

VALLEY VOICE

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



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For the protection of the public and employees, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has temporarily closed offices to the public until further notice. SGVCOG staff members are temporarily teleworking from home and are available via e-mail during normal business hours.

The SGVCOG also began to host committee meetings virtually starting the week of March 30th. Meeting agenda packets will continue to be posted on the SGVCOG website at sgvcog.org and live-streaming services will be provided for each virtual committee meeting. For a list of April committee meetings, please visit the back of this newsletter.

For the most up-to-date information on current reported cases and Health Orders, please visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>.

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situational Updates from the SGVCOG

To control the spread of COVID-19, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) recently issued several Health Orders. Summaries of each Health Order can be found below and additional information can be found on <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>.



Safer at Home Order for Control of COVID-19

Effective March 21, 2020 through April 19, 2020

This Order prohibits all indoor and outdoor public and private events and gatherings and requires all businesses to cease in-person operations and close to the public unless the business is identified as an essential business by this Order. The Order does not prohibit any individual from engaging in outdoor activities or shop at essential businesses so long as social distancing measures are implemented to the extent possible. On March 27th, this Order was amended to include closures of public trails and trailheads, beaches, piers, and beach bike paths and access points.



Isolation Requirement Order for Control of COVID-19

Effective March 25, 2020 until rescinded by the Health Officer

All individuals who have been diagnosed with or who are likely to have COVID-19 must isolate themselves in their home until at least 72 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications and improvement of respiratory symptoms. Self-isolation is immediately required if an individual receives a positive lab test for COVID-19, contains COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of being in close contact with an individual that is likely to have COVID-19, or informed by a physician that they may have COVID-19.



Quarantine Requirement Order for Control of COVID-19

Effective March 25, 2020 until rescinded by the Health Officer

All household contacts, intimate partners, caregivers, and close contacts who have been in close contact with a person diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19 while that individual was symptomatic must quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last date that they were last in contact with the symptomatic individual. A person is considered to be a close contact of another individual with or likely to have COVID-19 with they were within 5 feet for more than 10 minutes or had unprotected direct contact to secretions or excretions of the symptomatic individual.

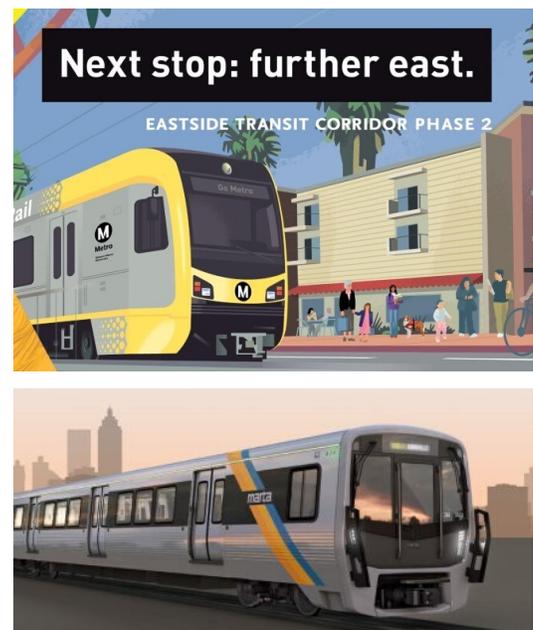
Metro Commits to Selecting Whittier Alignment for Phase Two of the Eastside Transit Corridor Project

In 2014, Metro analyzed two alignment options for extending the L Line (Gold Line) further east into South El Monte via State Route 60 (SR-60) or Whittier via Washington Boulevard. The proposed SR-60 Alignment would include stations in Montebello, Rosemead, and South El Monte and the Whittier Alignment would include stations in East Los Angeles, Commerce, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, and Whittier.

Earlier in February, Metro staff recommended the Metro Board of Directors to proceed with building the Whittier Boulevard Alignment given that the SR-60 Alignment appears to be the less viable option due to Caltrans encroachment permits, low population densities, and the lack of connections to residential communities.

The Metro Board of Directors convened in late February to consider the proposed Metro staff recommendation. Several San Gabriel Valley cities attended the meeting or submitted comment letters to express their concerns with Metro redirecting Measure M and Measure R funds allocated for the SR-60 Alignment to fund projects outside of the San Gabriel Valley.

While the Metro Board of Directors approved the recommendation to proceed with building only the Whittier Alignment, members of the Board also honored the commitment of \$635.3 million made to the San Gabriel Valley region as part of Measure R documentation. This commitment will be recognized consistent with the funding years in the Measure R Expenditure Plan. Metro staff will also report back to the Metro Board on the implementation plan to design, environmentally clear, and construct a high-transit service option that will serve the SR-60 corridor cities by May 2020.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Hosts COVID-19 Regional Response Briefing



On Monday, March 23, 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) held an internal telebriefing with more than 100 municipal staff, utility leaders, and industry leaders to discuss the Department's regional efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. DPW Director, Mark Pestrella, provided a thorough overview of the agency's operations and priorities for the next few months.



Director Pestrella informed attendees that DPW's directive is to maintain the infrastructures that provide continuum of care across Los Angeles County as cases of COVID-19 rapidly increase across Southern California. Director Pestrella recommended cities to plan for the stay-at-home orders to remain in place for at least six to eight more weeks given that the County is still working to produce test kits to meet the existing and rising demands of testing.



DPW is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) to coordinate response efforts and all DPW employees, as disaster workers, are currently reporting for duty. As of late March 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in DPW's workforce. 45% of the workforce are teleworking from home and the remaining 55% are working in the field or inside the office on a flexible schedule.



DPW continues to issue building permits, conduct inspections, and provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Director Pestrella also reported that street sweeping services and encampment clean-ups are currently suspended until further notice. While all Los Angeles County facilities are currently closed for the protection of the public, DPW employees are available to assist the public via phone at [\(626\) 458-5100](tel:6264585100).

SGVCOG Neighborhood Coyote Program Begins Preparation for Coyote Season

The SGVCOG launched the Neighborhood Coyote Program in January 2020 to address, educate, and report coyote interactions as well as safety issues caused by coyotes within the San Gabriel Valley. Through education and resourcing, the program aims to ensure the safety of residents and pets. The two-year Neighborhood Coyote Program provides various methods to report coyote encounters as well as tips and information to promote coyote safety.

Towards the end of January, the SGVCOG hosted kick-off meetings with each of the ten participating cities, including the Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Covina, Irwindale, Montebello, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, and Temple City. The kick-off meetings consisted of collaborative communication and planning between city staff and the SGVCOG. Shortly after the kick-off meetings, SGVCOG staff began sharing and publishing promotional materials such as coloring books, program and informational brochures, and flyers with residents that are reporting coyote activities within their neighborhoods.

Coyote activity typically becomes more prevalent in the spring and summer seasons as Southern California becomes a beautiful oasis of food, water, and shelter on warmer nights. In preparation for the heightened activity, the Neighborhood Coyote Program in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, has begun scheduling town halls and community meetings with participating cities. These events serve as informational sessions geared to provide professional advice, safety tips, and insights on coyote activities in the San Gabriel Valley. Additional information regarding the Neighborhood Coyote Program can be found on <https://www.sgvcog.org/coyotes>.



Public Health Advocates Offers Free Technical Assistance for Statewide Parks Program Funding



Public Health Advocates, an organization that focuses on addressing racial, economic, and health disparities and issues in California, is currently offering free technical assistance to cities who are interested in accessing state funds to improve community health and equity in their communities. The organization recognizes that parks are fundamental to improving communities, enhancing local economies, and protecting the environment.



Through the Statewide Park Program (SPP), over \$395 million will be made available on a competitive basis to create parks and recreation opportunities in underserved communities across California. Public Health Advocates is offering free technical assistance to select disadvantaged and park-poor communities to apply for SPP Round 4 funds. Technical assistance for selected applicants can include the following:



- Identifying community needs;
- Conceptual site plan mapping;
- Cost estimation; and,
- Building local partnerships to create comprehensive and community-driven projects.

Priority will be given to projects that create new parks through community-based planning with residents of disadvantaged, park-poor cities.



To be eligible for technical assistance, the community within a half-mile radius of the proposed project must have a ratio of less than 3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents and have a median household income lower than \$51,026. SPP Round 4 funds are expected to be released no sooner than November 2020. For additional information, please contact Alfred Mata at am@phadvocates.org or (844) 962-5900 x 360.

SGVCOG Hosts First Energy Management Work Group Meeting of the Year

The SGVCOG held the first Energy Work Group meeting of the year via teleconference on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The SGVCOG Energy Work Group serves as a platform for municipal staff and energy champions from local jurisdictions to gather and discuss challenges and success stories of energy management within their jurisdictions with the goal of reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions in the San Gabriel Valley.



Members of the work group received information on services that are being offered under the 2020 San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership, the CivicSpark Program, and 2020 SoCalGas rebate and incentive information. The Energy Work Group is expected to reconvene in the summer and individuals that are interested in joining the Work Group can contact SGVCOG staff at afung@sgvcog.org.



Los Angeles County Updates 2021-2029 Housing Element in General Plan

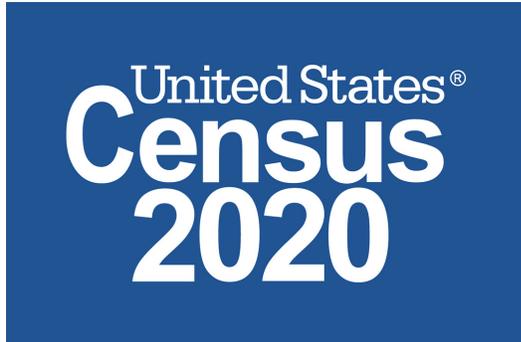
The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is currently updating the 2021-2029 Housing Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan. The Plan's Housing Element serves as a policy guide that addresses housing needs for unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Primary focus of the Housing Element is to ensure decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for current and future residents of unincorporated areas.



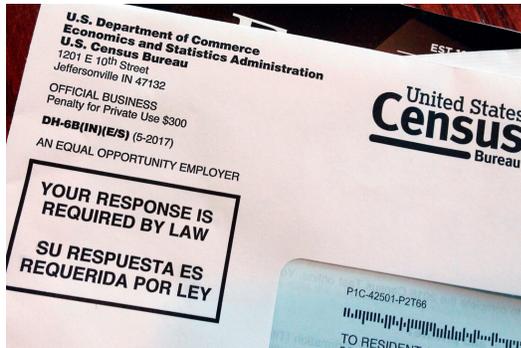
Cities and residents are encouraged to participate in the County's Housing Element Update Survey, which can be found on planning.lacounty.gov/housing. The website also contains the 2014-2021 Housing Element that was previously adopted by the County of Los Angeles in 2014. Questions regarding the Housing Element can be directed to (213) 974-6417 or housing@planning.lacounty.gov.



Officials Launch Local Census Count Efforts Across California



As mandated by the Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau must conduct a nationwide census every ten years. The data collected by the census determine the number of seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the distribution of federal funds to local jurisdictions and communities. The 2020 Census requires the counting of a growing population of approximately 330 million residents.



Invitations for the Census were issued from March 12th to March 20th and included information on filling out the Census form and unique Census ID numbers linked to each physical addresses. All Californians are able to respond to the Census online at <https://my2020census.gov/> or via phone at (844) 330-2020. Inquiries about responding to the 2020 Census can be directed to info@census.ca.gov.

April 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. Please be advised that all committee meetings that are held this month will be conducted virtually over Zoom Conferencing due to the safety of committee members and staff. Livestream of each committee meeting will be available through the SGVCOG website at sgvcog.org.

HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 10:00am

EENR COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 1:00pm

GOVERNING BOARD:

Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 4:00pm

PUBLIC WORKS TAC:

Monday, April 20, 2020 at 12:00pm

PLANNERS' TAC:

Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 12:00pm

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Monday, April 27, 2020 at 12:00pm