

Valley Voice

The Pulse of the San Gabriel Valley



November 2013

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COG receives \$500,000 for Transportation Planning

The COG was recently awarded \$500,000 by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to complete a Mobility Matrix for the San Gabriel Valley sub-region.

Transportation has been a priority of the SGCVOG since its inception in 1994. Since that time, the member agencies have worked together to develop regional transportation strategies. The sub-regional transportation needs assessment and strategy that will be completed with this funding will allow the COG to quantify and qualify the sub-region's mobility infrastructure over time, addressing history, trends technology, and economic issues. The overall goal is to build consensus on a vision for the future mobility of the Valley that embraces efficiency and innovation for the continuous improvement of the quality of life.

Over the past several months, the COG's Transportation Working Group — chaired by The ACE Project CEO Mark Christoffels — has worked to define the critical elements of this plan. These include:

- Developing and identifying goals and objectives
- ♦ Establishing baseline conditions
- Establishing a vision and framework for short-term and long-term subregional transportation improvements

The Transportation Working Group has also developed a draft scope of work for the subregional needs assessment and strategy. The final product will include:

- Specific goals and objectives that are consistent with the regional goals established in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and all other local and regional plans, including those adopted by member agencies and the COG;
- An assessment of baseline conditions, including GIS maps and an analysis of origins, destinations, and travel patterns;
- ♦ An evaluation of funding history and possible future funding opportunities
- A technical and policy framework—
 informed by the identified goals,
 objectives, and baseline conditions—that
 will outline a shared direction that the
 agency can use to identify general high
 priority areas and short-term high-impact
 projects and to establish as a long-term
 vision for transportation improvements

This funding will be used to obtain a consultant to assist Metro staff, the COG staff, and the local jurisdictions in completing this work.

The COG will continue to update its member agencies as this project moves forward.

COG Strategic Plan, p. 4-5

The Strategic Plan identifies the priorities and specific activities for the COG in both the next fiscal year and into FY 2017.





San Gabriel Valley Succeeds in Metro Call for Projects, p. 3

Projects for cities in the San Gabriel Valley were recommended for nearly \$40 million of funding the latest round of Metro's Call for Projects.

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#factcheck

Azusa Promotes Energy Efficiency & Development

The City of Azusa is one of just two cities — the other being the City of Pasadena — in the San Gabriel Valley that has its own utility, providing electricity and water to its residents. As such, Azusa Light and Water has many opportunities to provide unique and innovative incentive and rebate programs that not only not only reduce electricity usage but also encourage businesses to locate in the City of Azusa.

Azusa Light and Power has several discounts for non-residential customers that encourage economic development in the city. New non-residential customers that occupy space in either new buildings/facilities or existing commercial buildings/facilities that have been vacant for 90 days or longer can receive a 15% discount on their electricity bill.

Qualifying customers can also take advantage of additional discounts:

 Additional 25% discount for the first 12 months and additional 10% for the next 24 months for new non-residential customers that develop property owned by the City of Azusa

- For industrial customers, additional 25% discount for the first 12 months and additional 10% discount for the next 24 months for the months in which new or expanded industrial load sized at 100 kW or is projected to have a monthly load factor of 50% or more
- For industrial customers, additional 15% discount on additional electrical load that is greater than 100 KW or has a monthly load factor of 50% or more

In addition to these discounts for non-residential customers, Azusa Light and Water provides a number of rebates for its residential customers, including for home weatherization, refrigerator/freezer replacements, air conditioner replacements, LED Flat Screen TVs or monitors, and for ENERGY STAR appliances.



FACT FACTS

1300

Azusa electric customers received rebates for purchasing energy efficient refrigerators, air conditioners, and for weathering their homes

\$150,000

in rebates were paid out to these customers from Azusa Light & Water's Energy Efficiency fund

What Can you Do to Save Water?

There are a number of programs available to help residents save water.

- ⇒ FreeSprinklerNozzles.com: Receive a voucher for a high efficiency spray nozzle at the website
- ⇒ Residential Rebates for
 - \Rightarrow High efficiency clothes washers
 - \Rightarrow High efficiency toilets
 - ⇒ Rotating nozzles
 - ⇒ Irrigation controllers
 - ⇒ Soil moisture sensors systems
 - \Rightarrow Rain barrels
- ⇒ Rebates for turf removal

More rebates can be found <u>www.bewaterwise.com</u>.

FACT FACTS

27%

of water used in homes is used for showering or bathing.

Save Water with the USGVMWD

With good planning and investment in water storage projects, Municipal Water Districts like the Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District (USGVMWD), can ensure that there is an adequate water supply for the region, even during "dry years." Potentially facing a third consecutive dry year, Upper District will still be able to replenish local groundwater supplies with water pumped from Northern California provided by the Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan).

State and federal reservoirs are well below average for this time of year, and next year's supply allocations from the state are very low. It's important to use other mechanisms to maintain the water supply. Water storage is one mechanism of doing so. For example, Metropolitan delivers water to the San Gabriel Canyon, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District spreads it on the ground so it sinks back into the groundwater basin, which provides a future supply in case this coming winter is

also dry. San Gabriel Valley water providers are now tapping into those regional supplies and storing them here in the local groundwater basin.

While water storage projects are critical during dry years to meet demand, water conservation remains a critical piece of Southern California's reliable water supply. Using water as efficiently as possible in our homes, businesses and outdoors gives water agencies the ability to save that extra water and store it underground so we can use it in the future. There are many ways people can conserve water every day and contribute to the reliability of the water supply. Upper District offers a variety of water conservation tips and resources on its website at www.usgvmwd.org. Residents are also encouraged to visit www.bewaterwise.com for more information on water saving incentive programs offered through Metropolitan Water District.

San Gabriel Valley Succeeds in Call for Projects

is responsible for discretionary federal, state and local transportation funds to improve all modes of surface transportation. Metro also prepares the Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A key component of TIP is the Call for Projects program, a competitive process that distributes discretionary capital transportation funds to regionally significant projects. Every other year, Metro accepts Call for Projects applications in eight modal categories:

- Regional Surface Transportation Improvements (RSTI);
- Goods Movement Improvements;
- Signal Synchronization and Bus Speed Improvements;
- Transportation Demand Management;
- Bicycle Improvements;
- Pedestrian Improvements;
- ♦ Transit Capital; and
- Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA).

Local jurisdictions, transit operators, and other public agencies are encouraged to submit applications proposing projects for funding. Funding for the Call for Projects comes from a variety of local, state, and federal sources, including, but not limited to, the following:

- ♦ Local Sources: Proposition A (10%) and Proposition C (25%)
- ♦ State Sources: Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds
- Federal Sources: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

As part of the 2013 Call for Projects, Metro received 207 applications. Over the past eight months, staff has evaluated the applications, met with Metro's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and its subcommittees, and held project sponsor appeals. At their September 2013 meeting, the Metro Board adopted Staff's recommendation to fund 96 projects totaling \$199.39 million in the eight modal categories outlined below. San Gabriel Valley jurisdictions submitted a total of 31 projects across seven modes, 19 of which were recommend to receive funding. In total, projects in the San Gabriel Valley region were recommended for \$39,365,884 in funding.

FAST FACTS

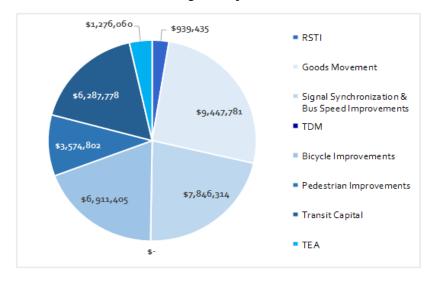
20%

of the overall funding in this Call for Project was recommended for projects in the San Gabriel Valley

The San Gabriel Valley in Metro Call for Projects: At-a-Glance

Mode	City/Agency	Project Description	Recommended Funding
RSTI	San Marino	Huntington Drive Multimodal Capacity Enhancements	\$939,435
Goods Movement	Industry	SR57/6o Confluence: Westbound SR6o/Northbound SR57 Grand Off-Ramp Interchange	\$9,447,781
Signal Sync. and Bus Speed Improvements	County of Los Angeles	San Gabriel Valley Forum Traffic Signal Corridor Project	\$3,624,394
	Pasadena	Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System - Transit Signal Priority	\$1,157,647
	Diamond Bar	Diamond Bar Adaptive Traffic Control System Project	\$1, 406 , 860
	Pasadena	Adaptive Traffic Control Network - Phase II	\$1 , 657,413
Bicycle Improvements	Rosemead	Rosemead/South El Monte Regional Bicycle Connector Project	\$923,721
	La Verne	La Verne Regional Commuter Bicycle Gap Closure Project	\$1,122,466
	Arcadia	Bicycle Facility Improvements	\$1,156,547
	Temple City	Las Tunas Drive Bicycle Improvements	\$2,721,868
	El Monte	El Monte Regional Bicycle Commuter Access Improvements	\$986 , 803
Pedestrian Improvements	Temple City	Las Tunas Drive Improvements and Safety Enhancement Project	\$2,910,046
	Alhambra	Alhambra Pedestrian Improvement/Walking Viability Project on Valley	\$664 , 756
Transit Capital	Pasadena	Pasadena Replacement and Added Capacity of Clean Fuel Buses	\$2,111,900
	Monterey Park	Clean Fuel Bus Replacements	\$1,230,722
	Baldwin Park	Clean Fuel Buses form Baldwin Park Transit Service	\$1,150,481
	La Canada Flintridge	City of La Canada Flintridge Bus Replacement Project	\$343,497
	El Monte	El Monte Clean Fuel Bus Replacement	\$1,451,178
TEA	Temple City	Las Tunas Drive Complete Streets Improvement Project	\$1 , 276 , 060

Amount of Funding for Projects in SGV Cities



Planning for the Future

In October 2013, the Governing Board adopted the COG's three-year strategic plan, for the years 2014 to 2017.

Since June 2013, when the initial Strategic Planning session was held, more than 70 Governing Board members, city managers, and city staff representing an overwhelming majority of member agencies have participated and provided input into the COG's strategic planning process.

At the Strategic Planning session in June 2013, participants reviewed and reaffirmed the COG's Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Core Values and also identified 5 major policy areas where the COG should focus its efforts. These 5 policy areas were

- ♦ Transportation
- **♦** Environment
- ♦ Economic Development
- ♦ Water
- ♦ Housing

Over the next four months, the policy committees, technical advisory committees, and representatives of the various member agencies were tasked with further exploring their respective policy areas in order to develop specific long-term and short-term action recommendations to present to the

Governing Board. This process was designed to engage as many cities and participants as possible, to ensure that the COG's priorities for the next three years were representative of the interests of its member agencies.

These stakeholders identified more specific policy areas within each issue area to further define the priorities of the COG. These issue areas can be seen at right. which can be seen in the box at right. For each of these issue areas, stakeholders identified the challenges and goals, potential partners, service gaps and opportunities and, based on this information, developed long-term goals for the 3-year strategic planning period and short-term actions for fiscal year 2013-2014. These short-term actions can be found on page 5.

The process was designed to encourage discussions and debate among representatives from as many member agencies as possible. Members were actively engaged in these discussions and came to many meaningful conclusions about the COG and its roles within the region. SGVCOG's Strategic Plan.

The next two pages provide a snapshot of the activities that were included in the COG's Strategic Plan. The entire Plan can be viewed at www.sgvcog.org.

Get Involved in the COG!

In the adopted 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, there were recommendations to create a number of new committees for the COG. This will create a number of new opportunities for participation. Below are the new committees that are proposed:

- Economic Development Policy Committee: To provide direction to the Governing Board on economic development activities and programs and carry out the activities included in the Economic Development section of the Strategic Plan.
- Water Policy Committee: To provide direction to the Governing Board on water activities. Currently, water issues are reviewed by the Water Resources Working Group and the EENR Committee.

There was also a recommendation to create Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) for each of the policy committees. These TACs would be made up primarily of city staff that has ar expertise in the given policy area and would provide technical input to assist the policy committees in making recommendations to the Governing Board. These TACs would replace the existing working groups.

- Transportation TAC
- ♦ Housing TAC
- Economic Development TAC
- Environment TAC
- ♦ Water TAC

It is expected that these committees and TACs will begin meeting in January, pending the discussions by the Bylaws Ad-Hoc Committee, which is referenced at right. Changes to the bylaws will be necessary to formalize these policy committees. The Governing Board will consider the Bylaws Committee's recommendations at an upcoming meeting.

The COG is looking to engage as many Governing Board Delegates and Alternates, other City Council Members, City Managers, and City Staff as possible. If this topic areas are of interest to you or any other representatives in your city, please email sgy@sgycog.org.

Issue Areas

Transportation

- Highways
- Transit & Regional Rail
- Goods Movement
- ♦ Active Transportation
- Regional Corridors & Arterials

Environment

- ♦ Air Quality
- Solid Waste
- Energy Efficiency
- ♦ Open Space

Economic Development

- Economic Visior
- Workforce Developmen
- Attracting & Supporting Businesses

Water

- ♦ Water Quality & NPDES MS4
- Water Conservation, Recycling & Recharge
- Water Reliability
- ♦ Wastewater

<u>Housing</u>

- Affordable, Senior & Workforce Housing
- Homelessness
- ♦ Quality of Life

Next Steps

After the adoption of the of the Strategic Plan, each policy committee has developed an action plan for each issue area, indicating when work is expected to be completed for each action item. This workplan will be updated monthly and can be viewed at www.sgvcog.org.

There are also a number of bylaw changes that will be necessary to implement some of the actions in the Strategic Plan, including the creation of the committees shown at left. At its August 2012 meeting, the Governing Board formed a Bylaws Ad-Hoc Committee to review a number of possible changes to the bylaws. Committee is expected to begin meeting immediately to develop a set of recommendations for changes to the bylaws, including those necessary to implement the Strategic Plan. After the Committee makes recommendations to the Governing Board, the COG will begin the legal process necessary to amend the bylaws.

Prior to their formal creation in the bylaws, it is expected that these committees will begin meeting in January 2014 to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan as soon as possible.

2014-2017 COG Strategic Plan



Transportation

Short-Term Actions

- ♦ Convene Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- ♦ Develop final scope of work for and conduct the San Gabriel Valley Transportation Needs Assessment and Strategy.
- Review cities' Transportation/Mobility Elements of their General Plans and Bicycle Master Plans.
- Meet with active groups to review efforts related to the development of a Regional Bicycle Master Plan.
- Prepare report on funding for bicycle planning and project implementation.
- Reaffirm San Gabriel Valley priority regional corridors, identify any current or planned projects, reconvene regional corridor working groups, and identify funding opportunities.



Environment

Short-Term Actions

- Prepare Environment Quarterly Report on funding opportunities, partnering agencies' activities, and legislation.
- Convene Environment TAC.
- Develop scope of work for, secure funding for, and conduct regional PEV infrastructure plan.
- Manage San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership (SGVEWP) and California Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (CEESP) grants.
- Work with Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and other agencies to develop priority list of multi-benefit, multi-jurisdictional open space projects.
- Track legislation related to the proposed National Recreation Area and provide regular updates.
- Prepare report on existing education, literacy, and stewardship programs in the San Gabriel Valley.



Economic Development

Short-Term Actions

- ♦ Convene Economic Development Policy Committee and TAC.
- ♦ Coordinate with San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (SGVEP) to identify and analyze opportunities, advantages and potential disadvantages of developing a regional economic development strategy and vision and possible funding source.
- Work with existing agencies and colleges and universities to identify gaps in the workforce development system.
- ♦ Assist the SGVEP and Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) in updating the "Business Assistance Toolkit."
- Host quarterly workshops on post-redevelopment funding strategies and other innovative economic development efforts.
- Prepare report on existing education, literacy, and stewardship programs in the San Gabriel Valley.



Water

Short-Term Actions

- ♦ Convene Water Policy Committee and TAC.
- Host annual educational workshop on relevant water quality and stormwater issues for elected officials and staff.
- ♦ Collect information on existing water conservation campaigns and identify potential opportunities for collaboration.
- Research potential funding source to expand LA County energy management system (EEMIS) to include water usage and costs.
- Prepare analysis of sources of water (imported vs. groundwater) and service territories for various public and private water providers in the San Gabriel Valley.
- Present status updates on Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).
- Collect information on current wastewater funding obstacles and regulatory issues.



Housing

Short-Term Actions

- Convene Housing TAC.
- ◆ Participate in SCAG's RHNA subcommittee to achieve RHNA and housing element reform.
- Review and prepare report on development plans at the new Gold Line stations.
- Prepare report on member agencies' needs, existing subregional homeless services, strategies, and possible approaches addressing homelessness.
- Develop targeted outreach strategy to San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus to communicate issues and needs associated with realignment.
- Obtain and disseminate information to member agencies on services available to law enforcement in addressing issues with mentally ill persons.

COG POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE



Transportation

Chair — John Fasana, City of Duarte

At its next meeting, the Transportation Committee will be discussing the following items:

- ♦ Transportation Guiding Principles
- ♦ SCAG/MTA First Mile-Last Mile Strategic Plan



HCED

Chair — Joe Lyons, City of Claremont

At its next meeting, the HCED Committee will be discussing the following items:

- ♦ Housing Policy Paper
- ♦ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority



EENR

Chair — Denis Bertone, City of San Dimas

At its next meeting, the EENR Committee will be discussing the following items:

- ♦ Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- ♦ Protecting Water Supply in the SGV

Transportation Spotlight

Regional Connector

The Metro Regional Connector Project is a 1.9 mile underground light-rail transit (LRT) project that will connect the Metro Gold Line Little Tokyo/Arts District Station to the 7th Street and Metro Center Station in downtown Los Angeles. It will allow passengers to transfer from the Blue, Expo, Red and Purple Lines without transferring at Union Station. When completed, this extension will allow passengers a direct connection between Azusa and Long Beach and East Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

The Regional Connector project has long been identified as a critical regional project. Even in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as analysis and planning were underway for a light-rail system from Pasadena to Long Beach, through downtown Los Angeles, feasibility studies for the Gold Line and Blue Line identified the need for a regional connector. Funding limitations throughout 1990s and 2000s prevented its construction. Metro continued to study the feasibility and, in 2011, the Metro Board of Directors authorized the staff to proceed with the draft Environment Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). The Final EIS/EIR was adopted in 2011. Due to its regional significance, the California Association Governments (SCAG) included the project in its 2008 Regional Transportation Plan and Metro included it in the constrained portion of Metro's 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Regional Connector Project will improve the efficiency of and access to both local and regional destinations by providing continuous through service on existing lines through downtown Los Angeles. The project will also include 3 new stations: Grand Avenue, Broadway, and Little Tokyo/ Arts District. All stations will include public art components and provide convenient and safe access.

After completion, it is estimated that the Regional Connector will provide access to 90,000 passengers daily, including approximately 17,000 new transit riders. With the need for transfers eliminated, oneway LRT trip times across the County should decrease by 10 to 20 minutes. In addition, 11 intersections, including 1st and Alameda Streets will see improved performance and less congestion.

While work is underway to relocate underground utility lines, there have been some challenges for the Regional Connector Project. Several downtown business owners have challenged the EIS/EIR in court, arguing that Metro's proposed tunneling methods violate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Regional Connector is expected to cost \$1.366 billion over the life of the project, with a projected opening in 2020. The project will receive some funding from Measure R, a half-cent sales tax increase that was approved by voters in 2008., and Metro staff also submitted an application for \$670 million in federal New Starts funding from the Federal Transit Administration.

Stay tuned next month for a spotlight on the 710 North Gap Closure.

Regional Connector Transit Project



Executive Director Report

"Think globally, act locally" is a strategy initially coined to encourage the conservation of the earth's natural resources at the local level. Since then, the strategy has become a global concept used in business, education, and government to emphasize the need to build capabilities at the regional or community level while pursuing global growth. On a more microscale, this concept applies to the San Gabriel Valley region across a variety of issues, including water, transportation and the environment.

At their core, COGs are built around the idea that thinking and planning at a regional scale will best serve each city or agency within the region. While each member agency has its own structure, concerns and priorities, there are many issues that can be most effectively addressed at a regional level. COGs provide a forum for this regional discussion to develop a regional vision that will best serve the region and its member agencies. Local jurisdictions are then asked to act in ways that support this broader vision.

Currently, our cities are responding to a request from Metro to identify their local transportation needs. Cities have submitted a host of potential projects,

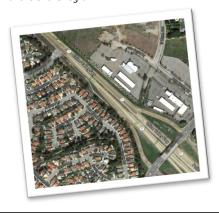
intersection including improvements, bicycle lanes, and traffic synchronization. As we receive this information, it is striking is how, when combined, these local projects have the potential to significantly improve regional mobility. A recent study by MTA found that these "local projects with regional benefit" had the potential to reduce vehicle hours of delay by 7 million hours, or 16%, benefitting residents and promoting economic development in the entire region. The cities in the Valley understand the importance of "thinking globally" in the region.

To further support the development of this regional vision, last month, the SGVCOG was awarded \$500,000 by Metro to develop a regional transportation mobility matrix. This process will allow our member agencies the opportunity to come together identify and prioritize transportation projects and better understand how these projects fit together. By continuing to come together as a regional body, the COG will only improve its ability to bring benefits to the entire region, not only in transportation but in all other issue areas as well.

Andrea Miller Executive Director



Projects like the improving the intersection of the 57/60 and the completion of SR-71 are local projects that are critical for the mobility of the entire region.



SGVEWP Featured Project

LED Holiday Light Exchanges

This year, the SGVEWP will once again be offering free holiday light exchanges to SCE customers throughout the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVEWP will be attending holiday events in 9 cities in the Valley and offering residents that are SCE customers the opportunity to exchange an old incandescent holiday light string for a new ultra-efficient light string. Individuals wishing to participate must show their SCE bill for eligibility. Each qualifying customer can exchange one string of lights per household, while supplies last.

The SGVEWP is providing this free service to educate residents about the benefits of energy efficiency while reducing their energy usage this holiday season. Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, are small light sources that are illuminated by the movement of electrons through a semiconductor material. They are significantly more efficient than comparable incandescent bulbs, are cool to the touch, reduce the risk of fire, and come in a variety of colors, shapes, and lengths.

Below are the holiday events where the SGVEWP will be offering exchanges:

More information about each event can be found at www.sgvenergywise.org.

Date	Event	Time
11/22/13	Monrovia Street Fair	5—9 p.m.
12/1/13	Alhambra Farmers Market	8:30 a.m.— 1 p.m.
12/3/13	San Gabriel Tree Lighting	6—8 p.m.
12/5/13	Rosemead Tree Lighting	6—8 p.m.
12/6/13	Claremont Tree Lighting	5—8 p.m.
	Covina Farmers Market	5—9 p.m.
12/7/13	El Monte Holiday House	10—12 noon
	San Dimas Holiday Extravaganza	2—6 p.m.
12/11/13	Duarte Santa Visit	4—5:30 p.m.



FACT FACTS

90%

estimated percentage more efficient LED lights are than incandescent bulbs

14C

LED bulbs could be powered with the same amount of electricity used by 1 7-watt incandescent bulb

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 20, 12:00 noon Joint City Managers' TAC/Planners TAC 602 E. Huntington Dr; Monrovia, CA

Thursday, November 21, 6:00 p.m. Governing Board 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd; Baldwin Park, CA

Wednesday, December 4 City Managers Steering Committee 11333 Valley Blvd; El Monte, CA

We encourage you to attend any of these meetings to find out more about what's going on at the COG. More information about the current issues that these committees are discussing can be found on page 6.



Valley Voice

The Pulse of the San Gabriel Valley

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