Comprehensive Budget. She explained that on March 1st and 2nd, the EAC and Regional Council received a report on the comprehensive budget and the overall work program. She noted that staff was authorized to release the draft budget for public comment, which closed on April 3rd and that no public comments were received. She described that the budget totaled just under \$350.3 million which was an increase of \$1.37 million from the draft comprehensive budget approved by the Regional Council back in March. She further reported that Attachment 2 of the staff report provided detail of the change contributing to the overall increase. As discussed in the staff report, of the \$1.37 million increase, \$1.2 million was attributable to consultant budget carry over adjustments along with the associated partner agency match contributions. She noted that there were no other significant changes to the draft budget.

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

A MOTION was made (Hagman) that the Regional Council: 1) Adopt Resolution No. 23-655-1 approving the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY2023-24) Final Comprehensive Budget, subject to approval of the General Fund Budget and Membership Dues Assessment by the SCAG General Assembly; 2) Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit the FY 2023-24 Overall Work Program (OWP) to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA); and 3) Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit the FY24 Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) and the FY24 Fringe Benefits Cost Rate Proposal to the FTA. Motion was SECONDED (Saleh). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Allen, Becerra, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, M. Clark, Crosswhite, Eich, Finlay, Frometa, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kalmick, Kelly, Kleiman, Krupa, Lopez, Lorimore, Manos, Marquez, McLean, Meister, Nava, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Ortiz, Park, Plancarte, Putz, Rebollar, Rhodes, Robertson, Saleh, Schwank, Shapiro, Simonoff, Solache, Tye, and Yokoyama (43)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

2. Resolution No. 23-655-2 to Sign onto National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) Call to Action

There were no public comments speakers for Item No. 2.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, provided a brief update on the National Roadway Safety Strategy Call to Action. It was noted that for nearly a decade, SCAG had been a leader in promoting biking and active transportation in the region through their *Go Human* program. Additionally, the region was facing a traffic safety crisis – the number of traffic related deaths and serious injuries continued to threaten their communities. It was explained that to further elevate their work on safety at the national level and expand partnerships and collaboration, staff was asking the Regional Council for direction to reaffirm their commitment to roadway safety by signing onto the National Roadway Safety Strategy Call to Action. Doing so commits to work in alignment with U.S. DOT's Safe Systems, which was currently in place with SCAG's *Go Human* program.

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

A MOTION was made (Hagman) that the Regional Council approve Resolution No. 23-655-2 authorizing SCAG to sign onto the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) Call to Action. Motion was SECONDED (Frometa). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Allen, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Eich, Finlay, Frometa, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, Judge, Kalmick, Kelly, Kleiman, Krupa, Lopez, Lorimore, Manos, Marquez, McLean, Meister, Nava, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Ortiz, Park, Plancarte, Putz, Rebollar, Rhodes, Saleh, Schwank, Shapiro, Simonoff, Solache, Tye, and Yokoyama (39)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

3. 2023 SCAG Scholarship Program

There were no public comments speakers for Item No. 3.

Margaret Finlay, Scholarship Committee Chair, provided a brief update on the Scholarship program which the Regional Council approved in 2009 as a Scholarship Pilot Program to provide financial support to a select group of high school and community college students. Now in its thirteenth year, the program is open to high school seniors and community college students who reside in the six-county SCAG region. Students applying are required to have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and must be enrolled in higher education, if graduating. SCAG received a total of 71 applications from throughout the SCAG region: 11 from Imperial County; 25 from Los Angeles County; 22 from Orange County; 5 from Riverside County; 4 from San Bernardino County; and 4 from Ventura County. Chair Finlay thanked the Scholarship Committee which was comprised of thirteen (13) Regional Council members from throughout the region and two (2) members representing academia. Committee members reviewed the applications and made recommendations based on the interests described in their essay, career goals, and other activities in each student's respective school and surrounding community. Chair Finlay announced the nine (9) students recommended for the 2023 SCAG Scholarship Program and the two (2) additional scholarship awardee recipients which would be funded by the California Transportation Foundation.

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



A MOTION was made (McLean) that the Regional Council approve Scholarship Committee recommendations for the 2023 SCAG Scholarship Program Award. Motion was SECONDED (Solache). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Allen, Becerra, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, M. Clark, Crosswhite, Eich, Finlay, Frometa, Goodell, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kalmick, Kelly, Kleiman, Krupa, Lopez, Lorimore, Manos, Marquez, McLean, Meister, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Ortiz, Park, Plancarte, Rebollar, Rhodes, Robertson, Saleh, Schwank, Shapiro, Simonoff, Solache, Tye, Wagner, and Yokoyama (43)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

President Harnik reported that for Agenda Item No. 5, the May 2023 State and Federal Legislative Update, there were corrections to be made for the record as follows: 1) that the SCAG delegation met with Senator Monique Lemon – not with her staff as listed – in the report; and 2) the delegation met with staff to Assemblymembers Steve Bennett and Eloise Gomez-Reyes not the legislators as they unfortunately were stuck in Committee hearings.

Approval Items

4. Minutes of the Meeting – April 6, 2023

Receive and File

5. May 2023 State and Federal Legislative Update

6. Purchase Orders, Contracts and Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold

7. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Manos) to approve the Consent Calendar Item 4; Receive and File Items 5 through 7 with the corrections as noted above. Motion was SECONDED (Navarro). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: Allen, Becerra, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, M. Clark, Crosswhite, Eich, Frometa, Goodman, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, Hernandez, Judge, Kalmick, Kelly, Kleiman, Krupa, Lopez, Lorimore, Manos, Marquez, McLean, Meister, Nava, Nava-Froelich, Navarro, Ortiz, Park, Plancarte, Putz, Rebollar, Rhodes, Robertson, Saleh, Schwank, Shapiro, Simonoff, Solache, Tye, Wagner, and Yokoyama (43)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

President Harnik asked if there was any Public Comment on the remaining administrative items.

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

BUSINESS REPORT

Regional Council Member Lucy Dunn reported that the feds announced its 10 straight interest rate hike to continue an aggressive attempt to control inflation and that the business community continues to watch the regional banking industry. She indicated that real estate developers and other businesses were finding it harder and harder to get construction financing and equity, and that it was expected to get much worse with more and more banks failing. She indicated that in the housing market, new homes were taking a bigger share of sales because there was so little resale inventory, and that people with cheap mortgages didn't want to move up and get a relatively expensive mortgage. She also reported that failing to align climate change goals with housing goals, almost 5 million residents could be affected by increased insurance rates, effectively placing a moratorium on condo construction as well as increasing all housing costs. She indicated that there was a clear conflict between the state's fire prevention mask and housing mandates, especially in unincorporated areas, and that the insurance situation was coming to a crisis situation. She explained that insurance rates were skyrocketing, and many national insurers didn't want to do new insurance in California, because of state regulations and the failure of the Insurance Commissioner to look at reasonable rates. She also reported that in a new study by the Center for Jobs and Economy, the migration of high earners to other states accelerated in 2021 according to the IRS resulting in an estimated tax loss to California of \$2 billion, and this was a trend being watched by business. She also reported that members of GLUE Council joined President Harnik, LCMC members, and staff to advocate for Southern California priorities and for CEQA modernization. She reported that the next GLUE Council meeting was scheduled for May 22, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She thanked President Jan Harnik for her remarkable term of office and who handled many very tough issues.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Harnik provided an update on SCAG's annual Sacramento Summit which took place on April 17th and 18th. The summit included SCAG elected official from the region who discussed transportation, housing, and greenhouse gas reduction goals with more than 30 legislative offices and departments. Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon kicked off the summit with a powerful message on the importance of local governments. She provided a report on the Regional Utilities Supporting Housing (RUSH) Panel and Industry Forum which was hosted by SCAG on April 28 in partnership with PlaceWorks and the Urban Land Institute of Los Angeles. The forum brought together regional and national thought leaders to discuss recommendations for implementing the basic utility infrastructure needed for housing in the region: water, wastewater, stormwater management and electricity. Results of the forum will help guide the delivery of SCAG's RUSH grant program. She also reported that SCAG led a roundtable discussion with California Public Utilities Commissioner Darcie Houck on April 26 to discuss opportunities and challenges pertaining to bridging the digital divide in our region. She indicated that they were pleased to learn that the CPUC Commissioners were aware of the concerns and various challenges of local jurisdictions and were developing solutions to streamline the grant process. President Harnik also recognized the outgoing members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to SCAG. The following members were recognized, and each provided brief comments: Ben Benoit, Air District Representative; Fred Minagar, Laguna Niguel; Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita; Mike Posey, Huntington Beach; Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake; and Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro. Lastly, she reported that the next meeting of the Regional Council was scheduled for June 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Ajise reported there was currently three funding calls open for the REAP 2.0 Program. He explained that SCAG was granting \$108 million dollars to advance work to increase housing and improve transportation. He noted that calls would be closing later this month and they looked forward to working with them on their applications and projects. Lastly, he reported that SCAG was in the middle of updating their visionary plan for the future of the region, Connect SoCal - their 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. He indicated that this plan meets federal and state requirements for infrastructure and sustainable planning, and outlines strategies to help their communities thrive when it comes to mobility, housing, economy and the environment. He explained that they were currently in the development stage of this plan update and gathering input, and that SCAG was hosting public workshops and pop-up events throughout the region. He also indicated they had seven virtual workshops this month and a short survey on their website to share their input at ConnectSoCal.org.



FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Harnik adjourned the Regional Council meeting at 9:59 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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