



Southern California Association of Governments
February 6, 2025

**NO. 669
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024**

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 regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Sup. Curt Hagman, President

Hon. Cindy Allen, 1st Vice President

Hon. Ray Marquez, 2nd Vice President

Hon. Art Brown, Imm. Past President

Sup. Luis Plancarte

Sup. Don Wagner

Sup. Karen Spiegel

Sup. Vianey Lopez

Michael Goodsell

Hon. Jan Harnik,

Hon. Trish Kelley

Hon. Mike T. Judge

Hon. Linda Krupa

Hon. Clint Lorimore

Hon. Damon L. Alexander

Hon. Acquanetta Warren

Hon. Rick Denison

Hon. John Gabbard

Hon. Wendy Bucknum

Hon. Jon Dumitru

Hon. Marshall Goodman

Hon. Carlos Leon

Long Beach

Chino Hills

Buena Park

Hemet

Eastvale

San Bernardino

Fontana

Yucca Valley

Dana Point

Mission Viejo

Orange

La Palma

Anaheim

San Bernardino County

District 30

District 10

District 21

Imperial County

Orange County

Riverside County

Ventura County

ICTC

RCTC

TCA

VCTC

District 3

District 4

District 7

District 8

District 11

District 12

District 13

District 17

District 18

District 19



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. Jeff Wood	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Hon. Mark E. Henderson	<i>Gardena</i>	District 28
Hon. Ali Saleh	<i>Bell</i>	District 27
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32
Hon. Gary Boyer	<i>Glendora</i>	District 33
Hon. Thomas Wong	<i>Monterey Park</i>	District 34
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. Nikki Perez	<i>Burbank</i>	District 42
Hon. Ken Mann	<i>Lancaster</i>	District 43
Hon. David J. Shapiro	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Laura Hernandez	<i>Port Hueneme</i>	District 45
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Steve Manos	<i>Lake Elsinore</i>	District 63
Hon. Steve Sanchez	<i>La Quinta</i>	District 66
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Marisela Nava	<i>Perris</i>	District 69
Hon. Larry McCallon		Air District Representative
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Brd.
Ms. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Sup. Kathryn Barger
 Sup. Hilda Solis
 Hon. Alan Wapner
 Hon. Gil Rebolgar
 Hon. Kathleen Kelly
 Hon. Zak Schwank
 Hon. Frank Navarro
 Hon. L. Dennis Michael
 Hon. Tammy Kim
 Hon. Lauren Kleiman
 Hon. Valerie Amezcua
 Hon. Claudia Frometa

Members Not Present

Brawley
Palm Desert
Temecula
Colton
Rancho Cucamonga
Irvine
Newport Beach
Santa Ana
Downey

Members Not Present

Los Angeles County
 Los Angeles County
 SBCTA
 District 1
 District 2
 District 5
 District 6
 District 9
 District 14
 District 15
 District 16
 District 25



Hon. Andrew Lara	<i>Pico Rivera</i>	District 31
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. Rocky Rhodes	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
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. Imelda Padilla	<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. Heather Hutt	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 57
Hon. Traci Park	<i>Los Angeles</i>	District 58
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. Karen Bass	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-at-Large

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
Carmen Flores, Chief Human Resources Officer
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel
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 Hagman called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. and asked Second Vice President Ray Marquez, Chino Hills, District 10, to lead the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Hagman opened the Public Comment Period for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there were no public comments before or after the 5:00 p.m. deadline.

Seeing no public comment speakers for items not listed on the agenda, President Hagman closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

CHAIR'S REPORT

David J. Shapiro, Community, Economy and Human Development Committee (CEHD) Chair, reported that at the CEHD Committee meeting they reviewed one information item, the REAP 1.0 Biannual Report which commemorates the conclusion of the REAP 1.0 grant. He noted that Ma'Ayn Johnson, SCAG's Housing Department Manager, and Mike Dietz, SCAG's Housing Planning Supervisor, provided an overview of the REAP 1.0 program and introduced a panel of four grant recipients that shared their insights on implementing this program. The panel included Joseph Dieguez, Senior Vice President at Kosmont Companies, who presented on Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District projects funded through REAP 1.0; Wells Lawson, Deputy Executive Officer of Joint Development at LA Metro, who gave an overview of the Partnership for Housing Acceleration program; Mairany Anaya, Multimodal Mobility Administrator with the San Bernardino County Council of Governments, who presented on their Subregional Partnership Program projects; and Melani Smith, Director of Regional Development at Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG), who presented on the formation of the Gateway Housing Trust Fund and other housing projects and tools.

There were no comments on the CEHD Chair report.

Luis Plancarte, Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) Chair, reported that at the EEC Committee meeting they heard three information items and also had a vice-chair election. He noted that their first item was a presentation from a UC Riverside professor that provided a summary of their recent white paper on electric grid readiness. He detailed how broad-based electrification would increase electricity demand, as well as the demand for upgraded infrastructure, and key

challenges that would need to be addressed in the coming years and decades. He also reported that they received an overview of SCAG's Regional Resilience Framework project, which would result in the production of a Toolkit to assist local jurisdictions in their efforts to plan for, implement, and fund resilience efforts. This resource is anticipated to be ready and available in Spring of 2025. He also noted that the third presentation was from a group that had put together a national database of model laws, ordinances, and additional information to inform jurisdictions as they pursue their own greenhouse gas reduction efforts. Lastly, he noted that the EEC meeting in the morning was his last meeting as EEC Chair. He indicated that Member Crosswhite was moving into the Chair position and was pleased to announce that Regional Council Member Lauren Meister, West Hollywood, District 41, would be coming in as Vice-Chair.

There were no comments on the EEC Chair report.

Mike Judge, Transportation Committee (TC) Vice Chair, reported that at the Transportation Committee they acted on one item. He noted that the committee recommended the approval of the Connect SoCal 2024 Sustainable Communities Program Active Transportation and Safety Project List and Contingency List. He also reported that the Committee received two presentations. He indicated that SCAG staff provided an update on the modeling and technical analysis efforts conducted as part of the Southern California Zero Emissions Truck Infrastructure Study (ZETI). He explained that the goal of the study was to support a phased blueprint and action plan for realizing a regional network of zero emission charging and fueling infrastructure while further understanding how the regions markets and business functions would be supported by the investments and transition to clean fuels. He reported that the second presentation was on SCAG's 2024 Go Human Program Outcomes. He explained that Go Human was an award-winning community engagement program with the goals of reducing traffic collisions and encouraging people to walk and bike more in the SCAG region. The SCAG Go Human Program has been an ongoing success for their member agency and stakeholder participants. He noted that due to its continued success the California State Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) had committed to funding the program on a re-occurring basis. He expressed that they looked forward to the continued growth and success of this program for their region and that the Transportation Committee continues to support the Regional Councils work around their planning goals and looked forward to the ongoing discussions around these programs and projects.

There were no comments on the TC Chair report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Public Comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – November 7, 2024
2. 2024 Sustainable Communities Program Active Transportation and Safety Recommended Projects
3. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

4. December 2024 State and Federal Legislative Update
5. Status Update on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidance for Evaluating Cumulative Impacts from Air Toxics
6. Purchase Orders, Contract and Amendments below Regional Council’s Approval Threshold
7. CFO Monthly Report

A MOTION was made (Brown) to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 3; and Receive and File Items 4 through 7. Motion was SECONDED (Manos) and passed by the following roll call votes.

AYES: Alexander, Allen, Boyer, Brown, Bucknum, Clark, Crosswhite, Denison, Dumitru, Eich, Gabbard, Goodman, Goodsell, Hagman, Harnik, Henderson, Judge, J. Kalmick, Kelley, Krupa, Leon, Lock Dawson, Lopez, Lorimore, Mann, Manos, Marquez, Masiel, McCallon, Meister, Perez, Plancarte, Saleh, Saro, Shapiro, Simonoff, Spiegel, Tye, Wagner, Wong, Wood, and Yokoyama (42)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

President Hagman acknowledged outgoing members Luis Plancarte, Gary Boyer, Marshall Goodman, Damian Alexander and Immediate Past President Art Brown.

INFORMATION ITEM

8. Southern California Economic Update

President Hagman noted that each year at the Economic Summit, SCAG releases a comprehensive report on the state of the regional economy, created in partnership with a team of economic

experts. He explained that this year, due to scheduling conflicts with multiple holidays during 2024-25, the “2024 Southern California Economic Update” would be presented during the Regional Council meeting. He also indicated that that the presentation would be followed by an in-depth discussion on the state of the economy among Regional Council members.

There were no Public Comments on Item 8.

President Hagman thanked SCAG’s in-house Economic Analysis Team within the Demographics and Growth Vision Business Unit and introduced Kate Gordon, CEO of California Forward, who was invited to moderate the panel presentation and discussion.

Ms. Gordon explained that the analysis included a detailed economic outlook for the region and highlighted that the rebound and growth in sectors such as goods movement, healthcare, and tourism would drive the economy in the coming year. She also noted that SCAG, in collaboration with the team of expert economists, had put together the 2024 Southern California Economic Update report which included a review of the region and its counties in 2024 and an outlook for 2025. She also indicated that SCAG’s economist had also provided short essays on sustainable and equitable economic growth. Ms. Gordon introduced Mark Schniepp, Director of California Economic Forecast, to provide an overview of the regional economy.

Mr. Schniepp discussed the economic performance of the SCAG region in 2024, highlighting above trend growth and a significant increase in job creation, particularly in healthcare, leisure, hospitality, and construction. However, he noted that the tech sector and Hollywood jobs had not yet recovered from layoffs and strikes. He also noted the resurgence of international trade through ports and the growth of tourism. He shared that the largest driver of growth was new development, with numerous large projects underway, including the Brightline West High-Speed Rail, World Logistics Center, and Serrano Commerce Center. He indicated that despite a slight decrease in new housing due to high interest rates, SCAG anticipated a recovery in 2025 and 2026, with many new housing projects already approved or underway. He also provided a quick outlook for 2025 indicating no national recession and that the overhang from the pandemic was fading. He also noted growth in the region would continue in several sectors, and that housing construction and sales would rebound as interest rates got better.

Michael Bracken, Managing Partner and Chief Economist of the Development Management Group Incorporated, provided an overview of Imperial County. Mr. Bracken discussed the importance of Imperial County to the agricultural industry and the potential for significant economic growth from geothermal and lithium extraction facilities.

Shannon Sedgwick, Senior Director of the Institute for Applied Economics for the LA County Economic Development Corporation, provided an overview of Los Angeles County's economic

trends and outlook, and highlighted the challenges of economic inequality, high business costs, and housing affordability. She also discussed the resilience of the labor market, the growth of key sectors such as healthcare and advanced manufacturing, and the need for targeted workforce development and policies to support job creation and upskilling. She also discussed the need for innovation and collaboration to drive sustainable growth and job creation in the region.

Wallace Walrod, Chief Economic Advisor for the Orange County Business Council, discussed the economic performance of Orange County. He highlighted that the county has the lowest unemployment rate, highest median household income, and lowest poverty rate among other counties. However, he also pointed out the issue of workforce housing, with the average median sales price being \$1.4 million and the entry-level housing price being \$1.1 million, which is unaffordable for many residents. He also mentioned several major projects worth \$13 billion dollars that are expected to boost the economy.

Manfred Kyle, the Chief Economist of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership and Claremont McKenna College, provided an overview of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. He noted that the Inland Empire was the 12th largest metropolitan statistical area in the United States and that 20% of its labor force commutes to Los Angeles County. He also mentioned that the Inland Empire has done relatively well in terms of job growth, but the logistics sector has experienced some adjustments. He discussed the outlook for 2025, noting that potential threats to logistics would not occur until 2026. He also highlighted the importance of a cost-benefit analysis for the logistics sector, emphasizing the need to consider both environmental issues and employment benefits.

Mr. Schniepp provided an overview of Ventura County, noting its struggle to keep up with economic growth in other counties but maintaining pace in 2024. He reported that cargo value through the Port of Hueneme was at record levels. He noted that agriculture was a \$2.2 billion industry, and that Ventura County was responsible for the second largest strawberry crop in California. He noted Ventura County continued to struggle because the population has been in decline for about the past 7 years. However, he shared that they were getting more new housing development and perhaps that would stop the outflow. He also noted that because they did not have diverse organic business growth, job creation was going to be limited in 2025. He also shared that high housing costs, coupled with limited job opportunities, were primary factors driving out the population.

David Roland Holst, from Berkeley Economic Advising and Research, presented a report on sustainability in the SCAG economy, emphasizing the need for inclusive and effective education systems and the implementation of minimum wages to address inequality. He also addressed concerns about companies leaving California, stating that the state remains an attractive destination for investors due to its productivity, technology, and innovation. Lastly, the slowing of population growth in California was discussed, with the suggestion that investing in skills and

productivity could drive economic growth without the need for population increase. He also discussed the challenges of housing affordability in California.

Beth Tamayose, Research Director for the University of California, Riverside School of Public Policy, provided an overview on equity in the SCAG economy, with a particular emphasis on the equity issues surrounding the construction of housing on the urban fringes. She discussed the difficulty of securing insurance for housing, the disproportionate impact of disasters on historically disadvantaged communities, and the need for equitable balancing of resident safety and housing availability.

Ms. Gordon asked a series of questions from the panelist after their county presentations. The potential disruption of federal funds for infrastructure and the impact of tariffs on manufacturing and supply chain growth were also discussed. The panelists agreed that there was a convergence of interest between Washington and Sacramento on the use of natural resources to propel the economy. The discussion revolved around the potential for manufacturing growth, particularly in high tech sectors, and the balance of services. The growth in aerospace and technology sectors, and the need for a balancing act due to criticism about wages in these roles was highlighted. The impact of potential tariffs on trade from Asia, particularly China, was also discussed, noting that some sectors like oil production might not be as affected. Growth in healthcare and manufacturing sectors in Orange County was also mentioned. The importance of innovation and venture capital in California was emphasized, with a focus on AI processes driving the technology sector. The potential for more broad-based participation in the labor market was also discussed, with an emphasis on tech jobs and logistics jobs. The concept of near shoring in Mexico was introduced as a way to bring supply chains closer to the U.S. without being there. The conversation also focused on the economic impacts of climate change on California, particularly in terms of insurance, infrastructure, and affordability. The increasing vulnerability of California to weather events and the significant role of the insurance sector in warning about climate risks was discussed. The group highlighted the wealth effect of homeowners losing access to insurance due to climate-related risks. Equity perspective was emphasized and the impact of extreme heat on low-income workers and the economic consequences of wildfires was noted. The group also discussed the rising costs of electricity, gas, and insurance, which are exacerbating the affordability crisis in the region. There was also discussion on the increasing cost of repairs due to climate change, which is a significant factor in insurance price increases.

The panelist engaged in discussions with the Regional Council regarding immigration and the transition from COVID times to returning to the workforce. The panelists agreed that immigration policy would not significantly impact the economy. The transition to remote work was seen as industry-specific, with tech companies unlikely to return to a 5-day workweek. The panelists also discussed the high construction costs in California, attributing it to increased labor and

transportation costs, as well as CEQA costs. There was discussion on the challenges of obtaining insurance for affordable housing, which was identified as a significant driver for housing costs.

President Hagman thanked the panelist for their presentations.

9. Federal Elections Update

Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer, reported that SCAG had invited their Federal lobbyist, Holland & Knight, to provide a broad overview of the Federal election results, and to discuss what impacts they might expect. She introduced Tom Davis, a partner at Holland & Knight, Leslie Pollner and Lori Hettinger, Senior Policy Advisors at Holland & Knight.

Mr. Davis provided a 2024 Federal election overview of the presidential, senate and house outcomes. He also highlighted the divided government and the challenges it presents, including budget deficits and the expiration of the Trump tax cuts.

Ms. Pollner briefly provided an update on spending cuts for fiscal years 25 and 26. She also noted that the debt ceiling expires in January 2025 and that they were expecting two budget reconciliation packages, with the first package focusing on boarder security and the second package on tax cuts.

Ms. Hettinger discussed the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization and the potential changes in priorities and funding.

Ms. Pollner noted the importance to advocate for SCAG's priorities in the new administration and highlighted key cabinet nominations. She also reported that there was over \$90 billion dollars remaining in the bipartisan infrastructure law for funding. She briefly provided an overview of the Trump administration impacts on transportation and noted that there was an emphasis on American manufacturing and jobs created, public private partnerships, and innovative transportation technology and financing, including P3's. She also expressed that she thought they were going to have to play some defense on some of the key housing programs that mattered because there was going to be a lot of pressure to cut.

Ms. Hettinger noted that with respect to the Trump administration impacts on energy/environment, President Trump and several republican house members and senators had said that they were going to utilize unspent funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to pay for reconciliation. She also noted that under the Trump administration they were probably going to see a smaller budget request for EPA and that there could be some cuts to the clean air programs and environmental justice.

There were no Public Comments on Item 9.

BUSINESS REPORT

A presentation on the business report was not provided.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Hagman reported that the General Assembly was coming up and members interested in leadership positions should submit their name to the Clerk by January 21, 2025. He also noted that members should submit their name if they were interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee.

He wished everyone a wonderful holiday and Christmas season.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

There was no Executive Director’s report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Hagman adjourned the meeting of the Regional Council at 2:00 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL]

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