

# SGVCOG Weekly Recap

## Week of November 2, 2020

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Executive Committee held its monthly meeting. The Committee received an update from Paul Hubler, Director of Government and Community Relations, on efforts to develop legislative goals related to housing for the SGVCOG. Additionally, the Committee reviewed and approved the draft November 19 Governing Board agenda.
- **Homeless Committee:** On Wednesday, November 4, the Homelessness Committee met via Zoom teleconference. The Committee heard a presentation from the City of Pasadena on the use of surplus land for affordable housing in the context of updates to the Surplus Land Act. The LA County Department of Mental Health presented on the spectrum of the services and housing available to homeless individuals. The committee approved legislative priorities and directed staff to draft a letter to the Governor and legislative delegation supporting additional resources to address mental health care needs for approval at the November Governing Board meeting.
- **RHT Board of Directors Meeting:** On Wednesday, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust held a teleconference meeting over Zoom for its November meeting. Members of the Board of Directors received a presentation on temporary shelters from Pallet Shelter and modular affordable housing construction from AEDIS Real Estate Group.
- **Housing Discussion with Senator Rubio:** On Thursday, the COG's Executive Board, Government and Community Relations Director Paul Hubler, the COG's lobbyist Tim Egan, and I held a discussion with Senator Susan Rubio regarding SB 1120 and the State's anticipated housing legislation. We discussed some of the COG's concerns related to previous and anticipated housing legislation and priorities for the SGVCOG. The SGVCOG expressed support for state incentives and new grant programs and maintains that planning and zoning authority decisions must remain vested with local officials. We appreciate Senator Rubio's time and continued support.
- **SCAG:** On Thursday, SCAG held its monthly policy committees and Regional Council meetings. Most notably, the Regional Council approved the release of the guidelines for the Sustainable Communities Program - Housing and Sustainable Development Guidelines. The Program allows eligible applicants to apply for planning resources in the following categories: (1) advancing accessory dwelling units (ADU) implementation; (2) housing sustainability districts, workforce housing opportunity zones, and housing supportive tax increment financing districts; and (3) objective design standards for streamlined housing, prohousing designation program, and parking innovation. The Call for Applications opens on November 9, 2020, and will close on January 15, 2021. A workshop will be held on December 2, 2020. In addition, at the Regional Council meeting, SCAG President Rex Richardson provided an update on the RHNA Litigation Study Team. The Study Team previously met and recommended that SCAG not pursue litigation with the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) regarding HCD's regional determination for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) of 1.3 million units. The Study Team instead recommended that SCAG work with HCD to address the issues with HCD's determination. It's anticipated that this item will be discussed in closed session at an upcoming SCAG meeting.

# SGVCOG Weekly Recap

## Week of November 9, 2020

- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee convened via Zoom for its November meeting. Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) Civil Engineer Enrique Baul provided a presentation on its San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan. The Plan aims to transform approximately 138 miles of existing LACFCD right-of-way into a Greenway Network that bridges gaps between existing planning efforts and identifies and prioritizes project opportunities. A review of existing studies and planned projects was recently completed, and the District is currently analyzing tributaries to prioritize potential greenway reaches and conducting community engagement efforts with San Gabriel Valley cities. Additionally, the committee discussed the possibility of establishing a Regional VMT Mitigation Bank for the San Gabriel Valley region, which would create a monetary value for VMT mitigation such that a developer could purchase VMT reduction credits that could be applied to local or regional-level VMT mitigation projects or actions. This item will also be discussed with the SGVCOG Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee at its upcoming meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 12:00pm. Furthermore, the committee discussed Metro staff's recent proposed changes to the Measure R Highway Program Criteria and Measure M Guidelines (as discussed as part of the Governing Board Preview). The Committee concluded the meeting by congratulating the Cities of Alhambra, Claremont, El Monte, La Verne, Monrovia, Pomona, and San Gabriel for completing Southern California Regional Energy Network's (SoCalREN) Energy Efficiency Training Series. The Committee will reconvene on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 12:00pm.
- **Metro NextGen Working Group:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff attended the Metro NextGen Bus Working Group meeting. Metro Chief Executive Officer, Phil Washington, expressed his gratitude to Working Group members, who assisted in the development of the NextGen Bus Plan since 2018. The Plan, which aims to create a faster and more reliable bus network in the Metro transit system, was recently approved by the Metro Board of Directors for implementation on October 22nd. Metro staff will be implementing the approved changes in three phases - December 2020, June 2021, and December 2021. According to Metro staff, buses will arrive every 5 to 10 minutes for 83% of current riders starting in December 2020. Working Group members also received an overview of the marketing campaign that is being planned for the implementation of the NextGen Bus Plan. Additional information regarding the NextGen Bus Plan can be found [here](#).
- **Game of Therms Webinar:** On Tuesday, the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership, in collaboration with the Gateway Cities Energy Leader Partnership, the North Orange County Cities Energy Partnership, the Westside Energy Partnership, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) hosted a webinar highlighting city energy efficiency projects and provided an overview of SoCalGas energy financing programs. The City of Orange highlighted a recently-completed space heating boiler upgrades at the City Police Department building, and the WRCOG presented on three cities that had participated in SoCalGas's no cost, direct install program that allowed for the installation of tank/pipe insulation, faucet aerators and two low flow pre-rinse spray valves at various facilities. Additionally, San Gabriel Valley cities highlighted pool cover upgrades that resulted in over \$15,000 in rebates and 30,000 therm savings. The webinar concluded with an overview of SoCalGas' financing programs that allow agencies to access interest-

free financing for the purchase and installation of energy efficient measures. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

- **Water Committee:** On Tuesday, the Water Committee and Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) convened its monthly joint meeting via Zoom. The Committees provided final comments to include in the comment letter to the Regional Board on the Tentative MS4 Permit. The Committees voted to recommend the Governing Board direct staff to submit the comment letter to the Regional Board reflecting the changes and additions discussed during this meeting. The Committees also discussed legislative priorities and voted to recommend proposed 2021 legislative priorities to the Governing Board for approval. The meeting also featured two presentations: a presentation on LACFCD's SGV Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan and Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Regional Recycled Water Program. The Regional Recycled Water Program would purify wastewater to produce up to 150 million gallons per day of high-quality water to refill groundwater basins and deliver drinking water. The program will prioritize the Main San Gabriel Basin in its delivery of water. On Tuesday, the MWD Board voted to approve advancing the project, which is expected to be fully operational as early as 2032 and will become one of the largest advanced water treatment plants in the world.
- **Governing Board Preview:** The SGVCOG Governing Board will hold its monthly meeting next Thursday, November 19 at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. The full agenda packet may be accessed [here](#). Major action items are summarized below:
  - **10th Amended and Restated Bylaws:** The proposed Bylaws would amend the current Ninth Amended and Restated Bylaws to provide that all resolutions of necessity ("RONs") will be adopted by the Governing Board. RONs authorize the SGVCOG to file an action in eminent domain to acquire property necessary for its projects. Currently, the authority to adopt RONs is delegated to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee by way of the Bylaws. Staff is seeking authorization to place the proposed Tenth Amended and Restated Bylaws on the agenda for the Governing Board's consideration at its next regular meeting.
  - **Cancel December Governing Board Meeting:** The proposed item would authorize the cancellation of the December Governing Board meeting, as is customary to encourage participation at other regional events. As in prior years, staff recommends that the Governing Board authorize the President, after consultation with the other Officers, to undertake such actions that may be necessary and cannot be delayed until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Additionally, the President retains the discretion to call a Special Meeting of the Governing Board as identified in Article III, Section B of the Bylaws.
  - **Letter Supporting Additional Resources to Address Mental Health Care Needs:** Several San Gabriel Valley councilmembers have drafted a letter to Governor Newsom, expressing concern for the lack of long-term permanent resources and solutions to support the homeless and mentally ill populations, especially since the closure of State mental institutions without the necessary funding and resources to replace those services. At the November Homelessness Committee meeting, the Committee recommended that the Governing Board send a companion letter to Governor Newsom and the SGV Legislative Caucus that supported the drafted letter and advocated for additional resources to address mental health care needs.
  - **SGVCOG Gold Line Appointments:** The Governing Board confirms appointments for representatives of various partner agencies including the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Gold Line). On November 12, the Foothill Gold Line JPA Board met to consider a recommendation to the SGVCOG for a replacement of the current SGVCOG representatives. The JPA

Board's unanimous recommendation was to appoint Claremont Councilmember, Ed Reece as Voting/Board Member and Glendora Councilmember, Mendell Thompson as the Alternate.

- **Metro Measure R Highway Program Criteria and Measure M Guidelines:** The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors recently directed Metro staff to circulate recommendations to modernize the Metro Highway Program, including broadening its mission, expanding funding eligibility, recommitting to the previously-adopted Metro Complete Streets Policy, and updating performance metrics. The SGVCOG, under Measure M, established the Active Transportation, First and Last Mile/Complete Streets, Bus System Improvements, and Highway Demand subregional programs. Metro is proposing to add these programs to the Highway Efficiency Program. SGVCOG staff believes that there would be no impact on SGVCOG's Measure R funding given that all of the Measure R funds were allocated towards projects and not programs. However, SGVCOG staff is concerned that the proposed changes will create overlapping subregional fund definitions particularly in the Measure M programs. The proposal could create a confusing eligibility overlap and could lead to altered program definitions that could re-open these funding allocation agreements that the SGVCOG spent significant time developing. Metro is seeking feedback from councils of governments by December 7, 2020. The SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that the SGVCOG submit a comment letter expressing that Metro should allow individual subregions to modify their eligibility requirements to preserve the existing funding structure that was established by the SGVCOG for the San Gabriel Valley subregion. This item will also be discussed at the Transportation Committee for approval at the Governing Board meeting.
- **Tentative 2020 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit:** This item will include the proposed letter to the Regional Board expressing comments regarding the tentative 2020 MS4 Permit, which is currently under consideration by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- **Safe, Clean Water Program Transfer Agreements and Contracts:** In November 2018, Los Angeles County voters approved Measure W to establish the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program. The SCW Program generates up to \$285 million per year from a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable surface area on private property in the LA County Flood Control District (Flood Control District). The funding generated is then allocated to municipalities and subregions - called Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) that are each responsible for selecting which projects to fund - for clean water projects. In December 2019, the SGVCOG, on behalf of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Management Group submitted applications to the Regional Program 20-21 Fiscal Year (FY) call for projects for two scientific studies in two subregions (the Rio Hondo WASC and ULAR WASC): (1) preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration; and (2) Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load. These subregions - and subsequently the Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee and then the LA County Board of Supervisors - overwhelmingly approved the inclusion of both of these studies. The FY 2020-21 budget for the LRS study and preSIP study will be \$250,000 and \$910,000 respectively. All costs associated with the studies, including labor and consulting contracts, will be reimbursed through the SCW program via the Flood Control District. There will be no cost to participating cities included in the ULAR and Rio Hondo watershed areas. Staff is recommending

authorizing the Executive Director to execute and negotiate the following (1) Transfer agreements with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to undertake two scientific studies on behalf of the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group; and (2) Contracts with Craftwater Engineering for work associated with the preSIP scientific study and the Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation scientific study.

- **LAHSA Homeless Count Meeting with Municipalities:** On Thursday, staff participated in LAHSA's homeless count meeting. LAHSA shared preliminary information regarding the 2021 Homeless Count. In light of the pandemic, they plan to encourage volunteering with members of the same household, conduct the count mostly from vehicles, and use a phone-based application to minimize in-person contact. They expressed that the demographic survey portion will be limited, and the changes in process will limit the ability to directly compare 2021 numbers to prior years' numbers, and may mean that city level data is less accurate. LAHSA staff is working with cities to identify deployment sites and "hot spots" to target for the count, and to gain other input from the local context. Despite the pandemic, LAHSA expects sufficient volunteer participation.
- **Homeless Deputies' Meeting:** On Thursday, staff attended the LA County Board of Supervisors' Homeless Deputies' Meeting. The Homelessness Policy Deputies heard a report on the expansion of LAHSA's and DPSS' work to increase employment services available to the homeless population. Following a successful pilot prior to the pandemic, LAHSA will fund additional staff to provide employment assistance, focusing on participants in the Recovery Re-housing initiative which targets those vulnerable to COVID-19. The goal is to better standardize and coordinate employment assistance across the variety of agencies involved. The San Gabriel Valley is one of the areas which will receive this expanded service. Additionally, there was an acknowledgment at the meeting for the exits of the current deputies for Districts 2 and 3.

The logo for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) features a stylized sunburst or starburst design above the text "SGVCOG". The sunburst is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of light blue and cyan. The text "SGVCOG" is rendered in a light blue, sans-serif font.

# SGVCOG Weekly Recap

## Week of November 16, 2020

- **Capital Projects and Construction Committee:** On Monday, the SGVCOG Capital Projects and Construction Committee convened via Zoom for its November meeting. Committee members thanked longtime member/former ACE Chair Jack Hadjinian for his many contributions to the SGVCOG's capital improvement projects. The Committee also approved a task order for the final design of the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project and a time extension amendment to the construction management services contract with WPS for the Fairway Drive Grade Separation Project. Additionally, the Committee approved a design services contract with KPFF Consulting Engineers for a pedestrian bridge that would connect the future Metro Gold (L) Line La Verne Station to the Pomona Fairgrounds. An award of a construction management services contract with Anser Advisory LLC was also approved for the Diamond Bar Golf Course Project. Finally, the Committee approved rejection of all bids recently received for the construction of the remainder of the Fullerton Road Grade Separation Project. All responsive bids were well above the engineers estimates. The construction project will be rebid in early 2021. The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 12:00pm.
- **57/60 Award Recommendation:** On Monday, State transportation officials announced that the 57/60 Confluence Project is recommended to receive a \$217.9 million grant from the SB 1 state fuel tax program. The funding will fill the project's budget gap of \$420 million and enable construction to start in 2022, two years earlier than scheduled. The 57/60 Confluence Project is a highway project that aims to fix the worst truck bottleneck in California and serves as one of the priority projects in the San Gabriel Valley. The grant award proposed by the California Transportation Commission staff is the largest to a single project in the staff-recommended 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, which provides \$1.359 billion over three years to 28 highway, freight rail, port, and border crossing projects statewide. The program will be considered for adoption at the California Transportation Commission meeting on December 2nd and December 3rd.
- **LAHSA Reform Working Group:** On Tuesday, the LAHSA Reform Working Group held its fifth and final meeting, finalizing language on commitments to quality services and discussing strategies to engage the County to improve homeless services and funding in the San Gabriel Valley and across the County. The White Paper will be presented to the Homelessness Committee, City Managers' Steering Committee, and Executive Committee in the coming weeks. This White Paper is intended to position the San Gabriel Valley as a leader in the conversation to improve homeless services and advance reform efforts.
- **Southern California Freight Strategy Briefing:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff attended a Southern California Freight Strategy (SCFS) Briefing provided by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). SCFS aims to develop a sustainable freight plan that provides a regional perspective on goods movement travel demands, sustainability challenges, innovative opportunities, and regional priorities across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Caltrans is currently engaging a variety of stakeholders to guide the development of the plan and gather various perspectives on the freight system. At the briefing, cities shared that a large number of trucks are illegally parked on local streets given that warehouses appear to be overwhelmed with inventory storage as the holidays are approaching. Some truck drivers appear to welcome the risk of receiving parking tickets since the citation fees are less expensive than the fees that

truck stops charge. As a result, several cities recommended Caltrans to explore the possibility of establishing State truck stops on State-owned lands. Questions and inquiries regarding the SCFS can be directed to Caltrans Freight Planning Acting Office Chief, Yatman Kwan, at (916) 261-4894.

- **EENR Committee:** On Wednesday, the SGVCOG Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee convened for its monthly meeting. The Committee reviewed the proposed 2021 EENR Legislative Priorities, which outline the positions of the Governing Board on priority air quality, energy, solid waste, and open space issues and matters that impact the San Gabriel Valley, and unanimously voted to recommend the Governing Board to adopt these legislative priorities. Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Senior Engineer, Maria Rosales-Ramirez, presented on the Districts' Food Waste Recycling Program, which includes one of the nation's largest integrated food waste digestion and biogas generating systems. The Districts' ability to effectively utilize its excess digestion capacity has led to multiple environmental benefits, such as achieving climate change goals and creating greenhouse gas credits. Nature For All Program Organizer, Bryan Matsumoto, presented on the San Gabriel Mountains and Transit Infrastructure Program, which was launched to accelerate the planning and pilot demonstrations for Metro Gold Line rail connector shuttles, walk routes, and related programs to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces. The program aims to address critical regional needs by connecting "park poor" communities to open space and providing access for disadvantaged communities to visit the San Gabriel Mountains. Additionally, SCAG representatives provided the final presentation of the meeting on the Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework. SCAG developed the Framework to assist local and regional jurisdictions in managing the negative impacts of climate change and explore how Southern California jurisdictions can collaborate and prepare for the impacts of sea level rise, extreme heat, increasingly frequent and damaging wildfires, and other climate-related issues. Finally, the Committee recognized out-going Committee members Duarte Councilmember Liz Reilly and Sierra Madre Councilmember John Capoccia, who will both be leaving their respective city councils next month. Other committee members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Reilly and Mr. Capoccia for their dedication to serving the San Gabriel Valley. The Committee is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 1:00pm.
- **Transportation Committee:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Transportation Committee convened for its monthly meeting. SGVCOG Chief Engineer, Mark Christoffels, presented on the San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study. The SGV Transit Feasibility Study was initiated after it was determined by Metro that the SR-60 Gold Line alignment was not a feasible alternative for the potential eastward extension. The Metro Board of Directors subsequently directed Metro staff to provide funding and work with SGVCOG staff to undertake a study to identify alternative transit solutions to solve the mobility needs within the San Gabriel Valley, approving \$1.5 million in its FY 2021 budget for this study. Foothill Transit Chief Executive Officer, Doran Barnes, presented on Foothill Transit's services. Foothill Transit was the first public transit agency in the United States to deploy three fast-charge, all-electric buses in 2010, which was expanded to include 12 additional fast-charge buses in 2014. This enabled the Agency to operate the first all-electric, fast-charge bus line in the nation. In the near future, double-deck electric buses will be deployed into express services on the I-10 Corridor, which will significantly increase capacity along the heavily congested corridor and bring highly-visible innovative zero-emissions transit vehicles to the Greater Los Angeles region. Additionally, Metro representatives presented on the North Hollywood-Pasadena BRT Project, which includes a corridor route that will serve as a key regional connection between the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys with connections to the Metro B (Red), G (Orange), and L (Gold) Lines. Metro conducted

the North Hollywood-to-Pasadena BRT Corridor Technical Study in 2017 and initiated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project in 2019 to study various route options to connect the North Hollywood Metro Station to Pasadena City College. The Draft EIR is now available for public review and comment until December 10, 2020. Finally, the Committee discussed and reviewed Metro's proposed changes to the Measure R Highway Program Criteria and the Measure M Guidelines. After a thorough discussion, the Committee recommended staff to submit a comment letter to support the proposed changes on the condition that the changes do not impact immediate project prioritization timelines. The committee is expected to reconvene on Thursday, January 21, 2020 at 2:45pm.

- **Governing Board Recap:** The SGVCOG Governing Board held its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 4PM via Zoom Teleconference. Major action items taken at the meeting are summarized below:
  - **10th Amended and Restated Bylaws:** The proposed Bylaws would amend the current Ninth Amended and Restated Bylaws to provide that all resolutions of necessity ("RONs") will be adopted by the Governing Board. RONs authorize the SGVCOG to file an action in eminent domain to acquire property necessary for its projects. Currently, the authority to adopt RONs is delegated to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee by way of the Bylaws. The Governing Board approved placing the proposed Tenth Amended and Restated Bylaws on the agenda for the Governing Board's consideration at its next regular meeting.
  - **Cancel December Governing Board Meeting:** The Governing Board cancelled the December 2020 Governing Board meeting and authorized the President, in consultation with the other officers, to act on the Governing Board's behalf by undertaking all actions that are necessary for the proper administration and operation of the SGVCOG and that cannot be delayed until the next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board.
  - **Letter Supporting Additional Resources to Address Mental Health Care Needs:** The Governing Board authorized the SGVCOG President to send a letter to Governor Newsom and the SGV Legislative Caucus that advocates for additional resources to address mental health care needs. This letter is a companion letter to one that has been drafted by several San Gabriel Valley councilmembers to Governor Newsom that expresses concern for the lack of long-term permanent resources and solutions to support the homeless and mentally ill populations, especially since the closure of State mental institutions, without the necessary funding and resources to replace those services.
  - **SGVCOG Gold Line Appointments:** The Governing Board confirms appointments for representatives of various partner agencies including the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Gold Line). On November 12, the Foothill Gold Line JPA Board met to consider a recommendation to the SGVCOG for a replacement of the current SGVCOG representatives. As a result, the Governing Board appointed Claremont Councilmember, Ed Reece as Voting/Board Member and Glendora Councilmember, Mendell Thompson as the Alternate to the Gold Line Board.
  - **Metro Measure R Highway Program Criteria and Measure M Guidelines:** Metro recently circulated recommendations to modernize the Metro Highway Program by broadening its mission, expanding funding eligibility, recommitting to the previously-adopted Metro Complete Streets Policy, and updating performance metrics. The SGVCOG, under Measure M, established the Active Transportation, First and Last Mile/Complete Streets, Bus System Improvements, and Highway Demand subregional programs. Metro is proposing to add these programs to the

Highway Efficiency Program. SGVCOG staff believes that there would be no impact on SGVCOG's Measure R funding given that all of the Measure R funds were allocated towards projects and not programs. However, SGVCOG staff is concerned that the proposed changes will create overlapping subregional fund definitions particularly in the Measure M programs. The proposal could create a confusing eligibility overlap and could lead to altered program definitions that could re-open these funding allocation agreements that the SGVCOG spent significant time developing. Metro is seeking feedback from councils of governments by December 7, 2020. Following feedback from the SGVCOG Public Works Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Governing Board directed staff to work with the Transportation Committee to submit a letter to Metro regarding the updated Measure R Highway Program Criteria and Measure M Guidelines.

- **Tentative 2020 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit:** Over the last several months, the Water Policy Committee, Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the SGVCOG's consultant team led by Craftwater Engineering, with support from Tetra Tech, and John L Hunter and Associates, have developed comments to submit to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on the tentative 2020 MS4 Permit. At the November meeting, the Committee voted to recommend the Governing Board submit the public comment letter. The Governing Board approved authorizing the SGVCOG President to submit comments to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on the MS4 Permit based on the Water Committee/TAC recommendations. The letter will be submitted prior to the public comment deadline of December 7, 2020
- **Safe, Clean Water Program Transfer Agreements and Contracts:** The Governing Board approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute and negotiate the following: (1) transfer agreements with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to undertake two scientific studies on behalf of the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group; and (2) contracts with Craftwater Engineering for work associated with the preSIP scientific study and the Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation scientific study. These studies are funded by the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Program, a measure approved by Los Angeles County voters in November 2018 that assesses a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable surface area on private property in the LA County Flood Control District (Flood Control District). The funding generated is then allocated to municipalities and subregions - called Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) that are each responsible for selecting which projects to fund - for clean water projects. In December 2019, the SGVCOG, on behalf of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Management Group submitted applications to the Regional Program 20-21 Fiscal Year (FY) call for projects for two scientific studies in two subregions (the Rio Hondo WASC and ULAR WASC): (1) preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration; and (2) Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load. These subregions - and subsequently the Safe Clean Water Regional Oversight Committee and then the LA County Board of Supervisors - overwhelmingly approved the inclusion of both of these studies. The FY 2020-21 budget for the LRS study and preSIP study will be \$250,000 and \$910,000 respectively. All costs associated with the studies, including labor and consulting contracts, will be reimbursed through the SCW program via the Flood Control District. There will be no cost to participating cities included in the ULAR and Rio Hondo watershed areas.

- The Governing Board concluded the meeting by recognizing SGVCOG Chief Engineer/Director of Capital Projects Mark Christoffels on his public service to the region and wished him a fulfilling and joyous retirement.



# SGVCOG Weekly Recap

## Week of November 23, 2020

- **City Managers Steering Committee:** Next Monday, November 30, at 12:00 noon, the City Managers Steering Committee will hold convene via Zoom. The Committee will have a presentation on the results of the San Gabriel Valley's Service Delivery/Cost Comparison Study, which analyzed comparative data and identified best practices in areas such as janitorial services, park and tree maintenance, and sidewalk maintenance. The Committee will also discuss the SGVCOG's draft whitepaper on reform of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The agenda for the City Managers' Steering Committee can be found [here](#).
- **SCAG Economic Summit:** On Tuesday, December 1, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, SCAG will virtually host its 11th Annual Economic Summit. The event will feature conversations about resiliency in the face of unprecedented financial challenges during the pandemic and roundtables on how to build a more inclusive economy. Tom Friedman, Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times columnist, will provide the keynote address. More information about the event and registration information can be found [here](#).
- **Homelessness Committee:** On Wednesday, December 2, the SGVCOG's Homelessness Committee will convene over Zoom at 8:30 a.m. Staff from the City of Arcadia will present on the City's Homeless Resource Hub, which was funded one of the SGVCOG's homelessness pilot programs and which launched in early November. The Committee will also discuss the SGVCOG's draft whitepaper on LAHSA reform. The agenda for the meeting can be found [here](#).
- **Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors:** On Wednesday, December 2, the SGV Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors will convene over Zoom at 10:30 a.m. At the meeting, the Board of Directors will discuss a proposal to allow cities to utilize a portion of their Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funding for their FY 2021-22 annual administrative fees. PLHA funding is allocated to each city annually, funded by the \$75 recording fee on real estate documents that was included in the Building Homes and Jobs Act (SB 2) that passed in 2017. The agenda for the meeting can be found [here](#).
- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, December 3, the Planners Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will convene over Zoom at 12:00 noon. The Committee will hear a presentation from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on its housing technical assistance and its program to develop regional technical assistance plans to address regional priorities in housing planning. The Committee will also discuss a proposal to develop a regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) mitigation bank, as a follow-up to the recently-completed project to develop a baseline standard and determine significance thresholds for future land use and transportation projects. Finally, Metro staff will provide an update on its Open Streets Grant Program. The agenda for the meeting can be found [here](#).

# SGVCOG Weekly Recap

## Week of November 30, 2020

- **City Managers Steering Committee:** On Monday, the City Managers' Steering Committee met. They had a presentation on the results of the San Gabriel Valley's Service Delivery/Cost Comparison Study, which analyzed comparative data and identified best practices in areas such as janitorial services, park and tree maintenance, and sidewalk maintenance. The Committee also took action to recommend that the Governing Board adopt the SGVCOG's whitepaper on reform of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).
- **SCAG Economic Summit:** On Tuesday, SGVCOG staff attended SCAG's 11th Annual Economic Summit. The event launched with Congresswoman Karen Bass' welcoming remarks and featured panels on local governments' resiliency in the midst of COVID-19, transportation access improvements, affordable housing developments, and job creation. Panelists provided presentations on overviews of sector-specific employment changes due to COVID-19 and shared best practices in managing fiscal crises on the local government level, such as furloughing 5% of all staff to avoid layoffs and updating general plans or strategic plans. New York Times Columnist and Bestselling Author, Thomas Friedman, provided the keynote address and emphasized the importance of collaborating with one another as the world continues to be disrupted and changed by globalization and technological changes.
- **Homelessness Committee:** On Wednesday, December 2, the SGVCOG's Homelessness Committee convened over Zoom. Staff from the City of Arcadia presented on the City's Homeless Resource Hub, which was funded one of the SGVCOG's homelessness pilot programs and which launched in early November. This program has experienced early success at meeting the basic needs of people experiencing homelessness and connecting them to ongoing services. The Committee also discussed the SGVCOG's draft white paper on LAHSA reform, as well as ongoing engagement with County stakeholders to promote the efforts. The Committee recommended adoption of the paper by the Governing Board and directed staff to encourage member agencies to adopt it as well.
- **Regional Housing Trust Board of Directors:** On Wednesday, the SGV Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) Board of Directors convened via Zoom. The Board adopted a resolution to allow up to 10% of a member city's Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds allocated to SGVRHT to cover up to 50% of its annual administrative fee beginning in Fiscal Year 2021. For affiliate members, PLHA funds could be used to cover 100% of its affiliate fee. Remaining PLHA allocations will be used as capital funds to finance affordable and homeless housing. PLHA funding is allocated to each city annually, funded by the \$75 recording fee on real estate documents that was included in the Building Homes and Jobs Act (SB 2) that passed in 2017.
- **Planners TAC:** On Thursday, the SGVCOG Planning Director's Technical Advisory Committee convened for its December meeting. Representatives from the California Department of Housing and Community Development provided a first presentation on the Department's Housing Planning Technical Assistance Program, which has provided funding for housing planning and other housing policy efforts. HCD is in the process of collaborating with SGVCOG staff to develop a technical assistance plan for the San Gabriel Valley region. Metro also provided a presentation on the Metro Open Streets Grant Program. In response to COVID-19, the Metro Board of Directors authorized Metro staff

to negotiate scope changes to the program's Cycle 3 and mini-grants to allow the implementation of Slow Streets or similar programs. Metro is anticipated to release the Cycle 4 application and guidelines in Fall 2021 and plans to continue to accept applications for Slow Streets and related programs that encourage social distancing. Additionally, committee members discussed the possibility of implementing a Regional Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Mitigation Bank. The Mitigation Bank would enhance the recently-completed project to develop a baseline standard and determine significance thresholds for future land use and transportation projects. After a thorough discussion, the Committee directed staff to proceed with planning for the development of a Regional VMT Mitigation Bank and solicit interest from member cities. The committee is expected to reconvene on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 12:00pm.

- **Infrastructure LA Task Force:** On Thursday, SGVCOG staff attended the Infrastructure LA Task Force's Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee meeting. Los Angeles County Legislative Representative, Faith Conley, reported that legislators may prioritize only a number of bills and issues due to the continuation of COVID-19. While the deadline to introduce bills in the California Legislature is in February, the County is focusing on working with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to provide resources for local jurisdictions to comply with SB 1383 mandates. Additionally, Ms. Conley mentioned that AB 2612, which aimed to provide \$200 million to support greenhouse gas emission reduction and organic waste disposal efforts and failed in the Assembly in the recent legislative cycle, may not be brought back in the upcoming legislative session. Ms. Conley also announced that Governor Newsom recently appointed Rachel Wagnoer, who served as Deputy Legislative Secretary in the Office of the Governor, as the new CalRecycle director.
- **Energy Efficiency Twitterchat:** On Wednesday, SGVCOG staff held an Energy Efficiency Twitterchat event with seven San Gabriel Valley Cities, one School District and two external stakeholders. The discussion centered on energy efficiency during colder winter months and how COVID-19 has affected energy efficiency plans. Participants shared best practices and resources to help agencies and residents reduce their energy consumption and lower their bills. During the hour-long event, we reached 33k users and generated over 126k impressions. The SGVCOG thanks the following agencies for participating and sharing their valuable insights during the Twitterchat: the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Claremont, El Monte, Irwindale, La Verne, Monrovia, El Monte High USD, SoCalGas and SoCalREN.
- **Upcoming SoCalREN Webinars:** The Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) will be holding its next webinar in their "Conversations with SoCalREN" series on **Tuesday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m.** Agencies will hear from the City of Yorba Linda and Public Financial Management on how SoCalREN can serve as an objective resource to help agencies evaluate financing options. Learn more and register for the webinar [here](#).
- **Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board:** On Thursday, the Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board heard the quarterly report of Measure H funded programs. The report showed that there have been a total of 26,083 people placed in permanent housing and 48,712 in interim housing through Measure H since its inception. While the pandemic has slowed some Measure H placements, additional Project Roomkey placements have helped to offset this reduction. The Board discussed the need to focus on the inflow to homelessness through work outside of the homeless services system itself.
- **Los Angeles Continuum of Care Board:** On Thursday, the LA CoC Board met to discuss the 2021 Homeless Count. In November, HUD had released guidance allowing CoC's to request waivers of all or a portion of the unsheltered, street homeless count due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. The CoC Board voted unanimously to recommend that LAHSA apply for a waiver of the full street count. Board members cited concerns about safety, redirecting efforts away from pandemic response, and the usefulness of data collected prior to the expiration of eviction moratoriums. This issue will be considered today (Friday, December 4) at a special meeting of the LAHSA Commission, after which LAHSA staff would submit the waiver request to HUD. In either case, a sheltered count will be conducted, since this can be done using existing data maintained by housing programs.

