



Valley Voice

The Pulse of the
San Gabriel Valley

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\$643,000 Awarded for Active Transportation

The SGVCOG was recently awarded \$643,000 for regional pedestrian and bicycling planning efforts. This funding was awarded by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) through the State's Active Transportation Program (ATP), for projects that increase active transportation.

The COG's project includes developing active transportation plans for the cities of Irwindale, Glendora, La Puente, Monrovia, and Montebello, the first plans in these cities; completing a feasibility study to develop Class-I paths along undeveloped storm channels; developing regional wayfinding signage; and developing educational programs.

This application, submitted in partnership with the participating cities and BikeSGV, is the start of the COG's efforts to support the development of a regional active transportation system. In coordination with the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) and BikeSGV, the COG plans to submit an application for Caltrans' Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant, which will award approximately \$9.8 million to



San Jose Creek in Pomona (above) and Big Dalton Wash in Baldwin Park (below) provide opportunities to develop a regional bikeway network.



projects that address mobility deficiencies in the multimodal transportation system.

The COG's proposed application would develop conceptual plans for bikeways along the Big Dalton Wash in the City of Baldwin Park and San Jose Creek in the City of Pomona and a design and implementation manual to assist cities across the region in completing bikeway projects.



Free Residential Energy Audits, p. 3

Free energy assessments to be offered to homeowners through a partnership with CivicSpark.

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Has your City completed its Homeless Services Survey?

The COG is working to provide more regional coordination of homeless services to assist the cities in helping their homeless populations and to analyze the changes in homeless services that have occurred in the region since the San Gabriel Valley Regional Homeless Needs Assessment was completed in 2009. This survey will help to update the 2009 Assessment and identify additional opportunities for the SGVCOG to assist regionally.

See if your City has filled out the survey at <http://www.sgvco.org/#!/homeless-services-survey/c8uo>. If not, City staff should visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sgvco> to complete the survey.

#factcheck South El Monte Goes Solar!

South El Monte is leading the way in sustainability, with its plans to install 664.58 kW of photovoltaic (PV) power at 8 city facilities. The \$2.9 million project, which will be financed with Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) low-interest loans managed by the California Energy Commission (CEC), is expected to result in an energy savings of nearly \$8 million over 30 years.



The CEC provides 0% and 1% interest loans to school districts, community college districts, cities, counties, and universities for energy efficiency and energy generation projects.

The CEC approved the City for a 1% interest, 20-year loan for \$2,307,104 to install the solar PV systems on municipal facilities, including City Hall, the Community Center, the Senior Center, the Maintenance Yard, and the Transportation Yard in June 2014. The City will have no up-front costs and will repay the loan through the expected energy savings from the project.

In July 2014, the City approved a contract with Eco-Sol, Inc., as project manager,

and Borrego Solar Systems, as general contractor, to install the PV systems and handle all aspects of the installation. The panels have an expected life expectancy of 25 years and the contractors have provided a guarantee that the panels will produce 95% of expected energy output for 10 years. The project is expected to be completed in July 2015.

In addition to the 1% loans from the CEC, the City will receive \$470,825 in rebates through the California Solar Initiative. These two funding mechanisms will enable the City to significantly reduce its energy costs and reduce its carbon footprint without any upfront cost.

CEC 1% Loans Still Available

The CEC released the FY 2014-15 Loan Notice in May 2014. \$6 million is available for cities, counties, special districts, public universities, and public hospitals to finance lighting systems, HVAC systems, streetlighting, building insulation, water and wastewater treatment equipment, and renewable energy projects. More information and the application is available at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/financing/index.html#eligibility>.

FACT FACTS

255.7

Mega-watts (MW) of solar have been installed on public and non-profit buildings in SCE territory

New Website Launched

The COG's new website launched in August 2014! The new website is more user-friendly and provides more comprehensive information about the COG and its programs. The website was developed in-house, allowing the COG to save significantly on web design and development. Staff will continue to develop the site over time.

A snapshot of the home page of the website (right) includes information about the COG, upcoming meetings, existing programs, and current projects. Also at right is a snapshot of the meeting agendas, where agenda and backup materials for all upcoming meetings are posted.

Visit and browse the new site at www.sgvco.org.



Did You Know?

The COG has a new logo! Look for it on the COG's documents and publications!



Residential Energy Assessments Available

An unprecedented energy action planning effort, coordinated regionally to develop individual greenhouse gas emissions inventories and Energy Action Plans (EAPs) for 27 cities in the San Gabriel Valley, was completed in 2013. This regional effort resulted in significant cost savings for the cities. The EAPs are one component of the Climate Action Plan, which is required when cities update their General Plans.

Through the planning process, the San Gabriel Valley cities adopted plans that called for

- ◆ greenhouse gas reductions of more than **695,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide**,
- ◆ a **1.1 billion kilowatt hour (kWh)** reduction in residential and non-residential energy usage,
- ◆ and a **8.2 million kWh** reduction in projects at municipal facilities.

The plans identified dozens of strategies to meet these GHG and kWh reduction goals.

Based on the strategies identified in the EAPs and feedback from the cities, the COG applied for funding from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Southern California Edison and received \$850,000 to complete projects that support the California Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (CEESP), including the development of a point-of-point checklist and residential energy assessment program for the 16 participating cities.

The Local Government Commission (LGC) and CivicSpark is partnering with the COG to offer the energy assessments. Civic Spark is a new AmeriCorps program that

places individuals with an interest in sustainability careers in local governments to complete projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the creation of more sustainable communities. The COG will serve as 1 of 9 CivicSpark Regional Partners statewide.

3 CivicSpark Corps members will work at the COG offices and promote, schedule, and complete the residential energy assessments as a part of the COG's CEESP project. CivicSpark Corps members will receive comprehensive, specialized training in building science and home energy efficiency and coordinate with participating city staff and homeowners.

During the assessments, CivicSpark Corps members will walk around the home with the homeowner and identify easy energy savings opportunities and evaluate any energy savings opportunities in any home renovation projects.

By working with homeowners at the "point-of-permit" and targeting those who are already actively pursuing home renovation projects, the cities will be able to leverage the improvements and create rapport to significantly reduce energy. The CivicSpark team will also provide a customized home energy assessment for each participating homeowner, providing information about energy usage identifying easy, do-it-yourself actions.

The COG is excited to begin this collaboration with CivicSpark to support the cities and their residents!



The colored areas are the main places where air escapes from the home. The energy assessment will help homeowners identify these opportunities.

Other Programs Being Developed:

- **Green Building Manual and Website:** Easily accessible "one-stop shop" for energy efficiency information.
- **Online Permitting:** Working with participating cities to implement a customer-facing online permitting system that incorporates energy efficiency information and rebates.

FACT FACTS

\$474 million

Total amount of energy bills being paid annually by residents in the San Gabriel Valley, based on the average annual energy consumption per home in each City

Can't remember the goals and strategies in your City's Energy Action Plan?

All of the Energy Action Plans can be viewed at <http://www.sgvenergywise.org/municipalities/strategic-planning/deliverables>.

Coming Next Month:

- ◆ **SGV Mobility Matrix:** The COG received \$500,000 from Metro to complete a Mobility Matrix that identifies a suite of regionally significant projects and develops a framework for identifying priority projects.
- ◆ **Active Transportation Program (ATP) Projects:** Many cities in the San Gabriel Valley were awarded funding under the ATP to complete a wide variety of projects.

COG POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Transportation

Chair — John Fasana, City of Duarte

Upcoming topics:

- ◇ Regional coordination with SANBAG
- ◇ SGV Mobility Matrix
- ◇ Gold Line Eastside Corridor

HCED

Chair — Joe Lyons, City of Claremont

Upcoming topics:

- ◇ Homeless Services Questionnaire Results
- ◇ SGV Homeless Services Action Plan

EENR

Chair — Denis Bertone, City of San Dimas

Upcoming Topics:

- ◇ National Monument Designation Next Steps
- ◇ Solid Waste Legislation Impacts
- ◇ Cap and Trade Overview

Transportation Updates

- ◆ The draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Eastside Transit Corridor—Phase 2 was released in August 2014 and public comments were accepted until October 2014.
- ◆ Diamond Bar and Industry received a \$10 million federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for the 57/60 Confluence Project. In addition to the funding from the TIGER grant, the project has received \$4.5 million from Metro, \$10.6 million from Industry, \$9.4 from the Federal Regional Surface Transportation Program, and \$2.7 million from Industry for design. The first stage of construction, which is expected to begin in the summer of 2015, is estimated to cost about \$53 million, with a total project cost over 3 phases of construction of approximately \$258 million.
- ◆ The COG, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, and Metro continue to work on a joint study to improve traffic flow in the vicinity of the 605/60 and 605/10 interchanges. The \$4 million should be completed early next year and will be provide the basis for project recommendations. Recommendations will include the elimination of lane drops and improved ramp connectors and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane connections.

Transportation Spotlight
Corridor Planning

In the SGVCOG's adopted transportation priority list, adopted in January 2014, corridor planning along major corridors was identified as a priority for the agency.

Corridors play an important role in the mobility of the San Gabriel Valley, since the region is bisected by several many regionally significant corridors. They serve as major transportation routes through the region, especially with congestion on freeways. Four corridors — Rosemead Boulevard, Arrow Highway, Ramona-Badillo Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard — were identified as priorities for corridor planning. All four of these corridors travel through several cities and LA County unincorporated areas and, as a result, they have different land uses, different characters, and different degrees of connectivity. Corridor planning would allow the creation of a more cohesive vision for these roadways.

Some planning work has already been completed. In 2008, a SCAG Compass Blueprint Study was completed along Arrow Highway, which recommended



Above: Temple City has completed a major complete streets project along Rosemead Boulevard, incorporating protected bicycle lanes, amenities for pedestrians, and public art and other landscaping.

the creation of multi-jurisdictional redevelopment area. In 2013, a SCAG Compass Blueprint Study looked at transportation and land-use planning opportunities along the Ramona-Badillo Corridor. Individual cities have also completed some work: the City of Temple City completed a significant complete streets renovation along Rosemead Boulevard in 2013.

Corridor planning efforts will continue to be a priority for the COG into the future.



ACE Update

ACE Awarded \$18.3 million
for Fullerton Road Project

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded \$18.3 million in state bond funds to ACE to construct a roadway underpass and railroad bridge at the Fullerton Road railroad crossing. The crossing is currently traversed by 49 trains per day, and the project is expected to reduce the daily vehicle-hours delay by 50.4 vehicle hours.

Project plans call for the construction of a six-lane roadway underpass on Fullerton Road, a four-track railroad bridge and a bridge for Railroad Street, across Fullerton Road. The project is in the final engineering and design state and the right-of-way is currently being acquired. The total project cost is

expected to be \$142.9 million, and construction is expected to begin in 2016.



The \$76 million Baldwin Avenue underpass is expected to open in March 2015. After the project opens, about 28,000 vehicles are expected to pass underneath the bridge daily.

COG Adopts New Policies

Over the last several months, the COG has adopted a number of new policies and procedures to increase the Agency's transparency and to reflect best practices that afford the greatest level of transparency and protection for the COG, its employees, and its member agencies.

The COG adopted its first Records Management and Retention Policy for the Preservation and Disposition of SGVCOG Records in June 2014, to help the Agency more efficiently manage its public records. The COG has also adopted a Purchasing and Procurement Policy, a Financial Management System, and Grants Policies.

All of these policies, practices, and procedures have been developed to guide the restructuring of the organization, through the review of current practices and the development of new systems that reflect best industry practices. These new policies and

procedures will also ensure that the COG meets generally accepted accounting standards, promotes trust, and ensures compliance with federal, state, and local funding agency requirements.

The COG also adopted classes of employment for its employees, establishing salary and benefit rates in September 2014. This action is consistent with the direction to restructure the organization. By establishing these systems, the COG is completing the transition of employees assigned to the traditional Council of Governments functions to a personnel, classification, and salary administration system. This is consistent with industry best practices and is consistent with the processes adopted by the ACE Board and administered by the ACE staff for the COG employees assigned to ACE.

FACT FACTS

1.8 million

people live in the San Gabriel Valley.

18%

of the population in LA County lives in the San Gabriel Valley.

#5

Rank of the San Gabriel Valley in the U.S., based on population. The San Gabriel Valley would fall behind New York, LA, Chicago, and Houston.

13%

of California State Senators represent some portion of the San Gabriel Valley in the State Senate.



SGVEWP Featured Project Implementing EAPs Workshop

A workshop for City staff was held on September 30, 2014. Funded by a grant from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Southern California Edison (SCE), 27 greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and Energy Action Plans (EAPs) were developed for 27 cities in the San Gabriel Valley. The next step in implementing the EAPs

Workshop participants received a 2,000 page resource library, with information about existing residential and business programs, and case studies. The workshop also featured a presentation on the Green Building Manual, a document that is being developed as part of the COG's energy efficiency strategic planning efforts. The Green Building Manual will serve as an easy-to-use resource guide for residents and businesses to demonstrate the benefits of reducing energy usage and also to help identify specific actions that help reduce energy usage.

Attendees also received hands-on

training on the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative's (SEEC) ClearPath program. This online platform is available to cities statewide at no cost and allows cities to enter their GHG data, track their (GHG) emissions, and model different scenarios (i.e. development strategies, development of programs). This will assist cities in addressing AB 32, which, which calls for GHG reductions to 15% of current levels by 2020.

SAVE THE DATE

The 6th Annual Energy Awards Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, December 10, 2014, from 12:00 noon—1:30 p.m. at the San Gabriel Hilton (225 W. Valley Boulevard).** Help us recognize those cities that have been leaders in sustainability in 2014.

SGVEWP Status Update

These are the projects that have been completed and incentives that cities have received since the beginning of 2014:

18 projects completed

1.7 million

kWh saved

~\$106,000

in incentives for cities

~\$213,000

in averted electricity costs

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, November 4, 4:00 p.m.
Executive Committee
15625 E. Stafford Ave; Industry, CA

Wednesday, November 6, 12:00 noon
City Managers' Steering Committee
11333 Valley Blvd; El Monte, CA

Thursday, November 13, 3:30 p.m.
Water Committee/TAC
725 N. Azusa Ave; Azusa, CA

Monday, November 17, 12:00 noon
Public Works TAC
211 E. Huntington Dr; Arcadia, CA

Thursday, November 20, 4:00 p.m.
Governing Board
924 W. Huntington Dr; Monrovia, CA

The 11th Annual Merry Mingle will be held following the Governing Board Meeting on **Thursday, November 20, 2014, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Monrovia** (924 W. Huntington Drive in Monrovia) from **6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.** The event is co-sponsored by the COG, the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership and the San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network. Please RSVP by November 13, 2014, at <http://2014sgvmerrymingle.eventbrite.com>.

These meetings are open to the public, and you are encouraged to attend to find out more about what's going on at the COG. More information about the current issues being discussed by the committees can be found on page 4. Current agendas can also be found at <http://www.sgvkog.org/#!meeting-agendas/c5sa>.



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