



Southern California Association of Governments
Remote Participation Only
September 3, 2020

NO. 623
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020

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 of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting telephonically and electronically, given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Rex Richardson, President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Clint Lorimore, 1st Vice President	<i>Eastvale</i>	District 4
Hon. Jan Harnik, 2nd Vice President		RCTC
Hon. Bill Jahn, Imm. Past President	<i>Big Bear Lake</i>	District 11
Supervisor Luis Plancarte		Imperial County
Supervisor Don Wagner		Orange County
Supervisor Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Supervisor Linda Parks		Ventura County
Hon. James Predmore		ICTC
Hon. Miguel Pulido		OCTA
Hon. Alan D. Wapner		SBCTA
Hon. Peggy Huang		TCA
Hon. Ben Benoit		Air District Representative
Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker	<i>El Centro</i>	District 1
Hon. Kathleen Kelly	<i>Palm Desert</i>	District 2
Hon. Rey Santos	<i>Beaumont</i>	District 3
Hon. Zak Schwank	<i>Temecula</i>	District 5
Hon. Frank Navarro	<i>Colton</i>	District 6
Hon. Larry McCallon	<i>Highland</i>	District 7
Hon. Deborah Robertson	<i>Rialto</i>	District 8

OUR MISSION

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.

OUR VISION

Southern California’s Catalyst for a Brighter Future

OUR CORE VALUES

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous

Members Present - continued

Hon. L. Dennis Michael	<i>Rancho Cucamonga</i>	District 9
Hon. Ray Marquez	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Fred Minagar	<i>Laguna Niguel</i>	District 12
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Michael Carroll	<i>Irvine</i>	District 14
Hon. Steve Nagel	<i>Fountain Valley</i>	District 15
Hon. Phil Bacerra	<i>Santa Ana</i>	District 16
Hon. Charles Puckett	<i>Tustin</i>	District 17
Hon. Kim Nguyen	<i>Garden Grove</i>	District 18
Hon. Trevor O'Neil	<i>Anaheim</i>	District 19
Hon. Dean Grose	<i>Los Alamitos</i>	District 20
Hon. Art Brown	<i>Buena Park</i>	District 21
Hon. Marty Simonoff	<i>Brea</i>	District 22
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	<i>Cerritos</i>	District 23
Hon. Ray Hamada	<i>Bellflower</i>	District 24
Hon. Sean Ashton	<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. Jeannine Pearce	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Steve De Ruse	<i>La Mirada</i>	District 31
Hon. Steven Ly	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Jorge Marquez	<i>Covina</i>	District 33
Hon. Jack Hadjinian	<i>Montebello</i>	District 34
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Tim Sandoval	<i>Pomona</i>	District 38
Hon. James Gazeley	<i>Lomita</i>	District 39
Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells	<i>Culver City</i>	District 41
Hon. Paula Devine	<i>Glendale</i>	District 42
Hon. Steven Hofbauer	<i>Palmdale</i>	District 43
Hon. David Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Carmen Ramirez	<i>Oxnard</i>	District 45
Hon. David Pollock	<i>Moorpark</i>	District 46
Hon. Tim Holmgren	<i>Fillmore</i>	District 47
Hon. Joe Buscaino	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 62
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Lyn Semeta	<i>Huntington Beach</i>	District 64



Members Present - continued

Hon. Megan Beaman Jacinto	<i>Coachella</i>	District 66
Hon. Hector Pacheco	<i>San Fernando</i>	District 67
Hon. Rusty Bailey	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Mr. Randall Lewis	<i>Business Representative</i>	Ex-Officio Member

Members Not Present

Supervisor Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Supervisor Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Hon. Mike T. Judge		VCTC
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Hon. Jonathan Curtis	<i>La Cañada Flintridge</i>	District 36
Hon. Steve Tye	<i>Diamond Bar</i>	District 37
Hon. Drew Boyles	<i>El Segundo</i>	District 40
Hon. Gilbert Cedillo	<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. David Ryu	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 51
Hon. Paul Koretz	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 52
Hon. Nury Martinez	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 53
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. Herb Wesson, Jr.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Mike Bonin	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
Hon. John Lee	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 59
Hon. Mitch O'Farrell	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 60
Hon. Rita Ramirez	<i>Victorville</i>	District 65
Hon. Marisela Magana	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Eric Garcetti	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Dillon, Chief Strategy Officer
Justine Block, Acting Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel

Art Yoon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs
Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning
Basil Panas, Chief Financial Officer
Julie Loats, Chief Information Officer
Peter Waggoner, Office of Regional Council Support
Tess Rey-Chaput, Office of Regional Council Support

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Richardson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked First Vice President Clint Lorimore to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Richardson opened the Public Comment Period. President Richardson outlined instructions for public comments and announced that comments received before the 5 p.m. deadline on Wednesday, July 1 have been posted to SCAG's website and were transmitted to members.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that there were comments received after the deadline. Mr. Duran read two comments received after the deadline into record.

The first comment was received from Henry Fung, resident, regarding the importance of involving disadvantaged communities in the planning process.

The second comment was received from Richard Lambros, Southern California Leadership Council, regarding collaboration between the business community and SCAG staff to resolve issues and ensure the best possible Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

Staff confirmed that there were no other public comment speakers, and President Richardson closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentation on Racial and Social Justice and SCAG's Policy Statement

President Richardson introduced guest speaker Michael Lens, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs,

to provide a presentation on building racial equity, particularly in terms of housing. Professor Lens began by outlining the housing and homelessness crises in California, sharing statistics and explaining that homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color. He provided background on the history of segregation and redlining. He explained that segregation patterns persist due to land use regulations with exclusionary outcomes, and he elaborated on the byproducts of segregation. He exhibited a chart of homeownership rates by racial/ethnic group, demonstrating that black households are less likely to own their own homes or live in single-family homes. He stated that the failure to build new homes produces higher rents, leading to higher rent burdens, particularly for Black households.

Professor Lens described gentrification and its strong impact in Southern California, stating that Southern California is the only region where more residents live in areas that have experienced low-income displacement than low-income concentration. In hand, Los Angeles County lost over 120,000 Black residents from 1980 to 2014.

Professor Lens then outlined methods to counter the aforementioned issues. First, he recommended legalizing mid-sized multi-family housing in more places throughout cities and suburban areas. However, he stated that zoning reform alone is insufficient; subsidies and renter protection are also needed. He also posed that SCAG can implement an aggressive Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) policy through RHNA. He shared “An Anti-Racist Agenda for State and Local Housing Agencies” from the Poverty and Race Research Action Council. He closed by asking for reflection on actions undertaken in past periods of unrest to avoid repeating past mistakes, and he encouraged embracing diversity.

President Richardson provided remarks on SCAG’s role in addressing and confronting issues of racial equity.

Regional Councilmember Jorge Marquez, Covina, District 33, commented on disparities in housing and education based on race, and he affirmed SCAG’s duty to focus on inclusive planning and equity issues.

Regional Councilmember Steven Hofbauer, Palmdale, District 43, commented on the diversity of Antelope Valley and asked if there were relevant reports to this area specifically. Professor Lens clarified that information prepared for this meeting was limited by time and extent.

Regional Councilmember Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, District 45, commented on disparities in housing within Oxnard, which disproportionately impact farm workers. She spoke in favor of Resolution No. 20-623-2.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, commented on systemic racially discriminatory policies within Culver City and the region. She mentioned the work of the

Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE) as a resource for interested individuals.

Regional Councilmember Steven Manos, Lake Elsinore, District 63, commented on CEQA and its potential interface with race. To address racial inequity, he recommended reforming government-sponsored entities that handle mortgages and reducing limitations on developers.

Regional Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto, Coachella, District 66, commented in favor of considering the racial impact of policies not on intention but based on data provided by experts. She underlined the importance of jurisdictions working together in zoning and planning, as each city's decisions have impacts on residents in other cities.

Regional Councilmember Hector Pacheco, San Fernando, District 67, commented on Professor Lens' recommendation of legalizing multi-family housing in cities and suburbs, and he asked for examples of successful precedents for educational purposes. Professor Lens stated that there are limited examples of upzoning, but there are many instances of successful multi-family developments.

Regional Councilmember Trevor O'Neil, Anaheim, District 19, commented with concern about the Regional Council acting on the item as it is presented, considering SCAG's purview. He expressed disagreement with language, implications and availability of the Resolution No. 20-623-2.

Regional Councilmember Tim Holmgren, Fillmore, District 47, commented in agreement with Regional Councilmembers Manos and O'Neil. He stated that regulations and increases in density imposed undermine local control and may negatively affect populations that they are intended.

Regional Councilmember Jeannine Peace, Long Beach, District 30, commented that data should be used to determine whether systems are racist, and she provided statistics illustrating structural racism in certain land use policies. She discussed actions taken in Long Beach to address inequity, and she expressed support for Resolution No. 20-623-2.

Regional Councilmember José Luis Solache, Lynwood, District 26, made a comment which was inaudible due to connection issues.

Regional Councilmember Kim Nguyen, Garden Grove, District 18, thanked President Richardson for his championship of new initiatives and leadership within SCAG. She recounted her personal experience as a renter and explained barriers to home ownership faced by disadvantaged communities.

Supervisor Linda Parks, Ventura County, commented on SCAG's role as a planning agency and advocated for the analysis, discussion and pursuit of more equitable neighborhoods using SCAG's resources.

Regional Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, commented on Southern California's diversity and thanked President Richardson for his leadership in addressing equity issues at SCAG.

A MOTION was made (Sandoval) to adopt Resolution No. 20-623-2. Motion was SECONDED (Beaman Jacinto).

Board Counsel Ruben Duran clarified that, in accordance with the Brown Act, Resolution No. 20-623-2 was posted publicly and provided to Regional Councilmembers.

President Richardson expressed appreciation for the level of respect demonstrated by members in the discussion.

Regional Councilmember Frank Navarro, Colton, District 6, noted that he cannot locate a copy of Resolution No. 20-623-2. Board Counsel Ruben Duran specified the location.

Regional Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, commented on the importance of giving the public sufficient time to review relevant documents, and she expressed concern about the language of Resolution No. 20-623-2.

Regional Councilmember Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, District 1, commented that the report and Resolution No. 20-623-2 were distributed by email. Board Counsel Ruben Duran specified the location of the posting on SCAG's website.

The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

FOR: ASHTON, BAILEY, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BROWN, BUCKNUM, BUSCAINO, DE RUSE, DEVINE, FINLAY, GAZELEY, GROSE, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HOFBAUER, HUANG, JAHN, KELLY, LORIMORE, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MICHAEL, MINAGAR, NGUYEN, PACHECO, PARKS, PEARCE, PLANCARTE, PUCKETT, C. RAMIREZ, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, SAHLI-WELLS, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SEMETA, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (45)

AGAINST: HOLMGREN, LY, MANOS, MCCALLON, NAGEL, NAVARRO and O'NEIL (7)

ABSTAIN: NONE (0)

2. Call for Collaboration Partnership Program

President Richardson recognized Ben Winter of the California Community Foundation and briefly introduced the program.

Executive Director Kome Ajise provided a report on the Call for Collaboration Partnership Program. Mr. Ajise stated that the purpose of the program is to extend beyond traditional planning tools and impact communities that are usually underserved. To accomplish this, SCAG will involve community-based organizations (CBOs) to engage a wider range of stakeholders. SCAG will set aside \$1 million, matched one-for-one by donations from non-profit and private sectors, bringing communities into discussions on housing and furthering equity, justice and economic recovery.

A MOTION was made (Jahn) to adopt approve Resolution No. 20-623-1, to authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into an agreement with the California Community Foundation that would provide grant funding for the Call for Collaboration program. Motion was SECONDED (J. Marquez). The motion passed by the following votes:

FOR: ASHTON, BAILEY, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BROWN, BUCKNUM, BUSCAINO, DE RUSE, DEVINE, FINLAY, GAZELEY, GROSE, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HOFBAUER, HOLMGREN, HUANG, JAHN, KELLY, LORIMORE, LY, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MICHAEL, MINAGAR, NAGEL, NAVARRO, NGUYEN, PARKS, PEARCE, PLANCARTE, PUCKETT, C. RAMIREZ, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, SAHLI-WELLS, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SEMETA, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (50)

AGAINST: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: HUANG and O'NEIL (2)

3. 2020 SCAG Scholarship Program

President Richardson introduced Scholarship Committee Chair Cheryl Viegas-Walker to provide background on the program. Chair Viegas-Walker stated that the program began in 2009 for students throughout the region who are interested in studying urban planning and related fields. The scholarship consists of a \$4,000 award and a two-week internship. In 2020, 93 applications were received. Chair Viegas-Walker described the review process and recognized Scholarship Committee Members. Chair Viegas-Walker directed Regional Councilmembers to their agenda packets, which lists the slate of recommended recipients.

A MOTION was made (Viegas-Walker) to approve Scholarship Committee recommendations for the 2020 SCAG Scholarship Program. Motion was SECONDED (R. Marquez). The motion passed by the following votes:

FOR: ASHTON, BAILEY, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BUCKNUM, BUSCAINO, DEVINE, FINLAY, GAZELEY, GROSE, HAMADA, HARNIK, HENDERSON, HOFBAUER, HOLMGREN, JAHN, KELLY, LORIMORE, LY, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MICHAEL, MINAGAR, NAGEL, NAVARRO, NGUYEN, PARKS, PEARCE, PLANCARTE, PUCKETT, C. RAMIREZ, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, SAHLI-WELLS, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SEMETA, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, SOLACHE, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (48)

AGAINST: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: NONE (0)

Regional Councilmember Margaret Finlay, Duarte, District 35, commented on the application of one recipient whose application and personal triumph was particularly moving.

DISCUSSION ITEM

4. Connect SoCal Update

President Richardson opened public comment for Agenda Item No. 4.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated that there are public comment speakers who would like to address the Regional Council.

Andrew Henderson, Building Industry Association of Southern California, commented on the 120-day delay of Connect SoCal and the continued need to identify and quantify differences between the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and locally-approved general plans. He expressed concern about SCAG staff's use of Local Input, and he commented on Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ)-level figures provided by SCAG staff.

President Richardson and Executive Director Kome Ajise introduced Sarah Jepson, Director of Planning, to provide an update on Connect SoCal. Ms. Jepson announced that presentations have been made to Policy Committees earlier in the day, and a full report is included in the agenda packet. In May 2020, the Regional Council adopted Connect SoCal for federal conformity purposes only, ensuring that the transportation and infrastructure projects included in the plan remain eligible for federal funding. Ms. Jepson announced that SCAG has received confirmation from the federal government that Connect SoCal has met their provisions as defined under the Clean Air Act. In May 2020, the Regional Council also voted to postpone full adoption of Connect SoCal for up-to 120 days in order to provide time for staff to consider short- and long-term implications of COVID-

19 and to work with local authorities in identifying and restoring locally-approved entitlements.

Ms. Jepson reiterated that a report on outreach and analysis completed is included in the agenda packet. The findings confirm that policies, data and goals underlying the plan are sound. Ms. Jepson continued by explaining that SCAG staff has engaged with local jurisdictions to ensure that growth from entitlements and general plan capacities are properly reflected in modeling data. During this recent review period, 12 jurisdictions submitted feedback, and six jurisdictions, Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, Anaheim, Chino, Duarte and Malibu, requested modifications. The model will be re-run to incorporate these changes, and afterwards, SCAG staff will return to Policy Committees and Regional Council for approval. A final plan with technical corrections is intended to be presented at the following meeting of the Regional Council. Ms. Jepson outlined additional next steps for the plan, including submission to the California Air Resources Board for review. Ms. Jepson stated that plan adoption will allow the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) to move forward, as underlying data in the plan is used in RHNA Methodology. In closing, Ms. Jepson spoke to the Connect SoCal Implementation Plan, and she emphasized that Connect SoCal is a living document.

President Richardson thanked Ms. Jepson for her presentation and reviewed discussions that have occurred since May 2020.

Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, acknowledged outreach accomplished by SCAG staff during the ongoing pandemic. She expressed concern about the timeline for Connect SoCal adoption and its impact on cities' ability to adopt Housing Elements, and she urged timely action given the housing crisis affecting the region. Ms. Jepson acknowledged the urgency and noted tools and resources being provided to support cities with their Housing Elements prior to formal adoption of the plan. Mr. Ajise spoke about the timeline for Connect SoCal adoption and RHNA allocation.

Regional Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, Mission Viejo, District 13, thanked SCAG staff for their work on the update. She commented on Local Input and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

5. Minutes of the Meeting - May 7, 2020
 6. Contracts \$200,000 or Greater: 20-049-C01, Security Guard Services
 7. Contract Amendment Greater Than 30% of the Contract's Original Value: Contract 19-007-C01,
-

Transit Asset Management Target Setting

8. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

9. SCAG Request for Delay for Local Housing Element Updates

10. Highlights of the 31st Annual Demographic Workshop

11. Green Region Initiative - Sustainability Map Update

12. July State and Federal Legislative Update 13. Purchase Orders \$5,000 - \$199,999; Contracts \$25,000 - \$199,999 and Amendments \$5,000 - \$74,999

A MOTION was made (Jahn) to approve the Consent Calendar, Agenda Item Nos. 5-12. Motion was SECONDED (Ashton). The motion passed by the following votes:

FOR: ASHTON, BAILEY, BEAMAN JACINTO, BENOIT, BUCKNUM, BUSCAINO, DEVINE, GAZELEY, GROSE, HAMADA, HARNIK, HOFBAUER, HOLMGREN, HUANG, JAHN, KELLY, LORIMORE, LY, MANOS, J. MARQUEZ, R. MARQUEZ, MCCALLON, MICHAEL, MINAGAR, NAGEL, PEARCE, PLANCARTE, PUCKETT, C. RAMIREZ, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, SAHLI-WELLS, SALEH, SANDOVAL, SANTOS, SCHWANK, SEMETA, SHAPIRO, SIMONOFF, VIEGAS-WALKER, WAGNER, WAPNER and YOKOYAMA (43)

AGAINST: NONE (0)

ABSTAIN: NONE (0)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Richardson announced that he is approving the appointment of Regional Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City, District 41, to serve as the Primary Member to the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). He asked Emerging Technologies Committee (ETC) Members to inform staff if they wish to continue serving.

President Richardson acknowledged Clerk of the Board, Tess Rey-Chaput, and provided remarks regarding her retirement and recognized her dedicated service to SCAG. He presented her with a proclamation outlining her accomplishments. Regional Councilmembers congratulated Ms. Rey-Chaput.

BUSINESS REPORT

Mr. Randall Lewis provided a report detailing COVID-19's impact on real estate, businesses and cities. Mr. Lewis stated that the home market was greatly impacted in March, April and May; however, home sales have been strong near job centers over the past six weeks. He postulated that this is due to low interest rates and work-from-home needs. He noted that, while apartment occupancy is high, rent collection is falling.

In the retail sector, Mr. Lewis explained that grocery stores, home improvement retailers and drive-in dining establishments are performing well. Gymnasiums, movie theaters and restaurant chains are particularly challenged. The industrial market is thriving due to e-commerce.

Mr. Lewis explained that construction and real estate development trends are changing and considering re-designs to address implications of COVID-19 and ongoing needs of work-from-home. He noted that multigenerational living is of increased interest, and he has seen businesses re-designing and rationalizing their operations for efficiency. He remarked that businesses are being conservative with their capital and are keeping their assets liquid.

Mr. Lewis stated that healthcare and life sciences are growing industries, and he predicted that climate change mitigation will be an industry that will experience growth in the future. He provided advice to Regional Councilmembers that, given the size of the region and range of preferences, trends currently predicted may not hold true in all cases. In conclusion, he encouraged Regional Councilmembers to nurture strong businesses in their communities, and he recommended that they work to remove barriers to potential investment in their jurisdictions, as there may be heightened competition over investment dollars.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no Executive Director's Report provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S

There were no requests for future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENT/S

President Richardson announced that the next meeting of the Regional Council will be in September 2020.



ADJOURNMENT

President Richardson adjourned the Regional Council meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Peter Waggoner
Clerk to the Regional Council

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]