

20th Anniversary Special Edition



Valley Voice

The Pulse of the San Gabriel Valley



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Over the last two decades, the SGVCOG has served as a unifying voice for the San Gabriel Valley and the nearly 2 million residents who live here. When the doors opened, we were charged with preserving the local control, community pride, and independence that had been created with the incorporation of the cities that comprised the SGVCOG while addressing the diffusion of power that had made it difficult for the region to effectively advocate for resources.

The SGVCOG was the “first of its kind,” providing an innovative model to overcome regional hurdles that could only be adequately addressed by the 31 cities, unincorporated communities, and water districts working together to send a unified message. This successful model evolved into public-private partnerships where government, academia, and the corporate community could partner to maintain the quality of life and prosperity of the region and protect local control and self-determination while exploring innovative solutions to the region’s challenges. From the beginning, we committed to sharing what was learned. As part of our 20th anniversary celebration, we highlight some of these lessons and how our work has made a difference in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond.

We also include a birds-eye view of the impact of our work and the work of our member agencies. Over the past 20 years, we’ve completed numerous projects that

have directly advanced the region. These projects and accomplishments matter certainly, but at the root of this record is the extensive network of colleagues who have partnered with us on our founding principle — to work collaboratively on projects of regional significance and forge a consensus in addressing issues that impact the Valley’s cities and unincorporated areas.

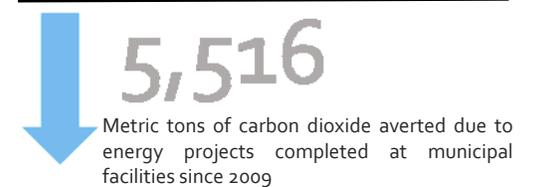
One of the most satisfying legacies of the SGVCOG’s first 20 years is our network of member agencies and partners; they are an integral part of the SGVCOG’s story. Their vision and determination have made the SGVCOG a wonderful success for all involved. Our work over the past year and our agenda going forward will continue to focus on collaboration, building consensus and serving as a unified voice to maximize resources, achieve sustainable solutions, and advocate for regional and member interests to improve the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley.

We look forward to 20 more years of work grounded in the view that the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments will be recognized as a leader in advocating for and achieving sustainable solutions for transportation, housing, economic development, economic growth, and the environment.

Andrea Miller
Executive Director

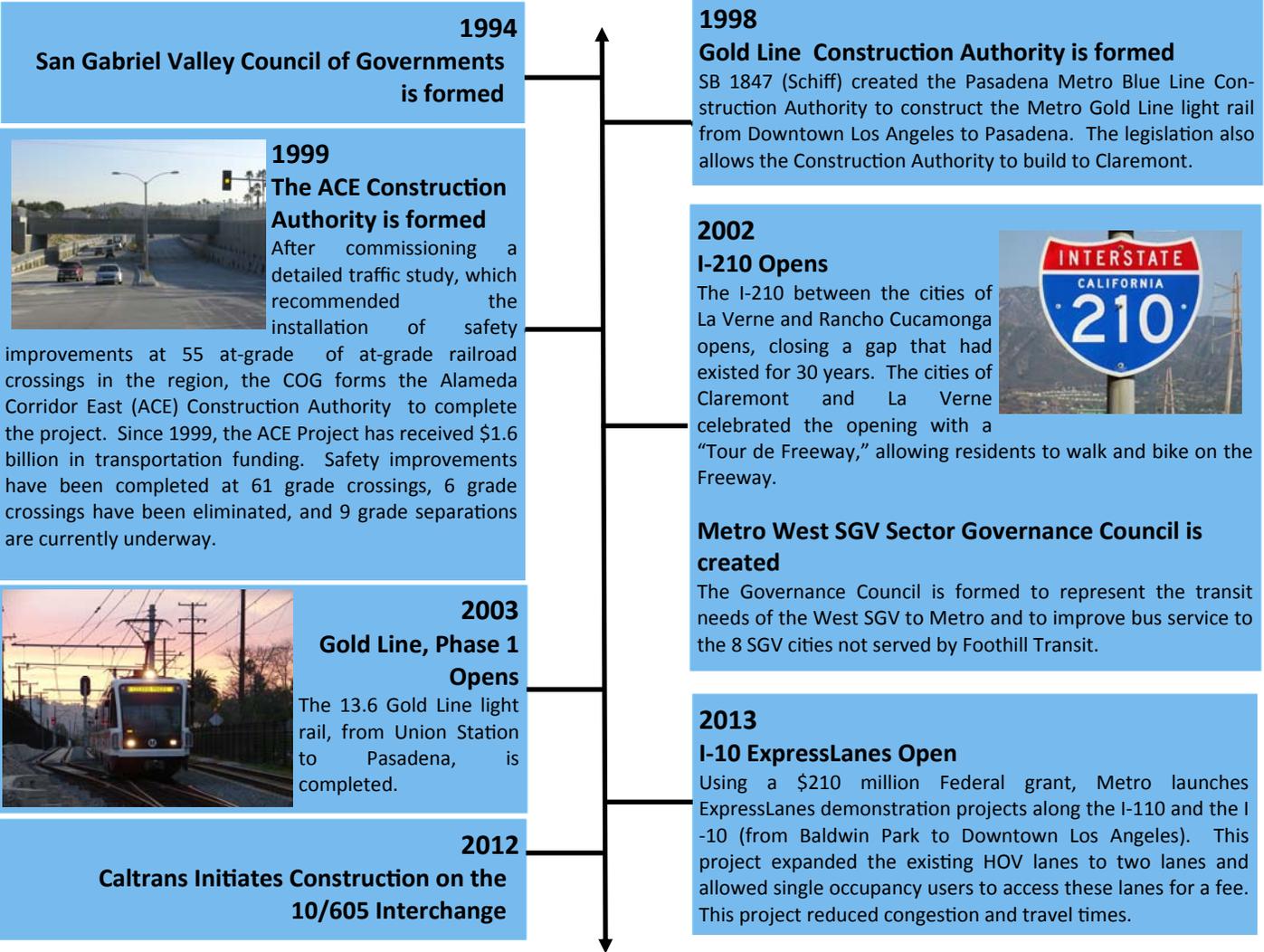
How Far We’ve Come

FAST FACTS



San Gabriel Valley COG: 20 Years of Moving,

In the 20 years since the COG was formed, there have been many changes in the San Gabriel Valley that have altered the landscape of the region. Transportation improvements have made mobility in the San Gabriel Valley easier, and the SGVCOG and all other regional agencies continue to push for improvements that will make the region even better. Below are just a few of the highlights of the transportation accomplishments.



2014
COG begins mobility matrix
The COG receives \$500,000 from Metro to create a mobility matrix that identifies transportation priority projects for the region. By solidifying its transportation priorities, the COG will be able to more effectively advocate for regional projects.

COG submits 2 ATP applications
The COG submits 2 applications for the statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP), an \$18 million application for bicycle infrastructure projects and a \$640,000 application for region-wide bicycle planning.

COG Partners with Gateway COG to Initiate 60/605
Using Measure R funding from Metro, Gateway COG and SGVCOG partner to develop a Project Study Report for the SR-60/I-605 Interchange. This study will identify options to improve this interchange.

COG Hosts Transportation Forum
SGVCOG partners with numerous local and regional agencies to host this event in March 2014. City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti serves as the keynote speaker.

I-210 Connected Corridors Pilot Launched
Caltrans and numerous local jurisdictions partner to launch this innovative pilot program, which aims to integrate traffic communications during accidents and other traffic incidents, reducing congestion and notifying drivers of alternate routes.

20 Years of Improving

The significant advancements in the area transportation are mirrored in the environmental arena, housing, and economic development. Below are just a few of the accomplishments over the last 20 years.



Environment

1999: The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is formed with the passage of SB 216 (Solis), to preserve open space and habitat and to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses. Since its formation, the RMC has helped SGV local governments and non-profits receive more than \$94 million in State funding for open space projects. In total, 3,219 acres of new parkland has been created; 101 river parkway, 53 urban parkway, and 42 mountains/hills projects have been completed; and more than \$54 million in matching funds has been secured.

2008: The COG and the RMC receive more than \$200,000 from the California Department of Conservation to implement the Watershed Coordinator grant. Through the grant, the COG and the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) create a variety of tools to identify multi-benefit projects that promote open space access, water conservation, and other benefits, created many reports to educate stakeholders, established an on-going volunteer river clean-up efforts, developed watershed conservation demonstration projects, and developed a database for open space acquisitions.

2009: The COG begins working with Southern California Edison (SCE) on the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership (SGVEWP). Since 2009, cities have saved more than 8 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, saving more than \$1 million in estimated electricity costs, and have received incentives from SCE of more than \$450,000.

2011: The COG receives nearly \$400,000 from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to support battery takeback locations at 40 local businesses. At these businesses, located throughout the region, residents can return their batteries. Since January 2011, more than 5,000 pounds of rechargeable batteries and nearly 25,000 pounds of non-rechargeable batteries and cell phones have been collected.

The COG receives \$4.6 million to assist cities in completing energy action plans and to install software that assists them in tracking their municipal energy costs. Energy Action Plans are completed in 27 cities, with a combined total goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 695,000 metric tons, and of reducing residential electricity use by 1.1 billion kWh and municipal electricity use by 8.2 million kWh.

2013: Southern California Gas Company (SCG) joins the SGVEWP in 2013, which will allow cities to incorporate natural gas elements into their projects and to receive gas incentives.

2014: California HERO and Figtree roll out in the San Gabriel Valley, allowing homeowners and businesses to finance energy and water saving projects on their homes and repay the loans through payments on their property tax bills. The COG entered into an memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with both the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) for California HERO— and Figtree to support these programs in the region. In total, 26 cities in the San Gabriel Valley are participating HERO and, since May 2014, when residents in the San Gabriel Valley were first eligible to participate in the program, there have been nearly \$7 million in approved project applications and more than \$1 million in completed projects.



Housing

2009: The SGVCOG is awarded funding from LA County to complete a Regional Housing Needs Assessment. After the completion of the plan, the SGVCOG forms the San Gabriel Valley Housing and Homeless Coordinating Council (SGVHCC) to implement the activities found in the Assessment. The SGVHCC merges with the San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness in the summer of 2012.



Economic Development

2007-08: The COG receives funding from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)'s Compass Blueprint program to complete the Arrow Highway Corridor Study. The study provides an analysis of the corridor, including existing conditions and market analysis, to identify opportunities for multi-jurisdictional coordination to revitalize and enhance Arrow Highway. The project identifies the opportunity for the COG to facilitate revitalization efforts across jurisdictional boundaries.

2013: A Small Business Development Center (SBDC) opens at Pasadena City College, becoming the first SBDC in the region since 2009, when the SBDC at Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) closed. The COG is instrumental in revitalizing the idea of the SBDC in the region. A second SBDC opens at the University of La Verne in 2014.

2014 Annual Awards Winners

Since 2005, the COG has recognized its leaders that have profoundly shaped and contributed to the success of the San Gabriel Valley. The success of the COG over the last 2 decades is attributable to the strong leadership in this region. This year, the COG is proud to host the 10th Annual Awards reception, recognizing the following individuals for all of their efforts.



Judy Wright Award: *Hasan Ikhata*

The Judy Wright Award is presented to those that champion leadership in the San Gabriel Valley. Hasan Ikhata has served as the Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the largest metropolitan planning organization in the country, since 2008. He has over 25 years of public and private sector experience in transportation planning in Southern California and has also worked for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). He has been received several awards and honors for his leadership, including MOVE LA, the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA), the Southern California Leadership Council (SCLC), and the Four Corners Transportation Summit.

I have the honor and pleasure of nominating Hasan for the Judy Wright Award for his regional leadership and advocacy for Southern California. He has a long-standing commitment to protecting and promoting the region's interests, and he is strong advocate for Southern California on both a State and Federal level. His dedication to all of the councils of governments (COGs) in the SCAG region is demonstrated by his strong working relationships with both staff and elected officials. We are all "his favorite COG." The SGVCOG truly appreciates his commitment to the San Gabriel Valley and his efforts to advocate on our behalf."

*Councilmember Barbara Messina, City of Alhambra
SGVCOG President, 2012-2014*

Jack Phillips Award: *BikeSGV—Javier Hernandez & Wesley Reutimann*

The Jack Phillips Award is presented to those that champion innovation in the San Gabriel Valley. BikeSGV was founded in 2009, with a mission of making the San Gabriel Valley a safer, healthier, and more enjoyable place for cycling by educating the community about the benefits of cycling. It has had much success in mobilizing the cities around bicycle planning, partnering with SGV cities to secure funding for a San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Master Plan, supporting efforts to bring Open Streets events to the region, and working with the COG to submit 2 applications to the statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP).

Pasadena resident Wesley Reutimann is an SGV native and former mountain/road bike racer turned public health advocate. Wesley is a founding member of BikeSGV and currently serves as the organization's Development Director and Board Secretary. He has a decade of experience in the non-profit and education sector, and currently serves as Director of Environmental Prevention for Day One, a Pasadena-based public health advocacy and youth development non-profit.

A life-long resident of the San Gabriel Valley and Cal State Fullerton graduate, Javier has a passion for sharing the rewards of a bicycle lifestyle with residents of the San Gabriel Valley. He has over a decade of experience in the non-profit sector working with at-risk-youth for organizations such as the YMCA, Choices Camp, Cal State LA and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. Javier currently works for Day One as the Project Manager for the San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Master Plan. He also serves as the Program Director for BikeSGV where he has pioneered efforts to advance Statewide sustainability initiatives at the local level.



Wesley Reutimann



Javier Hernandez

"We have a tremendous resource with the BikeSGV Team, their enthusiasm, skills, and know-how are helping SGV cities in implementing progressive transportation projects and identifying funding sources. They are helping to put the SGV on par with areas such as LA, Long Beach and even Portland when it comes to making cycling accessible and safer."

*Councilmember Sam Pedroza, City of Claremont
Vice-Chair, SGVCOG Transportation Committee*

Spirit of Service: *Shahzad Amiri*

As the Deputy Executive Officer responsible for the San Gabriel Valley Subregion at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro), Shahzad has served as the San Gabriel Valley's Metro liaison for the past 11 years. She has worked with San Gabriel Valley jurisdictions and the COG on a multi-modal suite of programs and projects including the ACE Project, Gold Line Foothill Extension, and the SR 710 North Extension, as well as Highway, goods movement, signal synchronization and active transportation/sustainability efforts. She has over 24 years of experience in transportation planning and implementation. Shahzad graduated with a Masters of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin.



"Shahzad's leadership has enabled SGVCOG to provide increased value and guidance to its members. She set the standard for goods movement and sustainability not only in the San Gabriel Valley but throughout the county and regionally. We thank Shahzad for her many contributions to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments."

*Councilmember John Fasana, City of Duarte
Chair, SGVCOG Transportation Committee; Metro Board of Directors*



Consensus Building Award: Angel Carrillo

A lifelong Azusa resident, Angel Carrillo has spent his entire career in dedication and service to the San Gabriel Valley. Elected to the Azusa City Council in 2005, much of his focus in Azusa has been on redevelopment efforts, revitalizing the Azusa downtown and ensuring the City's future success.

He has served as President of the League of California Cities, LA Division and of the SGVCOG. Angel has a Bachelor's degree from Cal State University, LA in Social Science and earned a teaching credential from Azusa Pacific University. He worked for 16 years in local school districts, has worked as a government relations consultant and is now employed working in Economic Development for a local municipality.

"I nominated Angel Carrillo for Consensus Building because he represents the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. In the San Gabriel Valley fire season is a 12-month period. Millions of dollars are incurred each year to fight the fires and millions of dollars are lost in damages due to the fires. Angel championed the idea of a SuperScooper aircraft for our region to aid in the curtailment of these fires that cause a tremendous impact to our region. He was the catalyst that outreached to local and federal officials to cooperate and start collaborative discussion to see this project to fruition. The end result is that his out of the box idea will benefit the SGV community."

*Councilmember Teresa Real Sebastian, City of Monterey Park
SGVCOG 2nd Vice President*

Consensus Building Award: John Fasana (City of Duarte)

John Fasana was first elected to Duarte City Council in 1987. He has served as the San Gabriel Valley's representative on Metro since its formation in 1993. He currently serves as 2nd Vice-Chair and previously served as Chair during FY 2001-2002. He also represents Metro on the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority.

John has represented the City of Duarte on the SGVCOG's Governing Board since its formation in 1994 and has served as Chair of the COG's transportation committee for twenty years. In that time, he has been a tireless advocate for the San Gabriel Valley's transportation needs. He was instrumental in the formation of the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority and in securing funding for both Phase 1 (downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena) and Phase 2A (Pasadena to Azusa). He also worked to secure funding for a number of other critical transportation projects in the San Gabriel Valley, including the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE), the El Monte Transit Center I-210 Soundwalls, and the I-10/I-605 Interchange.



"John Fasana is someone we all know and trust here in the San Gabriel Valley. He works tirelessly representing the San Gabriel Valley, advocating for our transportation needs."

Councilmember Tim Spohn, City of Industry



Sustainability Award: Greening the Code (City of San Gabriel)

In 2012, the City of San Gabriel began the process of "Greening the Code," incorporating "green" principles into its zoning regulations. Working with its consultants, the City identified and removed unintended regulatory barriers and crafted Code amendments that offer incentives, greater flexibility, and more clarity. The City engaged in significant internal and external stakeholder outreach to develop a code that served the City's needs.

In total, 40 amendments were made to the Code, grouped under 6 themes: landscaping, open space, parking, development standards, use regulations, and tributary channel guidelines. Some of the new green elements include reforming open-space requirements in multi-family housing to allow for more usable common space and community gardens, and establishing mechanisms to turn the banks of drainage channels into open space.

"We are proud to recognize the City of San Gabriel for its innovative approach to encouraging sustainable development. It is truly a model for the entire region."

Councilmember Denis Bertone, City of San Dimas

We would also like to recognize the following individuals for taking a leadership role on the COG's Committees:

Outgoing Officers: Barbara Messina, Alhambra (President); Joe Gonzales, South El Monte (2nd Vice President)
ACE Board of Directors: Norma Macias, El Monte (Chair); Jack Hadjinian, Montebello (Vice-Chair)
Transportation: John Fasana, Duarte (Chair); Sam Pedroza, Claremont (Vice-Chair)
EENR: Denis Bertone, San Dimas (Chair); Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena (Vice-Chair)
HCED: Joe Lyons, Claremont (Chair); Becky Shevlin, Monrovia (Vice-Chair)
Water Resources Working Group: Mary Ann Lutz, Monrovia (Chair)
City Managers' Steering Committee: Chris Jeffers, Glendora (Chair); Mark Alexander, La Canada Flintridge (Vice-Chair)
Planning TAC: Larry Stevens, San Dimas (Chair); Amy Harbin, Baldwin Park (Vice-Chair)
Public Works TAC: Phil Doudar, LA County Department of Public Works (Chair); Jerry Burke, Glendora (Vice-Chair)
Transportation Working Group: Mark Christoffels, The ACE Project (Chair)

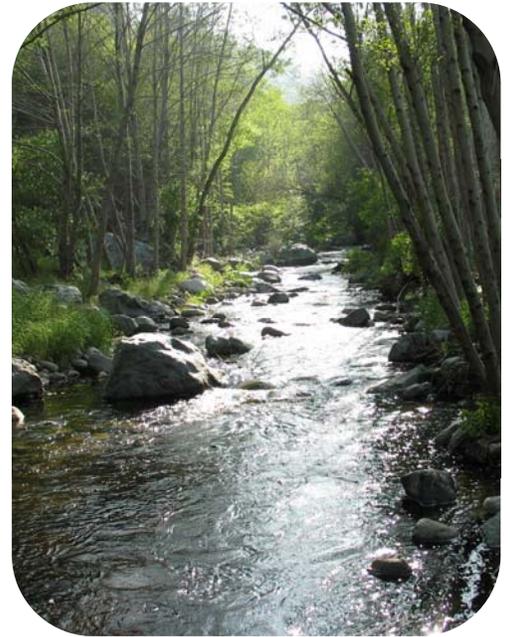
Reflections on the COG Through the Years

The success of the COG over the last 20 years is due to the support and dedication of its leaders and of its member agencies. It took the foresight and of the COG's founders to recognize the value of coordinating regionally, and the dedication of the COG's leaders since that time to advance the ideals of regional coordination and to make the COG the effective regional organization that it is today.

"In the early 90's, the San Gabriel Valley was considered the "other" valley. I proposed forming the San Gabriel Valley COG to raise the identity and clout of our valley and cities. But it wasn't easy to convince all of the cities to get on board and approve a dues structure that was almost ten times what they were paying to the San Gabriel Valley Association of Cities - the COG's predecessor. Fortunately, there were other leaders in the San Gabriel Valley that believed in the concept. We all made presentations to the cities. I think I attended over twenty city council meetings to present the need for the COG. We had a great response from the cities and now, twenty years later, all of the COG's success is due to the city leaders who shared the vision and are keeping it alive.

All of the San Gabriel Valley cities are unique but we all breath the same air, travel the same streets and freeways, have to dispose of our trash, etc. The cities came together to address these and other issues in a cooperative manner, which has benefitted the region as a whole. I'm proud to have been there in the beginning and I salute those who have carried the torch these past twenty years."

*Terry Dipple, 1st President of the COG
Former Councilmember & Mayor, City of San Dimas*



"The COG is the most effective single organization in representing our Valley and it has been since its' formative years when we realized that we should and could not expect other regions to be attentive to our concerns or assist us. Our initial efforts were fueled by the fact that the San Gabriel Valley was not receiving its fair share of transportation dollars and services. Our voice was disjointed and ineffective prior to the SGVCOG. As cooperative collation taking the many unique voices within the SGV, we have become a leading voice in transportation advocacy and programing.

The COG has had much successes in programs like ACE; Truck Lane planning; light rail advocacy and getting our fair share of public transportation funds. As a result of our strong voice, we made others raise their head and pay attention. Our success scared others, who felt their voice diminish and who would create legislative or regulatory policies that tried to prevent us from achieving our goals. For example, when we attempted to extend the Foothill Transit program to the west side of Valley, legislation was specifically written to prevent a new entity like Foothill West from receiving funds from Metro.

From its transportation origins, COG has evolved to embrace other programs that have regional importance to the Valley which will lead to the enhanced quality of life every community desires which has no boundary due to ethnic; economic status, age or any other label that one might attach. Due to the involvement of the elected leaders that serve, the professional staff from its member agencies providing technical assistance to the day to day service the COG staff provides, the SGVCOG has added tangible value to each of its member investment made to date. Our communities seek only to be safe and prosper – the COG is a vital tool in that effort."

Chris Jeffers, City Manager, City of Glendora

"The COG has been the most effective local government collaboration benefitting and championing issues for the entire San Gabriel Valley."

*Fran Delach
Former Interim Executive Director, SGVCOG*

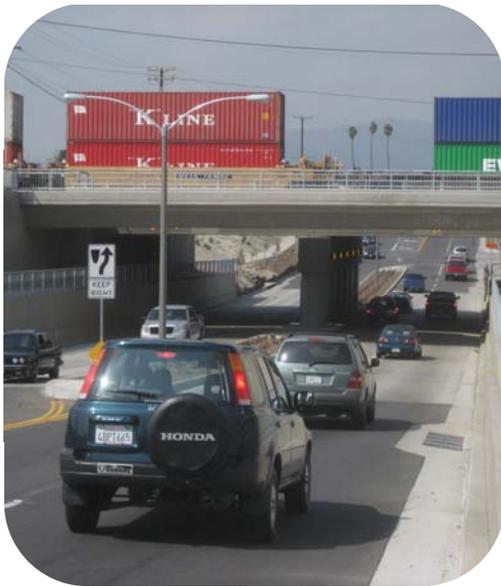


"The value of the COG as a collective voice for the San Gabriel Valley cannot be underestimated."

*Bart Doyle, Past COG President
Former Councilmember, City of Sierra Madre*

"10 years ago, when I was President, the COG was gaining in national prominence throughout Washington, DC, as the organization that created ACE. ACE's projects were those of national significance, since Goods Movement was so vital to the rest of the nation. Today, the COG's focus has turned inward, helping its member cities with energy, environmental and transportation issues. The SGVCOG has proven to be durable and flexible."

*Carol Herrera, Past COG President
Councilmember, Diamond Bar*



"Up to and during my two year term as president, I had the privilege to work with many dedicated COG members who represented their individual cities. We accomplished positive programs and results which improved the quality of life for residents of the San Gabriel Valley. New train underpasses, reduced congestion, improved emergency medical and trauma care and improved relationships with our representatives in Washington were a few of the positives. With the guidance of a dedicated staff and focused COG representatives, we improved the future for our Valley."

*Dave Spence, Past COG President
Councilmember, La Canada-Flintridge*

"For two decades the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments has provided the forum for 31 cities to come together and resolve regional issues. The COG makes it possible to leverage the region's strength and successfully compete for the resources the San Gabriel Valley needs. Working together is so important and makes each individual city stronger. Congratulations on your 20th anniversary."

*Cynthia Kurtz
President & CEO, SGVEP*

"The creation of a regional body to represent and advocate for a group as large and diverse as the San Gabriel Valley merits a collective thank you to the vision and willingness of those who served before us. The success the SGVCOG has had over the past 20 years has been a testament to the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the member cities and their delegates. I am proud to have served as President of this important organization and to have been able to help move the group forward at a necessary time. I look forward to seeing all the successes this COG is capable of accomplishing in the next 20, 40, 60 years and beyond."

*Angel Carrillo, Former COG President
Councilmember, City of Azusa*



"These past two years have been exciting and challenging, Our COG historically has been considered one of the premier COGS. We always led the parade in getting things done. That has not changed. I was extremely proud to be President these past two years. We overcame some very challenging events, restructured our organization, and came out stronger and better. I firmly believe there is strength in numbers and that is why we are so successful. I am very optimistic about the future of this COG and with our new Executive Director the sky is the limit. Thank you for giving me this honor."

*Barbara Messina, Former COG President
Councilmember, City of Alhambra*

Strategic Plan Update

In October 2013, the Governing Board adopted the FY 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, which identified long-term, 3-year goals for the organization and short-term FY 2013-14 goals to meet these objectives.

As the COG begins FY 2014-2015, the short-term goals have been updated to reflect the progress that we've made over the last year and to reflect the COG's efforts to meet the long-term goals. Here are some of the goals that have been identified for FY 2014-2015:

Transportation	Complete Mobility Matrix Complete 60/605 PSR Pursue Funding for SGV Bicycle Plan and Waterway Network
Environment	Track and report on status of NRA legislation Convene Environmental TAC to provide technical input
Economic Development	Convene Economic Development Policy Committee and TAC Host quarterly workshops on post-redevelopment funding strategies and other innovative economic development efforts. Assist the SGVEP and LAEDC in updating the "Business Assistance Toolkit"
Water	Track and report on IRWMP funding opportunities Assist in collection of water costs survey Research and report on opportunities to fund water conservation projects as part of the Statewide Water-Energy nexus
Housing	Prepare report on member agencies' needs related to homeless services Research and report on existing regional homeless service delivery models and pursue funding to implement selected model Convene Housing TAC to provide technical input and analysis to Housing Committee

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