

## 6TH CYCLE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) appeals process was conducted throughout the month of January to hear appeals filed by jurisdictions on the draft RHNA allocation. Eight hearing sessions conducted on January 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19, 22, and 25 were conducted by the RHNA Appeals Board to hear 52 appeals filed on 47 jurisdictions. Of these filed appeals, two appeals were partially approved: one from the County of Riverside and one from the City of Pico Rivera. The successfully appealed units will be redistributed across the SCAG region per state law and the adopted RHNA Appeals Guidelines.

The determination of appeals, which will include the reallocation and the proposed Final RHNA Allocation Plan, will be reviewed by the RHNA Appeals Board at their last scheduled meeting on Feb. 16 at 1 p.m. The RHNA Appeals Board will also discuss next steps for RHNA after the adoption of the Final Allocation Plan. The Final RHNA Allocation Plan is scheduled for adoption by the Regional Council at the March 4 meeting. Updated housing elements are due to the California Department of Housing and Community Development in October 2021. To view the appeals hearings and for more information, please visit the [RHNA webpage](#).

## 2021 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In January, SCAG kicked off the 15th Annual SCAG Sustainability Awards program and is accepting nominations for projects, plans, and programs that improve the mobility, livability, prosperity, and sustainability of our region. The awards program recognizes actions that are integral to accomplishing the goals of Connect SoCal (the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) with awards in the following categories:

- Active, Healthy and Safe Communities
- Clean Cities: Alternative Fuels & Infrastructure
- Efficient & Sustainable Land Use
- Green Region Initiative: Resource Conservation & Climate Action
- Housing Innovation

Nominations are open to all, including public, private, and non-profit organizations until Feb. 26, 2021. For more information, including the award criteria and scoring rubric, or to view past award winners, please visit the [SCAG Sustainability Awards webpage](#).

## SCAG AND PARDEE RAND GRADUATE SCHOOL LEADING REGIONAL GOVERNMENT-TO-UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Launched in February 2020, the SCAG- and Pardee RAND Graduate School-led Los Angeles Government-to-University (G2U) initiative is one of five around the country (the others are in Pittsburgh, Kansas, Chicago, and North Carolina) that are addressing critical governance challenges by building regional networks of governments and universities. Initiated by the non-profit Volcker Alliance, founded by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, G2Us sustainably connect government's hiring and research needs with local university capacity and is premised on the notion that bringing government and university leaders together is a powerful approach to strengthening government's ability to deliver on its mission. At the core of the G2U Initiative is a growing group of vibrant, regional networks connecting local, state, and federal government leaders with key faculty and administrators from surrounding colleges and universities.

The Los Angeles G2U recently launched a project to address barriers to talent and diversity in public sector careers. The project's objectives are to document challenges to attracting talented and diverse college and university students in public sector careers in the Los Angeles region, produce videos to support recruiting efforts, and support the Los Angeles G2U team in formulating action plans to address challenges and messaging for future communication campaigns. This project supports SCAG's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the steering committee includes member cities, as well as state, federal, and other local and university partners. The

committee welcomes interested parties from all sectors to join and participate on the committee, project teams, and the research effort. SCAG will host two webinars during the project research timeline to share information and broaden awareness and engagement. Further details will be posted on the [SCAG website](#) in the coming weeks.

For more information, please refer to the [Volcker Alliance website](#) or connect with either Debbie Dillon, SCAG Chief Strategy Officer, at (213) 236-1870 or [dillon@scag.ca.gov](mailto:dillon@scag.ca.gov), or Sandy Buchan, Executive Director of Career Services at the Pardee RAND Graduate School, at (310) 367-0204 or [sbuchan@rand.org](mailto:sbuchan@rand.org).

## CALL FOR COLLABORATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED TO ADDRESS REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS

In partnership with California Community Foundation (CCF), SCAG is launching the Call for Collaboration program, which will fund the development of community-based policies and plans to help cities and counties reach 6th Cycle RHNA goals of planning for more than 1.3 million new housing units across the six-county SCAG region. The program aims to increase community involvement in local planning and housing initiatives by promoting community-driven, equitable growth strategies. SCAG is dedicating \$1 million of the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) state grant fund to combine with funds from CCF, the Irvine Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Foundation, and other funding partners.

The program will fund several grants for non-profit organizations through two opportunities:

- **Partnership Programs:** Awards of up to \$125,000 to support the expansion and/or implementation of existing plans, initiatives, and/or partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.
- **Spark Grants:** Smaller, capacity-building grants of around \$50,000 to seed new models of collaboration and engagement to support community-driven approaches and partnerships that promote equitable growth strategies.

A wide range of activities are eligible for funding with these planning grants. These include programs and plans designed to promote pro-housing policies, streamline the housing approval process, develop community support for new housing and remove barriers to new housing development. All activities must show a nexus supporting increased housing production. The deadline for non-profits to apply is Feb. 23, 2021. Additional information about the Call for Collaboration program, as well as the request for proposals, is available on the [CCF website](#).

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM UPDATE

The Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) is SCAG's technical assistance program providing planning resources to local agencies to support multimodal transportation, housing, and sustainable land use planning. For the 2020-2021 SCP Call for Applications, there have been two individual calls for applications with a third anticipated to launch this month. More information about the individual calls are available below:

- **Active Transportation & Safety (AT&S):** SCAG released the AT&S call for applications in September 2020 and extended the deadline to Dec. 11, 2020 in response to staff constraints due to COVID-19. SCAG conducted 30 one-on-one coaching sessions to support local agencies in developing applications and received 39 applications. Staff will present the project list for approval at the May 2021 Regional Council meeting.
- **Housing & Sustainable Development (HSD):** SCAG released the HSD call for applications in November 2020 and extended the deadline to apply to Jan. 29, 2021. Staff held an application webinar on Dec. 2 that had more than 110 participants, held weekly office hours, and provided eighteen one-on-one coaching sessions to support application development and received a total of 26 applications. Staff anticipates presenting the project list for approval at the April 2021 Regional Council meeting.
- **Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations (SCMI):** SCAG anticipates the release of the SCMI call for applications on Feb. 8, 2021. SCAG held a listening session on Dec. 7, 2020 that had more than 25 participants for stakeholders to provide input on project types and program guidelines. The feedback was incorporated into the program guidelines. Staff anticipates approval of the SCMI call at the February 2021 Regional Council meeting.

For more information or to submit an application, please visit the [SCP Call for Applications webpage](#).

## GO HUMAN PARTNERSHIPS WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARDEES

In 2017, SCAG's *Go Human* campaign initiated a strategy to expand the scope of the campaign and support the production of housing by initiating partnerships with Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program applicants. During the application development process, *Go Human* encouraged applicants to strengthen their proposals by including an active transportation safety and encouragement element using *Go Human* artwork files. In December, *Go Human* identified 12 AHSC projects from the program's five funding rounds that included a *Go Human* element. Awardees will expand the reach of *Go Human* with outdoor and digital advertisements placed strategically near new housing development. These 12 AHSC awards, made more competitive with the inclusion of leveraged *Go Human* resources, bring over \$280 million of funding for housing to the region, with the majority invested in disadvantaged communities.

## SCAG RESPONDS TO ARB'S CONNECT SOCAL ACCEPTANCE LETTER

On Jan. 27, 2021, SCAG responded to the letter that the California Air Resources Board (ARB) sent with its acceptance of SCAG's determination that Connect SoCal met the 2035 greenhouse gas emission reduction target. A formal response by SCAG was necessary to clarify SCAG's authority and role within the region, in particular the implementation of Connect SoCal. The response letter also addressed several other concerns raised by ARB such as the inclusion of roadway capacity projects by emphasizing SCAG's appropriate regional development and analysis of the plan. In closing, SCAG underscored its commitment to meeting the goals of Connect SoCal and to an ongoing partnership with ARB.

## NUMEROUS TOOLBOX TUESDAY WEBINARS HELD TO START THE YEAR

Last month, SCAG hosted three Toolbox Tuesday webinars, starting the year with *Paint, Posts and Pilots - Doing More with Less* on Jan. 12. For this event, speakers from Alta Planning + Design and the cities of Culver City, Glendora, Long Beach, and Pomona provided an overview of "quick build" projects that cities can use to make complete streets improvements during the pandemic using low-cost materials on a compressed timeline. The speakers shared their lessons learned from implementing a variety of quick build projects such as protected bike lanes, curb extensions, and parklet installations. The event also featured an overview of a [newly published guide](#) on quick build best practices.

Later in the month, SCAG hosted two webinars in a three-part series on *Innovations in Clean Transit* that showcased how Southern California transit agencies are transitioning to zero-emission fleets. With technologies and strategies like electric buses and charging infrastructure, hydrogen fueling stations, workforce reskilling, and public-private partnerships, clean transportation is a destination that has many possible routes. SCAG and Foothill Transit hosted the third webinar in the series on Feb. 2, which explored Foothill Transit's zero-emissions fleet initiative and history, as well as the challenges, benefits, and lessons learned from being an early adopter of zero-emissions technology. Recordings of the webinars and downloads will be available over the coming weeks on the [Toolbox Tuesday webpage](#).

## SCAG ASSISTING JURISDICTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

As part of its \$1.3 million Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Planning Initiative, SCAG has created a template for low-resourced and disadvantaged communities (DAC) to develop active transportation plans. SCAG has been working with seven DACs across the region to inform and operationalize the template and to eventually make it available across the region and state. In December 2020, three jurisdictions (the cities of Perris, Adelanto and Calipatria) adopted their own active transportation plans. The other four jurisdictions are expected to soon adopt their own active transportation plans as well.

## RECENT RESEARCH SHARED AT THE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCAG shared the results of a recent study at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Conference in January 2021 in a poster session focused on strategies to mitigate mobile source emissions, improve air quality, and address climate change. Completed in partnership with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority in July 2020, *Pathways to Clean Vehicle Technology and Alternative Fuels Implementation in San Bernardino County* is one of several ongoing efforts to understand and help facilitate the region's transition to a

cleaner goods movement system. The study had three major components: 1) Development of a scenario analysis tool; 2) Stakeholder outreach; and 3) Development of an action plan for local governments in San Bernardino County. The TRB presentation described the development and application of the scenario analysis tool that quantifies emissions and cost impacts of alternative paths to clean vehicle and fuels implementation. SCAG also presented four additional posters focused on the following topics:

- Disadvantaged Communities Active Transportation Initiative
- Environmental Justice & Equity: Spatiotemporal Analysis of Jobs-Housing Fit in Southern California.
- *Go Human* 2020: Case Studies in Equity-Centered Strategies Using the *Go Human* Kit of Parts
- *Go Human* Campaign

## LOCAL INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM CREATED TO ASSISTANT WITH LOCAL PLANNING UPDATES

In January 2021, SCAG’s Local Information Services Team (LIST) rolled out a General Plan Update Technical Assistance Program to provide more tailored training to assist with General Plan Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements. This initiative will provide one-on-one assistance and help local jurisdictions leverage SCAG’s comprehensive parcel-level land use database and Esri software to advance long-range planning. For more information, please contact Tom Vo at [vo@scag.ca.gov](mailto:vo@scag.ca.gov) or [list@scag.ca.gov](mailto:list@scag.ca.gov).

## CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of 2021, which supplemented the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, includes \$14 billion in supplemental appropriations for COVID-19 relief support to the transit industry with \$13.26 billion to urbanized areas. The CRRSAA requires that the total combined funding through the CARES Act and CRRSAA be capped at 75% of the 2018 National Transit Database-reported transit operators expenses for each of the eligible urbanized areas. Based on this criteria, only three of the six large urbanized areas in the SCAG region received apportionments through the CRRSAA:

Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim	\$954,900,781
Indio – Cathedral City	\$5,011,454
Santa Clarita	\$224,351

As the metropolitan planning organization for the region, it is SCAG’s responsibility to make further sub-apportions to the eligible counties for the multi-county urbanized area (Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim). Accordingly, SCAG has prepared and provided the apportionments to each of the eligible counties.

(Updated Feb. 9, 2021 to correct the name of the partner academic institution, which was erroneously noted as RAND. It has been corrected to Pardee RAND Graduate School.)