



## AGENDA ITEM 1

### REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments  
April 3, 2025

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC) THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

#### **Members Present**

##### **Sup. Curt Hagman, President**

##### **Hon. Ray Marquez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair, CEHD  
Hon Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair CEHD  
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, Chair EEC  
Hon. Lauren Meister, Vice Chair EEC  
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC  
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC  
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.  
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.

##### ***Chino Hills***

*Calabasas*  
*Simi Valley*  
*Santa Paula*  
*West Hollywood*  
*Pomona*  
*VCTC*  
*Mission Viejo*

##### **San Bernardino County**

##### **District 10**

District 44  
District 46  
District 47  
District 41  
District 38  
Ventura County  
District 13  
Air District Representative

#### **Members Not Present**

##### **Hon. Cindy Allen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

##### **Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President**

Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC  
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Vice Chair LCMC  
Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.  
Hon. Alan Wapner, President's Appt.  
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.  
Hon. Lucy Dunn

##### ***Long Beach***

***RCTC***  
*Riverside*  
*Duarte*  
*Los Angeles*  
SBCTA  
*Pechanga Dev. Corp.*

##### **District 30**

##### **Riverside**

District 68  
District 35  
Member-At-Large  
San Bernardino  
TGRP Representative  
Business Representative

#### **Staff Present**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director



Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer  
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer  
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer  
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer  
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer  
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel  
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services  
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board  
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Curt Hagman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

President Hagman opened the Public Comment Period.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there were no written public comments received before or after the deadline.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Hagman closed the Public Comment Period.

### **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **1. SCAG Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Draft Comprehensive Budget**

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, explained the 2025-2026 budget totaled just under \$391 million dollars which was about \$44 million or 10% below the current year budget. During her presentation she reviewed some of the highlights of the budget. She explained to members that when they looked at the comprehensive budget, the largest component was their overall work program, which totaled just under \$385 million dollars and was spread across 35 different agency work programs. She reported that each year SCAG was required to present this work program to Caltrans, FHWA and FTA. She stated that Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer, had done an excellent job presenting SCAG's work plan, along with its accomplishments and progress on major work programs. She noted that the feedback they had received was both supportive of the work they had accomplished as well as the work program before them that

day. She shared with members that within the staff report on page 14, a chart had been provided that detailed the total budget for each program. Additionally, she stated that within the comprehensive budget document, starting on page 49, they could find narratives of each program that describe the objectives and alignment with SCAG's Strategic Plan. She stated the total budget was broken down by major expenditure category in Table 2 of the provided staff report which she then covered in order of magnitude. She explained that of their total, \$390 million budget, over 50% or \$201 million was allocated for pass-through payments or technical assistance to local agencies located throughout the region such as the Last Mile Freight Program. The next largest category she discussed was consultants, which totaled \$59 million. She stated the largest components of their consultant budget included \$20 million for the Carbon Reduction and Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Programs. She stated \$17 million was for the Last Mile Freight Program which again, was a pass-through program, but predated their separate tracking as they do now. She stated there was \$8 million in resources to support Connect SoCal development, outreach and implementation, and \$11 million to support REAP 2 and other one-time grant funded activities. Next, she stated was their salaries and benefits budget of just under \$50 million dollars. She noted the budget funded 237 positions, which was an increase of two limited term employees and the conversion of one part-time employee to full-time. She stated the details of the specific staffing changes had been provided in attachment 2 to the staff report. She explained there was no proposed change to the staff, to the staff salary schedule, and there was only one proposed employee benefit change, which was to reduce the waiting period for short-term disability benefits from 30 days to 14 days and was an approximate annual cost of \$57,000. The in-kind and cash local other were match commitments predominantly again related to their Last Mile Freight Program. She stated the Other Cost category was used to set aside labor budget for multi-year grants. She indicated that as it had already been noted, they were continuing to make progress on completing their one-time grant commitments. She stated they could see that the corresponding decline in the set aside for future year labor costs from \$40 million to just under \$25 million. Lastly, she reported that the proposed General Fund budget totaled \$2.8 million dollars. She stated the General Fund budget provided funding for the Regional Council and its subcommittees for stipends and travel, the General Assembly, and other expenditures that were typically not eligible for grant reimbursement. She reported that the general fund budget and membership schedule or membership assessment would be submitted to the General Assembly for approval on May 1, 2025. She explained that the membership assessment was calculated in accordance with SCAG's Bylaws, and the membership dues were adjusted by the recent year over year Consumer Price Index change. She stated the calculated membership dues for each agency could be found starting on page 82 of the agenda packet. She stated staff would be returning in May once again for final budget adoption.

There were no public comments for Items 1.

A MOTION was made (Shapiro) to recommend that the Regional Council: 1) Approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Draft Comprehensive Budget in the amount of \$390,819,246; 2) Authorize the release of the FY 2025-26 Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) to initiate the 30-day public comment period; and 3) Approve the FY 2025-26 General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment and transmit to the General Assembly. Motion was SECONDED (Bucknum) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Bucknum, Crosswhite, Hagman, Judge, Marquez, McCallon, Meister, Rhodes, Sandoval, and Shapiro (10)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

#### Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting – February 6, 2025
3. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: No. 25-011-C01, Natural & Agricultural Lands Economic and Resilience Benefits Study
4. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: No. 25-017-C01, Transportation Data Analysis Technical Assistance (TA) Program
5. Early Legislative Bills – Support
6. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

#### Receive and File

7. Purchase Orders, Contracts and Contract Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
8. CFO Monthly Report

There were no public comments for Items 2 through 7.

A MOTION was made (McCallon) to approve Consent Calendar Items 2 through 6 and Receive and File Items 7 through 8. Motion was SECONDED (Marquez) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Bucknum, Crosswhite, Hagman, Judge, Marquez, McCallon, Meister, Rhodes, Sandoval, and Shapiro (10)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

### **CFO REPORT**

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, reported that they had been busy working on the fiscal year [2026] budget which had just been presented and thanked all the members for their unanimous support. In addition, she reported they continued to make great progress on the REAP 2 program with an additional 10 MOUs executed during the past month. Lastly, she stated they would be returning the following month with budget amendment 2 of their fiscal year 25 budget.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hagman reminded members that the General Assembly registration was open. He stated the [General Assembly would be taking place] on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Palm Desert and SCAG would be celebrating its 60th anniversary. He stated this event was a great place to network with leaders and jurisdiction staff from throughout the region, as well as panelists and SCAG staff to learn about resources and tools available to support the region's collective success. He stated the Regional Conference and General Assembly also included the annual voting on SCAG's new leadership and budget for the coming fiscal year. President Hagman directed members to the Clerk of the Board for registration. President Hagman thanked the SCAG team as several people showed up for the zero-emission truck opening event which had taken place the previous week in the Inland Empire. He stated this was a Japanese company that has been in 19 different countries. He stated this company had electric and hydrogen medium and heavy class A truck manufacturing as well as buses and other things. He stated they made their first home in North America in Fontana and had a projected output of 35 to 40 thousand vehicles each year. Lastly, he reminded members that the next EAC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 3.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, stated that at the Regional Council meeting there would be an item to consider the STBG/CMAQ Guidelines. He stated that it was an exciting moment because it was when the guidelines would be approved, and they would start the process for the \$1.2 billion funding program that SCAG would serve the lead role on for the region. He stated they had been working on the guidelines with all the transportation commissions as well as other partners throughout the region for a period of time, and they were certainly in line with the Connect SoCal RTP/SCS principles that the Board had adopted the previous year. He stated the updated guidelines also emphasized the federal performance management areas, considered the presidential executive

orders, and the USDOT policy changes. He stated this had been scheduled for the previous month at a Special [Transportation Committee] meeting to consider the guidelines, however given the changes, they wanted to take their time and make sure they were consistent with the new administration directives. He stated this had presented a bit of a timing challenge and normally they liked to take these items to the policy committee meeting a month apart from the Regional Council, but it would be on the Transportation Committee agenda that day and presented at the Regional Council later should the committee move it forward. He stated the online application would be available March 31 through May 16 and award recommendations would be presented to the SCAG Regional Council at the end of the year. Additionally, he reported that the previous week, the first REAP dollars turned into a groundbreaking ceremony in Imperial County where ICTC kicked off the long-awaited Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center. He stated Executive Director Kome Ajise had been there as well as several other SCAG staff. He reported that in total the project was about \$19 million which was supported by SCAG's REAP program in part. Lastly, in terms of federal updates he informed members that the National Association of Regional Councils, or NARC, hosted its conference a few weeks prior. He stated both the Executive Director and Chief Government Affairs Officer Javiera Cartagena had attended. He stated it had been a good time to talk to the offices of their Senators as well as key members of Congress, such as Laura Freeman and Robert Garcia, to get a sense about where things were going and lay the groundwork for the work that SCAG would be doing later in the year when they visit for their official legislative trips.

There were no public comments for the CFO report, President's report, or the Executive Director's report.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Hagman adjourned the Meeting of the Executive Administration Committee at 9:27 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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**Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report**

2024-25																		Total Mtg: Attended To Date
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	6-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		
Hon. Curt Hagman, President, Chair		San Bernardino County	1	1	1	1	D	1	D	1	1	D	1	1			9	
Hon. Cindy Allen, 1st Vice Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1		0		1	0		1	0			6	
Hon. Ray Marquez, 2nd Vice Chair	Chino Hills	District 10	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		1	1			9	
Hon. Jan Harnik, Imm. Past President	Buena Park	RCTC	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		1	1	0			8
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair, CEHD	Calabasas	District 44	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		1	1	1			9
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair, CEHD	Simi Valley	District 46	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		0	1	1			8
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, Chair, EEC	Santa Paula	District 47	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		1	1	1			9
Hon. Lauren Mister, Vice Chair, EEC	West Hollywood	District 41					A	A		A		1	1			2		
Hon. Tim Sandoval, Chair, TC	Pomona	District 38	0	0	1	1		0	0	0	1	1			4			
Hon. Mike Judge, Vice Chair, TC		VCTC	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7		
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0			7		
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Vice Chair, LCMC	Duarte	District 35					K	K		K		0	0			0		
Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large		0	0	1		0	1	1	0	0			3			
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.	Mission Viejo	District 13	1	0	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8	
Hon. Larry McCallon, President's Appt.		Air District Representative	1		1	1	K	1	K	1	1	K	0	1			7	
Hon. Alan Wapner, President's Appt.		SBCTA													1	0		
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0				6	
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Mar	Business Representative	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0				5	
			9	11	13	15	0	12	0	13	11	0	14	10	0	0	108	

Attachment: EAC Attendance Sheet 2024-25 (Minutes of the Meeting - March 6, 2024)