

VALLEY VOICE

*The official newsletter of the **San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments***



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Federal, state, local, and railroad officials gathered on Friday, March 22, 2019 to kick off 30 months of construction of a two-lane roadway underpass and railroad bridge to replace a hazardous railroad crossing on Durfee Avenue in the City of Pico Rivera. The \$105.5 million project, located north of Whittier Boulevard and south of Beverly Boulevard, is part of the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Project by the SGVCOG. Construction is projected to create more than 1,370 jobs, with completion scheduled for Fall 2021.

The Durfee Avenue railroad crossing is used daily by 13,600 vehicles and blocked by an average of 49 trains per day. This number is projected to increase to 14,300 vehicles and 91 trains by 2025. The project will reduce an estimated 15.3 vehicle-hours of delay each day.

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Durfee Avenue Grade Separation Groundbreaking Ceremony

"This groundbreaking kicks off construction of the 17th grade separation in the \$1.7 billion ACE Projects. These important aspects improve safety for motorists and pedestrians, reduce vehicle emissions and eliminate traffic delays and deadly collisions at railroad crossings in our densely-populated urban region," said El Monte Councilmember Victoria Martinez Muela, Chair of the SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee.

"Thanks to the support of our funding partners, the ACE program has been a resounding success of the San Gabriel Valley," said City of Temple City Councilmember Cynthia Sternquist, President of the SGVCOG. "The Valley will continue to benefit as we broaden our reach beyond the ACE Projects and help deliver other capital projects to improve the quality of life for our residents."

Construction is underway on two additional ACE underpasses in the City of Industry and the unincorporated community of Rowland Heights. Two final ACE grade separations, located in the unincorporated community of Rowland Heights and the Cities of Montebello and Industry, are seeking funding to begin construction later next year. The ACE Trade Corridor carries 16% of the country's waterborne containerized trade to and from the San Pedro Bay ports. The Port, known as the busiest in the nation, handles 25% of exports and more than 40% of our nation's containerized imports.



SGVCOG Recognized for Excellence in Construction

San Gabriel Railroad Trench Grade Separation Project



Last month, SGVCOG received the 2018 Project of the Year Award from the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) for the San Gabriel Railroad Trench Grade Separation Project. The 2.2-mile project resulted in the lowering of a 1.4-mile section of Union Pacific railroad track in a 30-foot-deep, 65-footwide trench through the City of San Gabriel with bridges constructed at Ramona Street, Mission Road, Del Mar Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard, allowing vehicles and pedestrians to pass over the tracks.



Major construction activities began in Spring 2014, following an extensive archaeological excavation across the street from the historic San Gabriel Mission adjacent to the railroad tracks. The project directly employed 1,211 workers, including 133 San Gabriel Valley residents. The project was completed in September 2018 and the overall cost was \$293.7 million.

Puente Avenue Grade Separation Project



SGVCOG also received a Southern California Chapter 2019 Project Achievement Award from the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) for the Puente Avenue Grade Separation Project. This 97-million dollar project consisted of the construction of a four-lane roadway underpass on Puente Avenue with a railroad bridge to carry freight trains over Puente Avenue, a separate bridge for Valley Boulevard traffic, and a loop connector road to re-establish the connection between Puente Avenue/Workman Mill Road and Valley Boulevard.



Major construction activities began in June 2015 with the closure of Puente Avenue for underpass and bridge construction. Puente Avenue was subsequently re-opened to traffic in April 2018. The overall cost of this project was \$97.4 million.

SGVCOG Governing Board Adopts Legislative Priorities

The SGVCOG Governing Board adopted the 2019 federal and state legislative priorities at its March meeting. These legislative priorities were developed based on feedback and input from the SGVCOG policy committees and aim to address several of the regulatory, funding, and structural challenges faced by our member agencies.

Water



- Require that capital projects funded with state funds, to the maximum extent reasonably feasible, provide for stormwater capture and dry weather runoff
- Approach the California Product Stewardship Council to consider developing a tire fee to provide funding to address stormwater pollution
- Direct the state adoption of financial capability assessment guidelines to better manage compliance timelines for MS-4 permittees

Transportation



- Propose, advocate, and support the development of policies and strategies to ensure potential capital projects applications for funding from relevant federal programs
- Support legislative or administrative efforts to expedite project planning, development, and delivery
- Monitor and advocate for legislation or initiatives that would provide additional funding to continue or advance existing funding to priority freight infrastructure projects

Homelessness



- Allocate State funding directly to cities for homelessness programs
- Support the establishment of a regional housing trust fund
- Amend definition of gravely ill to include a person's inability to provide urgently needed medical care for him or herself due to a mental disorder

Energy



- Make energy costs affordable and stabilized while ensuring energy supply while limiting dependence on foreign sources of energy
- Employ diverse strategies for conserving energy including: Energy efficiency, land use strategies, urban forest management, and infrastructure improvements
- Move towards a "net-zero energy" model where the amount of energy provided by on-site renewable energy sources is equal to the amount of energy used by a building

Open Space



- Identify and protect open space for the multi-benefit enhancement of natural resources and enjoyment for the public
- Plan for growth by incentivizing compact development in some areas that in turn prevent open space development in other areas
- Develop greenbelts and greenways along and within urban development to limit unsuitable development and provide buffers to wildlife habitat

Solid Waste



- Provide a strong commitment to utilizing financial incentives rather than mandatory requirements
- Ensure local jurisdictions are not subject to duplicative or contradictory legislative requirements
- Encourage the diversification of solid waste management strategies, including conversion technology, that will create new domestic markets and that are feasible given the landscape and conditions of the San Gabriel Valley

Metro Presents: 626 Golden Streets

Metro is proud to present its 626 Golden Streets that is scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. This car-free event allows residents to walk, run, skate, bike, and explore the San Gabriel Valley across five miles of open streets in South Pasadena, Alhambra, and San Gabriel. The streets on the route will be closed to car traffic; however, multiple street crossings will be created to allow cars to pass freely and safely across the event route.

The route, known as "Mission-to-Mission," begins on Mission Street by South Pasadena's Gold Line station and zigzags its way to the San Gabriel Mission at the intersection of Mission Road and Mission Drive. A map of the five-mile route can be found below.

Modeled after "CicLAvia" and other major "open streets" events, the 626 Golden Streets aims to promote sustainable and active modes of transportation, encourage the exploration of San Gabriel Valley's diverse communities, and improve the health of people of all incomes, abilities, and backgrounds. Three major festival hubs will be placed along the five-mile Mission-to-Mission route to provide attendees with places to stop, rest, and relax. Each festival hub will consist of live music performances, game booths, first-aid booths, water stations, portable restrooms, and hand-wash stations.

Residents are encouraged to volunteer for the event and additional information regarding the 626 Golden Streets can be found on www.626goldenstreets.com.



SGVCOG Welcomes New Board Members

This year, 14 new Governing Board delegates and alternates will be joining the SGVCOG Governing Board. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new members from our member agencies. New members will be featured in alphabetical order by city and appointment dates. The next issue will feature members from Cities of Covina and Montebello.



MONICA GARCIA

*Mayor Pro Tem
City of Baldwin Park*

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia was first elected to the Baldwin Park City Council in November 2007 and was re-elected in 2011 and 2015. She is honored to represent the City of Baldwin Park, which she has been residing for more than 40 years. Her public service began in 2001 on the City Planning Commission, where she served as Chair and supported redevelopment projects along the I-10 Freeway corridor including Starbucks, In-N-Out, Smart and Final, and Harley Davidson.



ALLEN WU

*Councilmember
City of Walnut*

Dr. Allen Wu was elected to serve on the Walnut City Council in 2018. Prior to this, he served as Director of the Walnut Valley Water District, and from 2002 to 2004 as a Commissioner and Vice Chair of the City of Walnut's Parks & Recreation Commission. Dr. Wu has been a Walnut resident since 1989. He earned his Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering and M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Southern California.



TONY WU

*Mayor Pro Tem
City of West Covina*

Mayor Pro Tem Wu was first elected to the West Covina City Council in 2015 and was re-elected for another term on the City Council in 2018. He works diligently with the community on improving the quality of life of residents, enhancing public safety services, bringing in new developments, and increasing businesses to create more jobs. Mayor Pro Tem Wu strives to help West Covina to become the most vibrant city in the San Gabriel Valley.



STEVEN PLACIDO

*Division II Representative
and Secretary
San Gabriel Valley MWD*

Dr. Steven Placido was elected to the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors in November 2016 and sworn in at the December 2016 Board Meeting to represent Division II - Alhambra/Monterey Park. Steve is very well-known in Alhambra, Monterey Park and throughout the San Gabriel Valley as a former Mayor and Councilmember in the City of Alhambra, as well as for decades of civic and community involvement.

2019 SGVCOG General Assembly Announcement

SGVCOG is proud to present its 2019 General Assembly. This event will bring together elected officials, city staff, and community leaders to address the future of the San Gabriel Valley. Additionally, the General Assembly will highlight regional partnerships and efforts to develop sustainable solutions in addressing key challenges facing the region, including transportation, homelessness, and the environment.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 8:30am to 1:30pm at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. Interested individuals, municipalities, and community organizations can register for the event by visiting sgvcog.org/2019ga. Deadline to purchase tickets online is Thursday, April 4, 2019. If you have any questions regarding the General Assembly or would like to purchase tickets by mailing invoice or check, please call Stefanie Hernandez at (626) 457-1800 or e-mail shernandez@sgvcog.org.



SGVCOG Featured Staff: Edward Villanueva

This month, our SGVCOG featured staff member is Edward Villanueva. Edward serves as our Project Manager and we've had a chance to catch up recently:

What do you like about working for the SGVCOG?

I enjoy working with the staff most of all. They make the day-to-day tasks much more pleasurable. I enjoy being part of an organization that represents a large regional area and working to make it a better place to live. The work, indeed, is quite rewarding.



Tell us one interesting or fun fact about yourself.

I am also the Vice President of the Beach Cities Mustang Club, which is one of the largest Mustang Clubs in the Nation. We host the largest Mustang Car show and the Ponies at the Pike at the Shoreline Park in Long Beach. The event will be held on September 15th of this year.



Committee Meeting Dates:

SGVCOG is governed by a Governing Board that dictates the policies for the organization. Additionally, there are policy committees and technical advisory committees (TACs) that provide guidance to the Governing Board on important matters. To learn more about SGVCOG committees, please visit sgvcog.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Monday, April 1, 2019 at 12:00pm
1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91801

HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 8:30am
1444 West Garvey Ave. S. West Covina, CA 91790

CITY MANAGERS' STEERING COMMITTEE:

Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 12:00pm
100 S. Vincent Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790

PUBLIC WORKS TAC:

Monday, April 15, 2019 at 12:00pm
119 W. Palm Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016

WATER COMMITTEE:

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 10:00am
602 E. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016

EENR COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 12:30pm
1706 Goetz Road, Perris, CA 92570

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 4:00pm
602 E. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016

GOVERNING BOARD:

Thursday, April 19, 2019 at 5:30pm
602 E. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Monday, April 22, 2019 at 12:00pm
1444 W. Garvey Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790

PLANNERS TAC:

Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 12:00pm
119 W. Palm Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016

Upcoming Event:

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS COUNCIL

13TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

Friday, April 5, 2019 | 8:00AM to 2:30PM
Getty Center

RSVP at klondon@labusinesscouncil.org

As California continues to lead the nation in combating climate change, join our local business, government and non-profit leaders at the Sustainability Summit to explore how to California is creating climate resilient economies and growing access to clean energy and water resource technologies.

SAVE *the* DATE



SGVCOG
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

Building Sustainable Solutions

Wednesday
APRIL 10, 2019

PACIFIC PALMS RESORT
One Industry Hills Parkway
City of Industry, CA 91744

For more information regarding SGVCOG:

www.sgvcog.org
(626) 457-1800 | sgv@sgvcog.org