



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Subject: February 2020 Report

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEETING

CA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY CEO BRIAN P. KELLY ADDRESSES REGIONAL COUNCIL



Brian P. Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, gives a presentation to the Regional Council, providing an update on the status of the California High-Speed Train Project.

ACTION

REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR ADVANCE FUNDING UNDER THE REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PROGRAM

The Regional Council today voted to apply for an early advance of state funding meant to accelerate housing production. By adopting Resolution No. 20-618-1, the

Regional Council authorized the agency to apply for advance funding of 25 percent, or \$11,867,755, of its maximum eligible funding allowed (\$47,471,023) under the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program, which is intended to provide funding to designated councils of governments to accelerate housing production through regional programs and providing funding to local jurisdictions based on locally-developed criteria. The REAP program includes an option for the designated councils of governments, such as SCAG, to submit an early application for up to 25 percent of the maximum amount it is eligible for. This funding is intended to jumpstart housing planning activities at the regional and local levels, and to cover costs of the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process (to be completed by October 2020).

SCAG staff will continue to regularly communicate both with California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff, and with the California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG) and HCD, to obtain further details and information regarding the eligible activity and other program requirements and process to apply for the full REAP funding, as well as technical assistance for pending housing element updates implementing the RHNA. While HCD has indicated that the full guidelines for REAP funding will not be released until at least February, the consistent communication between SCAG and HCD will help SCAG prepare and further develop the Housing Program Framework for REAP. All funds administered under AB 101, including REAP funds, must be expended by December 31, 2023. Annual reports for use of the REAP funds, along with a final report on the expenditure of funds, including an evaluation of jurisdiction actions taken to support the use of funds and impacts on housing production, will be due to HCD, for reporting to the Legislature, from SCAG by the end of 2024. SCAG staff will keep the Regional Council apprised of any updates.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONNECT SOCIAL UPDATE

SCAG recently completed the public comment and review period for the Draft Connect SoCal plan, the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The draft plan was released for public comment and review starting on Nov. 14. During the 10-week comment period, SCAG held three public hearings, a webinar and a tele-town hall, welcoming anyone to learn more and

provide comments regarding the draft plan. SCAG also hosted a series of 21 briefings for local elected officials throughout the region. These meetings were designed to inform elected officials, stakeholders and interested citizens on the key investments and strategies in the draft plan and solicit feedback. Upon closing the comment period on Jan. 24, SCAG had received more than 1,000 comments on the draft plan. The public review and comment period caps off more than three years of dialogue and consultation on with residents and stakeholders from throughout the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura sharing their comments and questions. A report summarizing the entirety of comments will be presented to the Regional Council at their March meeting and a document summarizing all comments and staff responses will be available online shortly thereafter. Consideration of a Proposed Final Connect SoCal plan is anticipated in April. For more information and updates on the Connect SoCal plan, the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and related documents, visit connectsocial.org.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

On Jan. 13, the California Department of Housing and Community Development sent a letter to SCAG indicating that HCD had completed its review of the proposed Draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Methodology submitted by SCAG, finding that it was in compliance with state law by furthering the five statutory objectives of RHNA. With HCD's acceptance of the methodology, staff will recommend that the RHNA Subcommittee recommend that the Community, Environment and Human Development recommend that the Regional Council adopt the Draft RHNA Methodology as the Final RHNA Methodology at its meeting on March 5. After the Final RHNA Methodology is adopted by the Regional Council, SCAG will distribute each jurisdiction's RHNA allocation and begin the appeals process in April 2020. With the number of changes since the prior RHNA cycle to the appeals process, SCAG staff held a workshop on Feb. 3 to provide an overview of the changes to the appeals process and information on how to appeal a jurisdiction's draft allocation. A Draft RHNA Appeals Procedures document is available online at www.scag.ca.gov/. Staff will consider any comments on the Draft RHNA Appeals Procedures up until Feb. 10. Staff will subsequently submit its recommended RHNA Appeals Procedures for approval at the next RHNA Subcommittee meeting on Feb. 24.

55TH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mark your calendars! SCAG's premier annual event is fast approaching. The 55th Regional Conference and General Assembly will convene May 6-8 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, CA. Over 900 of Southern California's most influential leaders and innovators are expected to attend, including local elected officials, CEOs, business and civic leaders, transportation and environmental stakeholders, local government staff and others. In addition to providing unbeatable networking opportunities, the conference will send attendees home with fresh insights and new resources to help them better address future challenges in their own communities. The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the region, and a special early bird registration rate will be available until March 29. For additional information, please contact Linda Jones at jonesl@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236-1912 or visit www.scag.ca.gov/GA2020 to register. For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Houston Laney at laney@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236-1906.