

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 5, 2018

- **Executive Committee:** On Monday, the Executive Committee held their monthly meeting. Discussion topics included a review of the SGVCOG's investment policy, updates on the ACE/SGVCOG integration, as well as an update on the results of the 2016-2017 financial audit. The Committee was also briefed on an exciting project to enter into an agreement with participating agencies regarding the administration and cost sharing for the preparation of design plans for load reduction strategy projects for the Rio Hondo River and Tributaries. Participating agencies include: Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, Temple City, and LA County. This project would be assigned to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee for oversight of staff's implementation, making this the first project approved for the Construction Committee after the revision of the SGVCOG bylaws and JPA in December.
- **City Managers' Steering Committee:** This month, the Committee took action on two items. For the first item, the members were presented with the FY 2016-2017 audit results conducted by Vasquez & Company. There were no findings, and members recommended the Governing Board receive and file the audit as presented. Regarding the second item, the Committee recommended the Governing Board approve the Rio Hondo River and Tributaries Load Reduction Project and assign the Project to the Capital Projects and Construction Committee. The Committee also reviewed the draft Project Development manual that provides guidance on how agencies will apply and evaluated for construction projects submitted to the SGVCOG.
- **Safe, Clean Water Subcommittees:** The four subcommittees met for the second time this week to continue working through some of the finer details of the County's potential stormwater tax ballot measure.
 - Credits/Rebates and Incentives: Potentially the most difficult of the program elements, subcommittee members reviewed four existing programs from other parts of the country and considered how elements of those programs might apply to our situation and climate. There seemed to be agreement that incentives or rebates only make sense for projects of a certain size threshold that can guarantee return on the rebate/credit investment, and that do not require the creation of whole new bureaucracies to administer the program.
 - DACs, Equity, and Stakeholder Involvement: As a way of introducing knowledge learned from existing agencies, the subcommittee received presentations from the IRWMP DAC committee, First Five LA, and the Prevention Institute. The group then continued trying to describe how to provide tangible benefits from a stormwater funding tax to disadvantaged communities. One recurrent theme was difficulty of meaningfully engaging with disadvantaged communities. This will be especially true of something as esoteric as stormwater. Because this issue is so tied to project selection and governance, future meetings of this subcommittee will be held jointly with those other two subcommittees.

- Project Selection: The subcommittee reviewed a strawman scoring system that seeks to assign points to proposed projects in four categories: water supply benefits, water quality benefits, community enhancement benefits, and project readiness/ability to leverage existing funds. There was consensus that the water quality category must receive the greatest weight in order to ensure that selected projects achieve the overarching legal requirement of reducing pollution caused by stormwater runoff.
- Governance: County staff introduced draft proposals for a project selection process and governance structure. Project selection ideas included a one-tiered approach whereby regional watershed groups receive 100% of Regional Funding and self-select projects within their boundaries. Alternatively, the two-tiered approach would reserve some level of funding at the county-wide level to be assigned by a Regional Coordination Committee (RCC). There was consensus support for the one-tiered approach with the possibility of reserving county-wide money only for technical support. Next, the group considered membership of the watershed-based and county-wide committees. The SGVCOG advocated that each city (permittee) should have a seat on the watershed committee and that voting be one seat, one vote. There was consensus that each watershed have one seat on the RCC.
- Save the Date - Homeless Services Bus Tour - The SGVCOG is planning a Bus Tour for the participating Homeless Planning Cities to take place on April 12 from 8:30 - 2:00 p.m. Please note, a prior flyer incorrectly indicated the date was April 11. We will tour up to three local sites of successful affordable housing and shelter projects. This will provide cities with an opportunity to see how these projects fit within local communities. This tour is designed for Council members, City Managers/Deputy CMs, Police Chiefs/Asst Chiefs, and Department Directors. Additionally, cities are encouraged to identify influencers in their communities to join you on this tour. As a part of that community engagement, cities may consider inviting individuals that they believe may negatively respond to City's homeless plan and who might benefit from seeing such projects within context. Please note, seating is limited. We can guarantee a minimum of four spaces per city, and will update if additional spaces are available. Please mark your calendar and watch for your Eventbright.com invitation. Please email Jan (Jcicco@sgvcog.org) if you have additional questions.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 12, 2018

- **Metro Chair and CEO Meeting:** On Friday, March 9th, Metro Chair Eric Garcetti and CEO Phil Washington hosted a meeting of all COG Chairs and Executive Directors. President Cynthia Sternquist, Metro Board Member John Fasana, Mark Christoffels and I were in attendance. Topics of the meetings included Metro's Strategic Plan, SB 1, the Twenty-Eight X 28 initiative, and public-private partnerships. Additionally, COG chairs had an opportunity to present on subregional priorities. President Sternquist spoke about the need to fill funding gaps for existing projects, working with subregions to accelerate shovel-ready projects, and the new expanded scope of ACE.
- **Metro PAC:** Mark Christoffels attended the monthly Metro PAC meeting. Metro staff provided updates on the Transit Oriented Communities Working Committee and Measure M ATP 2% administrative procedures. Additionally, staff from USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) presented on their research related to equity in transportation investments.
- **State Audit of Water Boards:** In June 2017, Assemblymember Muratsuchi asked the CA State Auditor to determine and compare how the requirements, and the attending costs, of Clean Water Act and MS4 permit compliance are established by the different Regional Water Boards and whether the costs being imposed are reasonable and proportional to the amount of stormwater pollution being generated by the cities. The State Auditor found that:
 - Regional Boards have not adequately considered the overall costs on local jurisdictions.
 - Regional Boards do not have consistent information on the costs that local jurisdictions incur. Although the State Water Board has been aware of inconsistent cost information, it has not provided guidance to local jurisdictions on how to track or report their costs.
 - The State Water Board and regional boards have established some pollutant control requirements using outdated information or without obtaining sufficient information on the water bodies they are regulating.
 - The State Water Board's statewide policy prohibiting local jurisdictions from discharging trash into water bodies has forced local jurisdictions to direct resources to reduce trash rather than other pollutants of greater concern.

The full report can be accessed here: <http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2017-118.pdf>.

- **Transportation Committee:** The Transportation Committee heard three presentations, the first of which was an Action Item regarding ACA 5. ACA 5, which is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment, will appear on the June 5, 2018 ballot as Proposition 69. ACA 5 amends the State Constitution to require that all SB 1 revenues be spent on transportation purposes only. Additionally, ACA 5 also amends the State Constitution to exempt all revenues raised from SB 1 from counting toward state and local spending limits. The Transportation Committee approved a motion to recommend that the Governing Board support Proposition 69; the Governing Board will consider this item in April. COG staff also gave an update on the status of Bike Share Expansion in the San Gabriel Valley. In August

2017, the COG was awarded a \$4.554 million GGRF grant for an 840-bike Bike Share Expansion program in 14 SGV cities. Staff reviewed various options and new technologies, including pedal-assist and dockless. Based on direction from the Committee, staff will work with Metro and CTC staff to determine how the grant funds can be used most effectively given the rapid expansion of private-operated dockless systems. The Transportation Committee also received an update from COG staff regarding Measure M Subregional Fund Programming and Project Selection.

- **SPA 3 Homeless Leadership Council:** During the Homeless Leadership meeting on March 15, the committee was reminded that Joe Lyons, Chair of the SGVCOG Homelessness Committee, has offered to make presentations to City Councils about a vision for organizational structure supporting city and regional homelessness efforts over the next ten years. If your city would like to invite Council Member Lyons to make a brief presentation, please contact Jan Cicco at jcicco@sgvcog.org. The SGV Consortium's Data Committee will support cities' homeless planning efforts by creating a map of services and homeless housing across the SGV.
- **Clean Water Stakeholder Advisory Committee:** The SAC reviewed options forming the basis of the stormwater tax. Those included a flat rate per parcel, taxing based on lot size or developed area, or taxes based on the impervious area of a parcel. County staff is recommending impervious area, which would generate \$300 - \$400M annually. Members related their concern that for the average homeowner it would be difficult to interpret the word "impervious" and how much they would pay in additional annual taxes. That uncertainty might spur a "no" vote. County staff laid out the remaining timeline and schedule:
 - Mid April: draft ordinance complete
 - Late April: final subcommittee meetings (Project Selection Criteria, Governance, DACs, and Rebates/Credits/Incentives)
 - Early May: next SAC meeting
 - June: draft proposal to BOS for consideration

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Week of March 19, 2018

- **Washington DC Trip:** Third Vice President and Monrovia Councilwoman Becky Shevlin joined members of the Capital Projects and Construction Committee and the Diamond Bar City Council on an advocacy trip to Washington, DC from March 19 to 21. The group met with members and staff of the San Gabriel Valley's Congressional delegation as well as staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation in support of funding applications submitted for the Alameda Corridor-East Project and the State Route 57-60 Chokepoint Relief Program. The group also urged support for House and Senate bills intended to provide legislative and regulatory relief to cities implementing their MS-4 stormwater permits. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments joined with the Foothill Gold Line, Foothill Transit and the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership in sponsoring a Congressional Appreciation Reception. The group also attended briefings with representatives of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Federal Highway Administration, the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.
- **Public Works TAC:** On Monday, the Public Works TAC held its March meeting. First, members of the TAC heard a presentation from the Executive Director and the Director of Project Delivery of the SBCTA on their current I-10 Express Lanes Project. The I-10 Express Lanes project will begin in the West at the county border with LA County and will extend to the eastern border of Redlands to the East. Members of the TAC, including delegates from the county border cities of Claremont on Pomona, who will be most impacted by the project, will be able to provide the SBCTA with substantive input about the project. Additionally, COG staff presented on the Rio Hondo Load Reduction Strategy Agreement and RFP. Moreover, COG staff also gave the TAC updates on Measure M Subregional Administrative Funds, Measure M Subregional Fund Programming and Project Selection, and the upcoming CicLAvia Heart of the Foothills event.
- **Update on Homeless Plans:** To date, 35 public input sessions have been facilitated. Sessions will continue through mid-April. Interviews with key stakeholders are underway for various cities. Strategies are presently being drafted and reviewed with city teams; one draft homelessness plan has been submitted to city staff for initial internal review. In order to meet the County grant requirements, the following recommended timeline has been developed:
 - April 15: All community input meetings completed
 - May 1: Draft plan completed
 - May 25: Council study sessions completed
 - June 22: Plan adopted by council
 - June 28: Plan submitted to County
- **ACE/SGVCOG Joint Staff Meeting:** On Tuesday, a joint staff meeting was held with SGVCOG staff at the Irwindale office. The purpose of the meeting was for staff to be briefed on the background of the ACE/SGVCOG integration and on the current status of the integration. This discussion was led by the ACE Ad Hoc Integration Committee Chair, Joe Lyons. SGVCOG staff from each department were then able to provide updates on various activities that are affected by the integration, including finance, administrative services, contracts, grants/audits, construction, community outreach and policy/planning.

- **Water Policy Committee/TAC:** The committee heard a presentation by the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River watershed group on proposed revisions to their Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (E/WMP). They believe the proposed changes will go farther to improve water quality while reducing the overall costs by as much as 80%. The group has met with the Regional Board and Environmental groups and has support for the concepts. Before the plan is official presented to the Regional Board for consideration and approval in May, they are seeking Water Policy and GB Committee support. The committee continued discussing the County stormwater tax measure, focusing on the proposed ballot language and tax formula. Finally, staff gave updates on proposed stormwater legislation, and the State Audit of the Regional and State Water Boards.
- **EENR Committee:** This month the EENR Committee received an update on proposed shuttle service corridors to allow for better access to the Angeles National Forest. The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land, is currently studying the possibility of a shuttle service between the cities of Arcadia, Duarte and Azusa to the Angeles National Forest. As part of their continued analysis, a 6-month pilot project will kick-off April 6th, operating on Saturdays and Sundays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. from the Memorial Park Goldline Station. This pilot project will provide additional data such as, ridership numbers, length of a visitors stay and the impact on the volume of traffic.
- **Homelessness Committee:** The Homelessness Committee received a presentation from the City of El Monte and Mercy Housing on their Baldwin Rose Veteran Housing Project. When completed this project will provide 55-units of one to three bedrooms apartments reserved for veterans and families with qualifying income and status. The land for this project was acquired as a public benefit transfer from ACE to the City of El Monte. Additionally, the committee discussed AB 1971 (Santiago). This bill will expand the state law definition of grave disability and allow first responders to provide assistance to individuals in need of medical attention, that refuse due to a mental disorder. The Committee recommended that this bill be moved to the Governing Board for support.
- **Planning Directors' TAC:** On Thursday, the Planning Directors' TAC began its meeting with a presentation on the recently-approved City of Hope Specific Plan and EIR, which was given by the City of Duarte's Community Development Director and their Planning Manager. They both went in-depth about various aspects of the plan, including sustainability, parking, infrastructure implementation, zoning, stormwater mitigation, and integration and connectivity with transit and greenways. Also, the TAC continued its discussion from its February meeting regarding regarding compliance problems that cities have faced with the LA County Fire Department. As a result, the TAC approved a motion to establish a sub-committee on this matter to whittle down the current list of issues, get consensus on the most important compliance and customer service problems that the cities have been facing, and then recommend which actions the COG should take to address these problems. Moreover, the TAC heard updates on Measure M Subregional Administrative Funds, Measure M Subregional Fund Programming, CicLAvia Heart of the Foothills, and the Metro Open Streets Cycle 3 grant.

SGVCOG Weekly Recap

Week of March 26, 2018

- **Update on Compensation / Classification Study:** This week, all 28 of the SGVCOG staff were interviewed by the consultant, Reward Strategy Group, as a component of the classification and compensation study currently underway. The interviews allowed the consultant to clarify and ask staff individualized based on the Position Description Questionnaires completed by each SGVCOG employee. The consultant is currently in the process of analyzing all classifications. Once this analysis is complete, the consultant will present the preliminary classification plan and findings to the ACE/SGVCOG Integration Ad Hoc Committee, which is anticipated to take place the week of April 23.
- **Metro NextGen Bus Study Working Group:** On Tuesday, COG staff attended the kickoff meeting for the Metro NextGen Bus Study Working Group at LA Metro Headquarters. This working group was diverse and included community stakeholders, leaders, and decision-makers from governments, public agencies, advocacy and community-based organizations, universities and colleges, and faith groups from all across LA County. The NextGen Bus Study is a collaborative effort to improve Metro's bus network by reimagining the bus system to better serve LA County's diverse customer base. Metro's bus system has not been significantly overhauled in 25 years, so Metro needs to take a holistic and comprehensive approach when considerably reconfiguring its bus system. The purpose of the NextGen Working Group is to help Metro's staff and consultants identify opportunities and to provide recommendations to improve bus service. COG staff was able to provide input during this inaugural meeting. NextGen Working Group meetings will be bi-monthly, and upcoming topics and focuses of these meetings include: Travel Markets and Patterns, Existing Bus Service Evaluation, Draft Service Concepts, and Final Service Plans. The next Metro NextGen Bus Study Working Group Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22.
- **Ad Hoc Integration Meeting:** On Wednesday, the ACE/SGVCOG Ad Hoc Integration Committee met. The Committee reviewed the updated SGVCOG employee handbook, which combines and rectifies aspects of the current ACE/SGVCOG version, such as vacation time and holidays. The updated handbook will be considered for approval at the April Governing Board meeting. The Committee also reviewed the draft FY 18-19 budget, which is the first step toward a planned combined ACE/SGVCOG budget to be developed for FY 19-20.
- **SGVEWP Legislative Networking Reception:** On Thursday afternoon, SGVCOG staff, SGVCOG Governing Board President Cynthia Sternquist, and Governing Board 3rd Vice President, Becky Shevlin, attended the 18th Annual Legislative Networking Reception, which was co-hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership and the SGVCOG. This event provided the COG's representatives and all other attendees a great opportunity to meet and network with key SGV regional leaders, stakeholders, and government affairs representatives from a broad range of organizations and government agencies, as well as elected officials and their staff members. This event's special guests included Congresswoman Judy Chu of California's 27th Congressional District, three California State Senators, and three California State Assembly Members. Each elected official had the opportunity to speak to the reception's attendees about policy issues and legislation that are of importance to the SGV region.
- **SGV Census Meeting:** On Thursday, I met with staff from the LA County CEO's Office, LA County District 1, LA County District 4, and LA County District 5 to discuss outreach and

planning efforts associated with the 2020 Census. Currently, the County is working with all cities on the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Operation. In May, they will begin outreaching to municipalities to assist them with and encourage them to develop outreach campaigns for their residents to ensure that everyone participates in the Census. It is critical that all residents participate, as the financial impact of an undercount is approximately \$2,000 per person per year in Federal and State funding, or nearly \$20,000 over the 10 year census period. Staff from the County CEO's office will be presenting initial steps at the May meetings of the Governing Board, City Managers' Steering Committee, and Planners TAC.

- **Carlos Monroy Retirement:** On Friday, March 30, Carlos Monroy, the SGVCOG's Finance Director, retired. Carlos has worked at the ACE/SGVCOG for 10 years. He has been an invaluable resource and was central to the COG's successful Caltrans' pre-award audit, which removed our "high risk agency" designation. Additionally, he has made significant contributions related to the ACE/COG integration, specifically related to coordination of the budgets and financial policies. Carlos will continue to work for the COG on a part-time basis while a new Finance Director is recruited and trained. On behalf of staff and the Board, our most sincere thanks and appreciation for everything Carlos has done!



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