

CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDING UPDATE; SCAG PREPARES REGION FOR ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As previously reported, SCAG has raised issue with the Strategic Growth Council on its selection of applicants for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) competitive grant program, which is funded by \$120 million in state cap-and-trade auction proceeds. With only 12 projects from the SCAG region out of 54 invited to apply – a disproportionately low number considering the region’s share of population and concentration of disadvantaged communities – the Regional Council took action in April, strongly urging that the Strategic Growth Council fully fund all 12 applications. President Cheryl Viegas-Walker also reiterated the board’s position to the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. On June 19, the Strategic Growth Council announced that nine projects from the SCAG region will be recommended for funding. Totalling nearly \$27.5 million, the SCAG region projects in Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana and Long Beach scored among the highest in the state, and the funding will be provided to support construction of over 800 affordable units in these cities. SCAG led a delegation from Southern California at the Strategic Growth Council’s June 30 meeting to support the selected projects from the region and also raise concerns about equity in the selection process.

In related news, the California State Transportation Agency announced on June 30 the recipients of \$224 million in competitive grants under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, also funded by cap-and-trade proceeds. The SCAG region received nearly half of the total grant amount awarded statewide, the largest amount of any region in the state. One of the largest grants recommended was for \$41.2 million to Metrolink for the purchase of nine fuel-efficient Tier IV locomotives. Additional grants include \$38.5 million to Metro for the Blue Line Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station and operational improvements; \$24.4 million to the Antelope Valley Transit Authority for its Regional Transit Interconnectivity & Environmental Sustainability Project; and \$2.3 million to the Orange County Transportation Authority for its Bravo! Route 560 rapid buses. Together with a \$1.7 million grant to the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor Agency for its Pacific Surfliner Transit Transfer Program, these grants leveraged an additional \$141 million in matching funds for a total investment of \$249 million regionwide to support high-quality public transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Moving forward, SCAG will continue to remain engaged in the development of guidelines for these funding opportunities. Additionally, SCAG plans to convene a forum on Aug. 6, on how to best position the region for securing new competitive grant funding derived from cap-and-trade revenues. This event, California Gold: Bringing Cap and Trade Dollars to Southern California, will bring together housing and transportation sector leaders to discuss ways on how best to collaborate on future rounds of AHSC grants and explore opportunities from other cap-and-trade funds related to transportation, energy efficiency and natural resources. To RSVP for this workshop, please visit: <http://bit.ly/RSVPCalGold>.

2016 RTP/SCS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SCAG has recently added three new open houses in Los Angeles County to solicit public input and educate the public on the development of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). The new open houses are in addition to the 20 events held throughout the six county region, and are slated for July 7 in East Los Angeles, July 13 in Burbank and July 23 in South Los Angeles. At the open houses, participants are asked to complete a series of short surveys after exploring topics that will be included in the plan, such as housing, mobility, land use, environmental justice, goods movement and the environment. Those who were not able to attend the open houses can still provide input via the electronic surveys, which are now available online. The link to the survey, as well as the informational posters presented at the open houses, fact sheets and short animated video can be found on the 2016 RTP/SCS website: <http://scagrtpscs.net>.

SCAG staff have also been actively working on the Integrated Growth Forecast, a key element for the RTP/SCS that is instrumental to a shared vision for regional growth. Beginning in 2013, SCAG met with local jurisdictions to ensure that our projection figures represented their on-the-ground knowledge. In total, SCAG met with 195 of the 197 jurisdictions in the region to collect input on local growth, answer questions and provide technical guidance to local staff. SCAG is using these jurisdictional-level estimates and projections of population, households, and employment as a basis for computer simulation models. One simulation targets growth in areas that are well served by transit, follows emerging real estate and demographic trends, is sensitive to certain sustainability-related factors and recognizes expanded shared mobility options. SCAG staff is currently sharing draft growth figures from this exercise with member cities and is soliciting their comments and concerns. For questions related to this process, please email RTPLocalInput@scag.ca.gov.

NRDC TO SEEK FUNDING FOR SB 375 IMPLEMENTATION

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and its partners are seeking input from SCAG jurisdictions to better advocate for funding that would implement SB 375 (the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008). SCAG would like to encourage all of our jurisdictions involved in land use, transportation, housing or conservation planning related to the implementation of a RTP/SCS under SB 375 to fill out a brief survey administered by NRDC. The survey is available at <http://bit.ly/NRDCSurvey>. The survey takes about 10-15 minutes and is anonymous. Please complete it by the end of Friday, July 10.

STATE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM STILL DRAWS HIGH NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

The state's 2015 Active Transportation Program application window concluded on June 1 with Caltrans receiving over 600 applications this year. Funding from the Active Transportation Program is available for new or improve existing bikeways/walkways, educate or encourage walking and biking, or fund the development of community-wide bike, pedestrian, safe routes to schools, or active transportation plans in predominantly disadvantaged communities. Interest remains high despite a slight drop in applications submitted throughout the state. This year, there were 222 applicants from the SCAG region, compared to 269 applications in 2014, the first year of the program. However, submissions from the SCAG region represented a larger percentage of overall/statewide submissions (35% in 2014; 36% in 2015). Caltrans has posted the list of submitted applications here: <http://bit.ly/CALTRANS-ATP-List>. Applications will be evaluated in July 2015. Finalists for the statewide and small urban and rural portions of the program will be announced on Oct 21-22, and the MPO portion will be announced in December. For more information on the ATP program, please visit California Transportation Commission website at <http://bit.ly/CTC-ATP> or the Caltrans website at <http://bit.ly/CALTRANS-ATP>.

SCAG RECEIVES GRANT FOR DEVELOP PEV INFRASTRUCTURE IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS

On May 1, the California Energy Commission awarded SCAG a \$125,000 grant from the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program to support deployment of multi-unit dwelling plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) readiness strategies. The primary goal of the project is to address barriers to charging station installation in multi-family housing, and will enable SCAG staff to continue to implement its 2012 Regional PEV Readiness Plan.

U.S. EPA TAKES FIRST STEPS TO ADDRESS EMISSIONS FROM AIRCRAFT

On June 10, the U.S. EPA administrator signed a proposed rule to find that greenhouse gas emissions from commercial aircraft contribute to the air pollution that causes climate change, endangering public health and welfare pursuant to section 231(a) of the Federal Clean Air Act. Under the proposed rule, the EPA is also issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that



provides information on the process for setting international CO2 emissions standards for aircraft at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The ICAO standards are expected to be adopted in early 2016. The Advanced Notice describes and seeks input on issues related to setting an international CO2 standard for aircraft, and the potential use of section 231 of the Clean Air Act to adopt a corresponding aircraft engine standard domestically. The proposed rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register shortly and comments must be received 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. For the pre-publication proposed rule and how to comment, visit <http://1.usa.gov/1BUQ1SN>.

SCAG HOSTS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

As part of an international partnership with Incheon National University in Korea, SCAG is hosting two volunteer interns, Dongwook Kim and Hyoju Kim, from June 22 to August 14. This internship will allow students to directly learn about how SCAG collaborates with key stakeholders to develop plans and policy options to address diverse urban and regional planning issues. The students will also learn practically useful planning knowledge through field study and guided research on a topic area of their interest.

On June 17, SCAG hosted a 15-member Chinese highway delegation from Guanxi Province. SCAG staff introduced the SCAG 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the potential policy options for the upcoming 2016 RTP/SCS. The highway-focused delegates were impressed by SCAG's integrated planning and programs for low-carbon transportation development and economic growth.