



Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
July 1, 2021

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.igm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) held its meeting telephonically and electronically given public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor’s recent Executive Order N-29-20. A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. David Pollock, Moorpark (Chair)</b>	<b>District 46</b>
<b>Hon. Deborah Robertson, Rialto (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>District 8</b>
Hon. Cindy Allen, Long Beach	District 30
Hon. Victoria Baca, Moreno Valley	WRCOG
Hon. Ana Beltran, Westmoreland	ICTC
Hon. Daniel Brotman, Glendale	AVCJPA
Hon. Margaret Clark, Rosemead	SGVCOG
Hon. Robert Copeland, Signal Hill	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis, Westlake Village	LVMCOG
Hon. Rick Denison, Yucca Valley	SBCTA
Hon. Julian Gold, Beverly Hills	WSCCOG
Hon. Shari Horne, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates	SBCCOG
Hon. Dan Kalmick, Huntington Beach	OCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	VCOG
Hon. Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena	SGVCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran, Chino Hills	SBCTA
Hon. Oscar Ortiz, Indio	CVAG
Sup. Luis Plancarte	Imperial County
Hon. Randall Putz, Big Bear Lake	District 11
Sup. Carmen Ramirez	Ventura County



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Hon. Greg Raths, Mission Viejo	OCCOG
Hon. Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon. Jesus Silva, Fullerton	President's Appointment
Hon. Sharon Springer, Burbank	SFVCOG
Hon. Connor Traut, Buena Park	OCCOG
Hon. Edward H.J. Wilson, Signal Hill	GCCOG

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Maria Davila, South Gate	GCCOG
Hon. John Valdivia, San Bernardino	SBCCOG

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair David Pollock called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Vice Chair Deborah Robertson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chair Pollock opened the Public Comment Period.

SCAG staff announced that no public comments were received before or after the deadline for written public comments.

Seeing there were no public comment speakers, Chair Pollock closed the Public Comment Period.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting - April 1, 2021

Receive and File

2. Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) Comment Letter

A MOTION was made (Gold) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Silva) and

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passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Allen, Baca, Beltran, Brotman, Copeland, Davis\*, Denison, Gold, Horne, Huff, D. Kalmick, J. Kalmick, Litster, Moran, Ortiz, Plancarte, Pollock, Putz, Ramirez, Rath, Robertson, Rollins, Silva, Springer and Traut (25)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAINS:** None (0)

\*Ned Davis messaged staff via zoom stating his vote was yes on the Consent Calendar.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 3. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Overview

Andrew Slocombe, of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) provided an overview of CalEnviroScreen 4.0, a mapping tool that helps identify communities that face multiple burdens of pollution and socioeconomic disadvantages and is intended to help CalEPA prioritize work in the state's most burdened communities. He provided background information and stated that in 2010, OEHHA developed CalEnviroScreen as part of CalEPA's environmental justice program. He reported that OEHHA had released a draft of CalEnviroScreen 4.0, and they had just finished the public comment period and would be finalizing it later this year. He indicated the tool was used within Cal EPA to help identify disadvantaged communities for funding allocation purposes like per SB 535, which requires 25% of cap-and-trade funds be spent on projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. He provided an overview of the CalEnviroScreen indicator components which either fall under Pollution Burden (exposure - direct contact with pollutions & environmental effects - adverse environmental conditions caused by pollutants) or Population Characteristics (sensitive populations - populations with physiological conditions that result in increased vulnerability to pollutants and socioeconomic factors - community characteristics that result in increased vulnerability to pollutants). He indicated that in the updated CalEnviroScreen they proposed the addition of one new exposures indicator, the issue of lead exposure in children, and included a new hub site, a platform for accessing information. Other major updates for 4.0 include the drinking water, pesticide use indicator, groundwater threats indicator, and the hazardous waste indicator. Lastly, with respect to the Children's Lead Risk from Housing indicator, he stated that the indicator identifies communities that have the highest potential for lead exposure due to old housing.

Vice Chair Deborah Robertson, Rialto, District 8, asked if they had looked at infant mortality throughout the state because they had high infant mortality in the SCAG region. Mr. Slocombe stated with respect to infant mortality and data, they did not have this information in the model or

tool, but it was an interesting area that researchers can look at. She also asked how many census tracts in the SCAG region were above 90% and how they were faring as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) versus all the other MPO's in state. Mr. Slocombe addressed Vice Chair Robertson's question regarding census tracts and indicated that a large number of the census tracts that were identified statewide were in the greater Los Angeles area.

#### 4. Battery Storage Projects for SCAG Region

Josh Torres, Senior Policy Advisor of Southern California Edison provided information on what they are doing to prepare for the summer season with a focus around energy storage. He also provided a brief review of the 2020 California Independent System Operator (CAISO) rotating outages which directed utilities to implement rotating outages in August 2020. He further elaborated that the known factors causing the shortage of electricity supply in August 2020 was the heat wave California was experiencing, the unexpected natural gas generation losses, lower levels of wind generation and lowered availability of electricity imports from out of state. He reported on what they were doing to avoid rotating outages again and indicated they were working closely with state regulators and other public utilities to bring an additional 770 megawatts of new energy storage by August 1, which will bring the cumulative megawatts of energy storage under SCE's control to 1,000. He indicated they were also revamping their demand response programs for existing and new customers. He addressed the different types of power outages and the causes such as: 1) scheduled maintenance outage, which customers receive notification for; 2) repair outages, which is when something unexpected happens like an equipment issue, vegetation from the lines, or a construction crew accidentally digs into an underground line; 3) emergency outage, which is kind of like a repair outage when SCE discovers something unsafe; 4) rotating outages, which is when at the statewide level there is an insufficient supply to meet the demand; and 5) public safety power shutoffs or PSPS, which apply to the high fire risk areas. He also stated they were looking at grid reliability in the future and were forecasting grid needs in five- and 10-year increments to help determine what capital upgrades are going to be necessary in order to accommodate changing customer behavior. They were also hardening the grid against climate impacts, such as heat waves and wildfires and as climate change gets worse every single year, they were looking at the steps they need to take today against the threat from wildfire in the future. He emphasized the importance of maintaining reliability as they transitioned to 100% carbon free electricity.

Policy Committee Member Elaine Litster, Simi Valley, VCOG, asked about helicopters hovering above power lines. Mr. Torres indicated it was related to inspections to make sure that the equipment was in good working order. She also stated that in Mr. Torres had reported that they were going to increase their storage levels and had discussed the need to procure additional generation. She asked where they were getting this additional generation from. Mr. Torres indicated it was a mix of all the different generation they currently had, and their biggest source was natural gas procurements and new wind and solar contracts that were coming online.

Policy Committee Member Carmen Ramirez, Ventura County, asked Mr. Torres to talk about people who needed their medical equipment without interruption. Mr. Torres reported that customers could enroll in their medical baseline program, in which a customer service team does a walk through with the customer and creates an emergency plan. He indicated they also offered the battery backup program for certain customers who either qualified for a discounted or free backup battery to help power a medical device.

Policy Committee Member Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena, SGVCOG, asked why Mr. Torres' presentation was not suggesting operating a pool during off peak or middle of the night hours. Mr. Torres stated he did not suggest it because pools were typically a little noisy and sometimes you might get complaints from neighbors. He further explained that operating during a peak solar year, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., would also be the time when the grid is the cleanest, which was another benefit. With respect to SCE's rate case, she asked what the increase amount was and the timing for implementation. Mr. Torres indicated that their general rate case had not been concluded and they were still waiting for a decision from the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Additional discussion ensued on the SCE's general rate case. Lastly, she asked if SCE planned to upgrade or make changes to smart meters to enable them to provide greater distribution circuit reliability. Mr. Torres stated the reason that smart meters did not have that visibility right now was because they only read them once every 24 hours.

Vice Chair Robertson stated she noticed they offered programs for customers in replacing their aging system, but did not see resources available to assist people, especially those who were disadvantaged, and asked how they addressed equity. Mr. Torres reported that for vulnerable customers they had their Energy Savings Assistance Program, where they will go into the customers home and replace appliances free of charge. He indicated they had just received approval from the PUC to augment that program and to expand it to a full home renovation. He stated that once they were able to operationalize that program, they will go into their lowest income customers' homes and completely retrofit them by giving them a new air conditioner, refrigerator, electric water heater, upgrading their panels, and making their home completely electric. He stated that for moderate-and-upper income customers they had their rebates to make it easier to access the more efficient appliances. He explained that they had designed the rebates to make it cost effective to select the higher efficiency appliances for those customers that were going to replace their units.

#### 5. Public Safety Power Shutoff Update

Robert Stiens, Senior Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Edison (SCE), provided an overview of recent developments in Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events in the SCE service territory and discussed the utility's program and policies to address disruptive impacts. He indicated they were working on implementing a plan to reduce the impact of PSPS to their customers and

communities, which consisted of reducing the need for PSPS, executing PSPS more effectively, reducing the impacts of PSPS, keeping partners and customers informed, and enhancing post-event reporting. He highlighted the tools to reduce the need for PSPS as follows:

- Insulated Wires - targeted replacement of bare wire with insulated wires (covered conductor) to be able to safely raise windspeed thresholds for PSPS;
- Segmentation - installing additional Automated devices to further isolate and reduce the number of customers that have to be deenergized per circuit;
- Weather Stations - adding new weather stations to improve situational awareness and increase accuracy of PSPS operations - so only those circuits facing danger are in scope;
- Switching Protocols - continuing to develop circuit specific protocols to move customers to nearby circuits not impacted by PSPS, to reduce the number of customers remaining on an affected circuit; and
- Operational Protocols - up-to-date information on ground conditions, such as lack of vegetation, recent burn scars, and location of poles and wires which considered to assess wildfire threat and the need for PSPS.

Lastly, he provided a brief overview of the customer care programs such as rebates or the battery backup program, which was expanded to include all eligible medical baseline customers in a high fire risk area.

Policy Committee Member Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG, asked if there was a common denominator in the 72 circuits that were most frequently impacted in terms of location or maintenance. Mr. Stiens indicated it was predominantly windy areas, or what the PUC defined as a high fire risk area.

Policy Committee Member Litster asked if there was a reimbursement program for the loss of appliances during PSPS. Mr. Stiens indicated that currently their claims process does not cover PSPS's. She also asked about SCE's Public Safety Partner Portal and Mr. Stiens provided a brief overview of the two key components of the portal regarding planning (information to help for planning purposes when there is no active PSPS event) and in-event (information used to get active PSPS information and archived PSPS event information).

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Pollock reported that the Governor's office announced the end of the tiered program for the pandemic and that it would not immediately end the statutory requirements on the Brown Act.

### **STAFF REPORT**

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Grieg Asher reported he was working on a presentation from the Ventura County Air District to report on some of their programs, in addition to a presentation from the California Air Resources Control Board regarding climate investments, or more commonly known as the Cap-and-Trade Program.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Policy Committee Member Ramirez requested a presentation on the drought and conservation measures.

Policy Committee Member Diana Mahmud stated that several cities had been hearing from residents about enacted ordinances on gas powered lawn equipment and stated that it would be helpful to get an update from the SCAQMD on the rebates available and the requirements. She also reported that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board anticipated to schedule the successor to the 2012 permit later this month or next, and asked for a presentation on that permit, which was going to be expensive for them.

Vice Chair Robertson offered a presentation on the Mircogrid project in Rialto and the repurposing of a ten plus acre retention basin.

Policy Committee Member Jesus Silva, Fullerton, requested an item regarding the drought, specifically to address the amount of water they might be losing due to leaky pipes and mains, and suggested Adan Ortega could probably provide the presentation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Pollock adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:26 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**2021-22**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Total Mtgs Attended To Date</b>
Allen, Cindy	Long Beach, District 30	1												1
Baca, Victoria	Moreno Valley, WRCOG	1												1
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC	1												1
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, AVCJPA	1												1
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, SGVCOG	1												1
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG	1												1
Davila, Maria	South Gate, GCCOG													0
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG	1												1
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, SCBTA	1												1
Gold, Julian	Beverly Hills, WSCCOG	1												1
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1												1
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG	1												1
Kalmick, Dan	Huntington Beach, OCCOG	1												1
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, District 20	1												1
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG	1												1
Mahmud, Diana	So. Pasadena, SGVCOG	1												1
Moran, Cynthia	Chino Hills, SBCTA	1												1
Ortiz, Oscar	Indio, CVAG	1												1
Plancarte, Luis	Imperial County	1												1
Pollock, David (CHAIR)	Moorpark, VCOG	1												1
Putz, Randall	Big Bear Lake, District 11	1												1
Ramirez, Carmen	Oxnard, RC District 45	1												1
Raths, Greg	Mission Viejo, OCCOG	1												1
Robertson, Deborah	Rialto, RC District 8	1												1
Rollins, Richard	Port Hueneme, VCOG	1												1
Silva, Jesus	Fullerton, President's Appointment	1												1
Springer, Sharon	Burbank, SFVCOG	1												1
Traut, Connor	Buena Park, OCCOG	1												1
Valdivia, John	San Bernardino, SBCCOG													0
Wilson, Edward H.J.	Signal Hill, GCCOG	1												1

Attachment: EEC Attendance Sheet 2021-22 (Minutes of the Meeting - June 3, 2021)