*Huntington Library*

SGVCOG

# Valley Voice

The Pulse of the San Gabriel Valley

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

February2018

## San Gabriel Valley Volunteers and Cities Conduct Annual Homelessness Count

On January 23rd, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) held its annual homeless count in the SGV. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires the count in all areas that seek federal funds to address homelessness.

This year, LAHSA organized 8,000 volunteers to conduct the point-in-time count. The count looks to quantify sheltered and the unsheltered Homeless population. The survey is conducted by volunteers assigned to specific census tracts. The count consists of four components:

1) Street Count;
2) Demographic Survey;
3) Shelter Count; and
4) Youth Count.

Twenty-three SGV communities opted into the 2018 Homeless Count. Cities who chose to opt-in did so by providing at least one of the following:

1) Deployment site,
2) Deployment site coordinator,
3) Volunteer recruitment, or
4) Food for volunteers.

Those communities that could not opt-in had their census tracts counted by volunteers from other regions.

Data will be compiled over the next few months, and it is anticipated the final homeless count report will be released in late summer 2018. This report will identify the number of homeless within each community and indicate the type of homelessness that is impacting individual communities. Upon release, the 2018 Homeless Count report will be available at https://www.lahsa.org/homeless-count/reports

Twenty-two SGV cities are currently in the process of developing homeless plans. The 2018 count is valuable as it provides baseline empirical data against which cities can measure outcomes of any plan goals that are implemented. Data will also help guide communities regarding where services, housing or shelter may be most needed.

*El Monte Homeless Count Volunteers*

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# SGVCOG Hosts Homelessness Plan Regional Kickoff

In January, the COG executed a contract with LeSar Development Consultants (LDC) to provide homeless planning consultant services to twenty participating cities. LDC will assist the cities with their homeless planning grants as follows:

- Create a customized draft homeless plan for each city utilizing data on subpopulations at the city level,
- Provide an overview of each participating city, the local environment, and the status of homelessness within the community,
- Conduct a needs assessment at the regional, sub-regional and city levels, and
- Develop a "fair share" model, identifying demonstrable ties of homeless persons to a city.

As part of the coordination effort between LDC and participating cities, a regional homeless plan kickoff was held in West Covina, on January 31st. There were fifty-three attendees from 20 member cities including 11 department directors, 2 Deputy City Managers and 5 elected officials. Elected officials present at the meeting included Cruz Baca (Baldwin Park); Victor Linares (Covina); Margaret Clark (Rosemead); Joe Lyons (Claremont); and Lloyd Johnson (West Covina).

The meeting highlight was an address by Supervisor Hilda Solis, who worked to secure the city homeless planning grant funds.

There are number of important events happening related to homeless planning. On February 21st, the LA County CEO is hosting a city homeless planning technical assistance meeting entitled "Land Use and Housing 101". On March 12th or 13th they will host a second workshop to delve more deeply into land use and housing. To support efforts on a regional level, the COG will convene a Regional Coordination Policy Workgroup to explore topics of mutual concern and interest around homelessness. If you are interested in more information about any of the upcoming sessions, please contact Jan Cicco at jcicco@sgvcog.org or 626-457-1800.

# Cities Engage In Planning For Energy Independence Using Microgrids

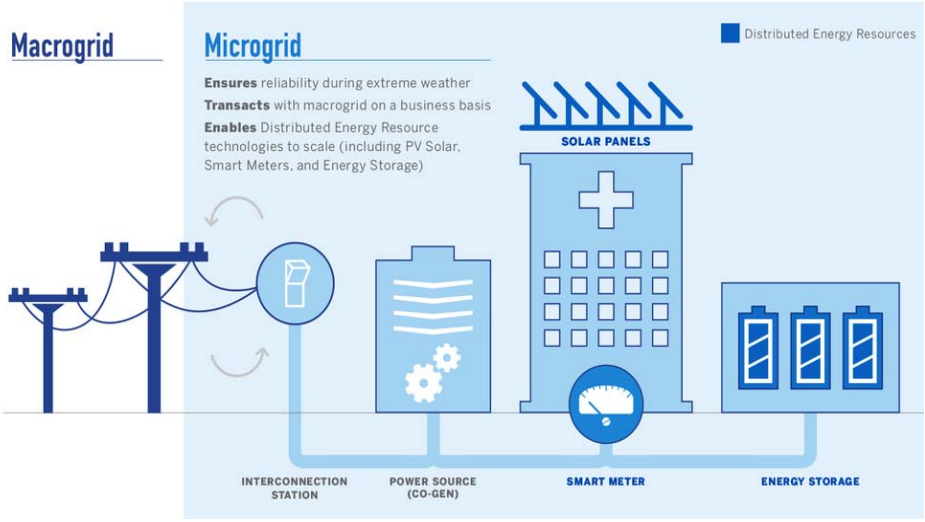
Microgrids are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid to operate autonomously. Microgrids support a flexible and efficient electric grid by enabling the integration of growing deployments of distributed energy resources such as renewables like solar. Benefits of microgrids include the following:

- Smaller financial commitments than regional energy service networks,
- Use renewable resources with lower carbon footprints,
- Require fewer technical skills to operate and rely more on automation, and
- Are isolated from any grid disturbance or outage.

Microgrids are considered essential for the future of distributed and clean energy generation.

SGVCOG staff attended the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 25th. The meeting highlighted the benefits of microgrids and provided information on the State's microgrid roadmap, the state of the technology, and project examples, tools, and resources. The meeting featured speakers from the California Energy Commission (CEC), the University of San Diego and the University of Irvine.

At the meeting, the CEC announced that it will award $45 million to local governments who proposed advance microgrid projects under the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program. For more information on the CEC award please visit http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/.




# LA Metro Opens New Bike Hub

LA County Metro recently opened a new Bike Hub at Union Station, which offers safe and secure parking for nearly 200 bicycles. The Hub also offers onsite staff assistance, same-day repairs, accessory sales, bike classes and more. Registered users may access the secure bike parking area 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hub is located just north of Union Station's historic front entrance, adjacent to the Mosaic apartments. The Union Station hub will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

For those interested in registering to use the Bike Hub, online registration is available at metro.net/bikehub. Users have the option of a 7-day pass for $5, a 30-day pass for $12, or a 1-year pass for $60. Membership also grants users access to the El Monte and Hollywood/ Vine Bike Hubs.

*New Union Station Bike Hub*

# San Gabriel Valley News In Brief

**Three SGV Cities Appoint New City Managers:**

Recently, the Cities of San Gabriel, Claremont and El Monte appointed new City Managers.

The City of Claremont named Tara Schultz as their new city manager. She follows Tony Ramos, who retired after 11 years on the job. Tara started her career in public service as an intern for the City of Sierra Madre and most recently served as Interim City Manager. Previously, she spent 18 years with the City of Alhambra as Assistant City Manager.

The City of El Monte elevated Assistant City Manager Alex Hamilton to City Manager. He replaces Jesus Gomez, who left to become City Manager for the City of Norwalk. Alex has over 25-years' experience working in federal and local government. He began his career in the U.S Army Corp of Engineers in the Environmental Resources Branch. Alex joined the City of El Monte in 2015.

The City of San Gabriel named Mark Lazzaretto as their new city manager. He follows Steve Preston, who recently retired. Mark comes from the City of Pomona, where he served as the Development Services Director for the last 10 years. Mark also served as the Redevelopment Manager for the City of Pomona and the Economic Development Manager for the City of Buena Park.

The SGVCOG wishes them great success!

**SGVCOG Water Committee Releases Legislative Platform:**

In 2017, the COG experienced great success in introducing four stormwater related bills, each addressing various challenges our cities experience in their efforts to comply with Clean Water Act standards and the requirements of their Municipal Separate Sewer Storm System (MS4) permits.

To continue supporting stormwater compliance efforts, the SGVCOG, through the Water Policy Committee, will undertake the following legislative and regulatory priorities in 2018.

- Financial Capability Assessment
- Conveyance of Stormwater Using Flood Control Infrastructure
- Source Control of Pollutants
- Municipal Indemnification for Stormwater Capture
- Incentivize Stormwater Capture
- Water Board Membership and Composition
- Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
- The Basin Plan

Due to our past efforts, the SGVCOG is now viewed as a leader on stormwater related legislation, policy, and regulation. We look forward to continued success in 2018.

*Above: New Claremont City Manager Tara Schultz*

*Left : New San Gabriel City Manager Mark Lazaretto*

**SGVCOG Board Member, Diana Mahmud appointed as Chair of LACCE Board:**

On January 17th, Diana Mahmud was elected Chair of the Los Angeles Community Choice Energy Authority Board. LACCE is a countywide program that allows local governments, working through a JPA, to purchase and sell electricity to customers in their jurisdictions as an alternative to traditional investor-owned utilities (IOU).

The duties of the Chair include presiding over Board meetings, signing all contracts on behalf of the Authority, and any other duties that the Board may determine.

The SGVCOG congratulates Diana on her Chairmanship!

*South Pasadena Councilmember Diana Mahmud*

*New El Monte City Manager Alex Hamilton*

# San Gabriel Valley News In Brief (Cont.)

*Claremont Councilmember Sam Pedroza*

**Claremont Metrolink Station Receives Support:**

In September, LA Metro Board of Directors called for a study to evaluate impacts related to removing the Metrolink Claremont station. However, there had been some concern by residents about the future of the station as construction on the next phase of the Foothill Gold Line moves forward.

On January 17th, the LA Metro Planning and Programming Committee discussed the Claremont Metrolink Station. Metro staff recommended that the Claremont Station be kept open. Metro board members present unanimously expressed their support for keeping the Claremont station, however no vote was needed to keep the station.

**San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership To Host Economic Forecast Summit:**

The SGVEP will be hosting their 2018 Economic Forecast Summit on Thursday, March 15 at the DoubleTree in Monrovia (924 W Huntington Dr, Monrovia, CA 91016). This year's Summit will offer two breakout sessions:

- **Resolving California's Housing Crisis**, organized and moderated by Cal Poly's Real Estate Council.
- **The Future of Work and Implications for Workforce Development**, organized and moderated by Dr. Bill Scroggins, President of Mt. San Antonio College.

Additional speakers will include, Chris Ainsworth, Managing Director and the Regional Investment Executive for the Greater Los Angeles and Pacific South West regions and Somjita Mitra, Ph.D., Director at the Institute for Applied Economics at LAEDC.

To register please contact Regina Wang at rwang@sgvpartnership.org or visit https://sgvpartnership.org/event-2799114

*City of Montebello Bike Intercept*

**Bike SGV Conducts Bike Intercept in Montebello:**

As part of the SGV Active Transportation Plan project, Bike SGV is continuing to conduct nighttime light distribution/ education intercepts across the 5 partner cities, which include: Glendora, Irwindale, Montebello, La Puente, and Monrovia. The most recent bike distribution/ education event was held in the City of Montebello.

These intercepts offer a unique opportunity to promote state law and safe riding techniques, and are conducted along routes frequented by local bicyclists.

# SGVCOG Releases Position Statement on the SAFE, Clean Water Program

The Safe, Clean Water Program is the stormwater funding element of Los Angeles County's water resilience program. The overall goals of Safe, Clean Water are to fund multibenefit stormwater projects and programs that increase water supply, improve water quality, and provide community enhancements. The County has formed a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to discuss and provide input to various program elements. SGVCOG is represented on the SAC by Councilmember Judy Nelson, Glendora. In addition, Councilmember Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, represents Supervisor Barger. The elements include Program Outcomes, Eligible Expenditures, Regional/Municipal/FCD Projects, Program Administration, Project Prioritization Criteria, and Rebates and Incentives.

On Jan 18th, the COG Board adopted a resolution establishing its position on Safe, Clean Water program elements. This is not an endorsement of a potential stormwater funding tax measure that may emerge from the SAC process. Instead, this position serves simply to established guiding principles, as shown on right.

**Regional Funding:** Due to the already high cost of stormwater requirements, the vast majority of revenue from the Safe, Clean Water Program should go to design, construction, and ongoing operations and maintenance of capital projects, especially those identified in approved stormwater permits, not programs.

**Local Return:** Cities should have maximum flexibility and independence in spending local return money in a manner consistent with AB 1180.

**Basin Plan:** The Basin Plan establishes the foundation for water quality standards which are then incorporated into MS4 permits. Since the Plan has not received comprehensive review since before stormwater discharges were made subject to it, we support use of the funds allocated to the Flood Control District to fund the cost of studies to update the Basin Plan.

**Project Funding Priority.** Funding priority should be given to those projects that cost-effectively address water supply and water quality concerns.

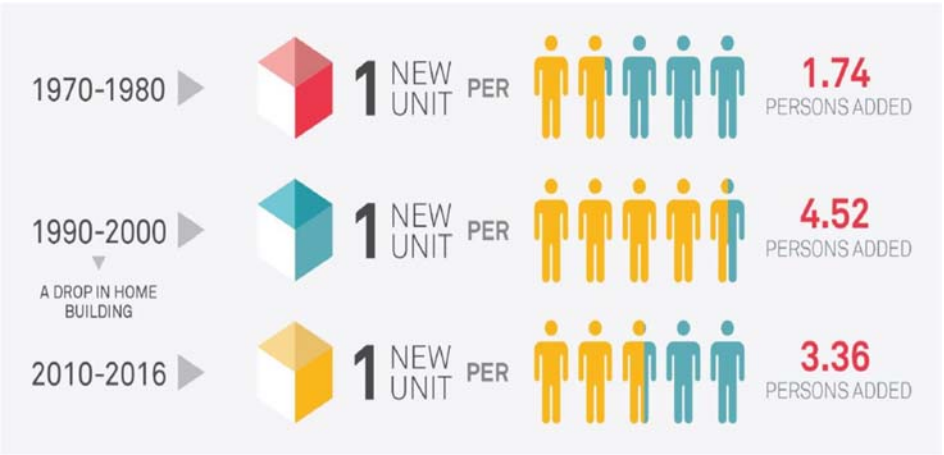
**Governance:** Disbursement of Regional Funds should be approved by a strong governance structure, comprised primarily of MS4 permittees, with responsibility for selecting projects according to defined criteria and overseeing how taxpayer money is spent.

# SGVCOG Receives Update on the 6th RHNA Cycle

At the January Governing Board meeting, Kome Ajise, Director of Planning at SCAG, provided a presentation on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The SCAG Region is currently in the 5th Cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), and has begun the planning and local outreach process for the 6th cycle. The 6th Cycle will cover October 2021 through October 2029.

As required by state law, every jurisdiction must plan for its RHNA allocation in its housing element of its General Plan. RHNA allows communities to anticipate growth, and allow for growth in ways that enhance quality of life, improve access to jobs, promotes transportation mobility, and addresses social equity, fair share housing needs.

SCAG will be reaching out to member cities for in early 2018 to meet the deadline for local input on October 1st.



# Ballot Initiative To Protect Transportation Funds On The 2018 Ballot

In June 2018, California voters will consider a new ballot measure, currently known as ACA 5.

ACA 5 is a constitutional amendment that proposes to prohibit the Legislature from borrowing revenues from the new transportation revenues generated through SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, which are currently not protected under the state constitution. This measure would create a constitutional requirement that revenue from SB 1 be used for transportation purposes.

This ballot measure extends some of the same protections that other transportation revenues already have under the California Constitution. It is anticipated, that ACA 5 will be given an official ballot number in early February. If voters approve ACA 5, the California Constitution would be amended to:

- Require that SB 1 revenues be dedicated to transportation purposes; and
- Constitutionally protect sales tax on diesel and Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account revenues from being diverted to the General Fund or other non-transportation related purposes.

SB 1 will double the amount of revenues that each city receives from the state for their local street maintenance and rehabilitation needs. Annually, $500 to $650 million will go to cities statewide, allocated on a per capita basis. These funds will significantly augment regional projects.

The protection of SB 1 funds will allow for the continued development of projects for cities that want to prioritize fixing their existing infrastructure, enhance access to transit, and develop a network that increases safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. For more information visit rebuildingca.ca.gov/accountability.html

# Foothill Gold Line Receives Design Build Statements of Qualifications

Following award of the first of two contracts to build the six-station Foothill Gold Line light rail project from Glendora-to-Montclair, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (Construction Authority) officially broke ground on December 2, 2017. Since then, the Construction Authority has received Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from seven design-build teams interested in competing for the major Alignment Design-Build Contract.

The proposers will be evaluated on their project experience, staffing and organizational structure, legal qualifications, and financial qualifications. Construction Authority evaluation committees will evaluate the submissions and provide a rating in their specific categories. From this process, the Construction Authority plans to identify the most qualified teams to be shortlisted and invite them to bid the approximately $750 million design-build project. The shortlist of the most qualified teams is planned to be released in mid-February and the Request for Proposals issued in the Spring.

Over the next seven years, construction of the project will provide a major economic boon for the region. According to Beacon Economics, the $1.5 billion Glendora-to-Montclair project will generate nearly 17,000 jobs, more than $2.6 billion in economic output, more than $1 billion in labor income and nearly $40 million in tax revenues during construction. Once passenger service begins in 2027, the ongoing operation of the extension will generate an annual benefit of tens of millions of dollars of additional economic output, income and tax revenue; while generating hundreds of on-going, permanent jobs.

*Gold Line Utility Relocation Underway*

# Meetings

**Wednesday, February 7, 12:00 p.m.**
City Managers Steering Committee
100 S Vincent Ave #200, West Covina

**Thursday, February 15, 4:00 p.m.**
Transportation Committee
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Thursday, February 15, 6:00 p.m.**
Governing Board
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Wednesday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.**
Water Committee
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Wednesday, February 21, 12:30 p.m.**
EENR Committee
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Thursday, February 22, 12:00 p.m.**
Planners TAC
321 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia

**Thursday, February 22, 12:30 p.m.**
Homelessness Committee
321 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia

*City of Walnut Snow Creek Trail*

Valley Voice
*The Pulse of the San Gabriel Valley*

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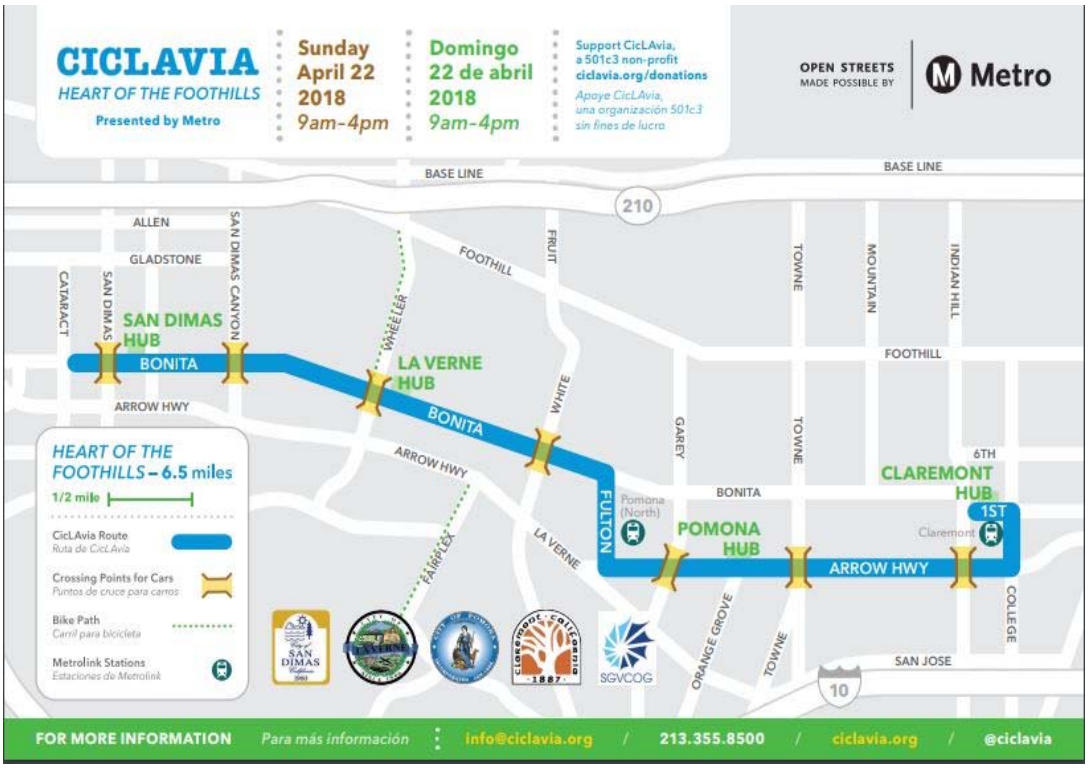
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