

Meeting Date / Location

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

<https://yorbalinga.zoom.us/j/96480409922?pwd=WjJpVStmZ1AxWEt2akFxdzNrVk9LQT09>

Meeting ID: 964 8040 9922

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Agenda Item

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INTRODUCTIONS

(Chair Nate Farnsworth,
City of Yorba Linda)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Chair Farnsworth)

The agenda descriptions are intended to give members of the public a general summary of items of business to be transacted or discussed. The posting of the recommended actions does not include what action will be taken. The Technical Advisory Committee may take any action which it deems appropriate on the agenda item and is not limited in any way by the notice of the recommended action.

At this time members of the public may address the TAC regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction, which are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agendized items at the time the item is called for discussion. NO action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person and an overall time limit of twenty minutes for the Public Comments portion of the agenda.

Any person wishing to address the TAC on any matter, whether or not it appears on this agenda, is requested to complete a "Request to Speak" form available at the door. The completed form is to be submitted to the TAC Chair prior to an individual being heard. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the TAC in writing and only pertinent points presented orally. A speaker's comments shall be limited to three minutes.

ADMINISTRATION

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|----------|
| 1. | OCCOG TAC Meeting Minutes | (Chair Farnsworth) | 4 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft OCCOG TAC minutes for the June 2, 2020 meeting | | |

Recommended Action: Approve OCCOG TAC minutes for the June 2, 2020 meeting, as presented or amended

Agenda Item	Staff	Page
PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS		
<p>2. Center of Demographic and Research Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Inventory System (HIS) Data Collection • Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP) 	(Ms. Deborah Diep, Director, Center for Demographic Research) – 15 minutes	9
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion.		
<p>3. Land Use Planning Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cal Fire Presentation 	(Mr. Marcus Hernandez, Cal Fire) 20 minutes	13
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion.		
<p>4. Presentation by Dr. Wallace Walrod, OCBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use and housing technology visualization and analytical tool • Q&A 	(Dr. Wallace Walrod, OCBC) 25 minutes	N/A
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion		
<p>5. ADU Ad Hoc Committee</p>	(Chair Farnsworth) 15 minutes	30
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion		
<p>6. Connect SoCal Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Conformity 6/8 • Technical Working Group 6/18 • 60-day update • Lessons Learned • Data Map Books 	(Chair Farnsworth and Ms. Deborah Diep) 15 Minutes	31
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion		
<p>7. SCAG Housing Element Update Resources</p>	(Chair Farnsworth) 15 minutes	38
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion		
<p>8. HCD Housing Element Sites Inventory Guidebook</p>	(Chair Farnsworth) 15 minutes	39
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion		
<p>9. LEAP and REAP Grants</p>	(Ms. Marie Primmer, Executive Director) 15 minutes	40
<i><u>Recommended Action:</u></i> Receive report. Discussion		

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REPORT FROM THE OCCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MATTERS FROM OCCOG TAC MEMBERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM NON-MEMBERS

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

IMPORTANT DATES OR UPCOMING EVENTS

**Adjourn to: AUGUST 4, 2020
LOCATION: TBD**



**ORANGE COUNTY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**
Technical Advisory Committee

Draft Action Minutes

Meeting of July 7, 2020

The Orange County Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of June 2, 2020, was called to order by Chair Nate Farnsworth, City of Yorba Linda. The meeting was held through video and telephone conferencing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments at this time.

ADMINISTRATION

1. OCCOG TAC Meeting Minutes

The OCCOG meeting minutes of May 5, 2020 were unanimously approved by the TAC as moved by Maribeth Tinio, City of Brea, and a second by Vice Chair Justin Equina, City of Irvine.

PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS, REPORTS

2. Center for Demographic Research – Housing Inventory System (HIS) Data Collection and Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership

Housing Inventory System (HIS) Data Collection

CDR will send requests for the January 1 – June 30, 2020 HIS data on July 1, 2020 with a deadline to submit the data to CDR by Friday, July 24, 2020.

HIS submission forms were updated in 2020 to include additional sample entries and clarifications in the instructions. An additional optional column was added “Building Permit Date Issued” to assist in compiling HIS, DOF and HCD APR data. Please submit data to CDR using the new 2020 HIS form located at <http://www.fullerton.edu/cdr/HISform.xls> . Revisions to prior years may use either the new or old form. Please verify that the same data reported to CDR is also provided to DOF in their annual Housing Unit Change Survey. For HIS questions, please contact Tania Torres at 657-278-3417 or tatorres@fullerton.edu.

Attached to this staff report is an updated HIS unit flow chart to better explain how to record unit activity when attached ADUs are involved. This is similar to DOF’s new housing survey flow chart DOF, but is tailored to CDR’s 4 ADU types.

Attachment: Draft CDR HIS Unit Flow Chart

Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP)

Orange County agencies are partnering with SCAG to pool resources to create purchase online and GIS-accessible aerial imagery for Orange County. This is patterned off of LA County’s collaborative GIS effort known as LARIAC (Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium). <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/lariac/>

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This joint effort, called the Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP), will reduce the cost of purchasing aerial imagery and other GIS information that can be used by all departments within an agency without the need for GIS software by including a user-friendly, non-GIS platform; GIS users would have access to GIS data. Cycle 1 will include 3-inch pixel aerial/ortho imagery, infrared, and building footprints. The services will include in-person training, webinars, and additional support. Imagery and reference information is expected to be collected in July 2020, which would provide a critical baseline reference for the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census and the 2024 RTP/SCS. Some of the goals are to reduce or eliminate duplicate purchases across the region, reduce costs using economies of scale, allow for unlimited and cross-departmental users within an agency.

The total project cost for Cycle 1 is \$383,603. Currently, 16 agencies have verbally indicated participation and full funding has been reached to proceed with the project. The OCCOG Board has authorized OCCOG take the lead in invoicing the participating agencies in Cycle 1 for the OCDAP. OCCOG will collect the funds and send to SCAG. A Participant Agreement (attached) will need to be signed by each agency participating in Cycle 1 of OCDAP; the Agreement will also be signed by OCCOG, which will be invoicing and collecting the funds, and SCAG who is handling the procurement of the vendor contract. Copies of the Participant Agreement will be prepared and distributed by SCAG for signature; this is expected to occur in mid-June. Additional agencies may still participate; those interested in participation should contact Javier Aguilar, SCAG: (213) 236-1845 Cell: (213) 999-1252 aguilar@scag.ca.gov.

Action: Received Report. Discussion.

3. Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ad-Hoc Committee

Chair Nate Farnsworth updated the OCCOG TAC members about the ADU ad hoc committee. The committee has met twice to discuss a potential ADU package that could be submitted to HCD for pre-approval on counting ADU's towards the housing sites inventory for the upcoming Housing Element update. The four areas of discussion were capacity assumptions, affordability assumptions, programs, and the ADU package.

Action: Received Report. Discussion.

4. LEAP and REAP Grant

Chair Nate Farnsworth updated the OCCOG TAC members about LEAP funding. HCD has provided a Technical Assistance flyer to help aid jurisdictions in their LEAP applications. Application deadline is July 1, 2020.

Marine Primmer, Executive Director, updated the OCCOG TAC members about the REAP funding. Funds will be allocated according to the RHNA formula. The amount will be approximately \$3.2 million; however, the amount will be determined once the RHNA allocation is finalized.

Action: Received Report. Discussion.

5. SCAG 2020 RTP/SCS/Connect SoCal Draft Data/Map Book

SCAG recently updated its Draft Data/Map Book Page with a description of how SCAG incorporated entitlements in Connect SoCal. Included on the page are the updated Data/Map Books for each jurisdiction (still in draft format for local review and sans growth forecast), the Regional Entitlements Database, as well as the Connect SoCal Growth Vision Methodology: <https://www.connectsocial.org/Pages/Local-Input-Process.aspx> SCAG anticipates seeking feedback from jurisdictions in summer 2020 to finalize any draft data elements for the data/map book after the second round of local review on entitlements is completed in June 2020.

6. Connect SoCal/RHNA

On May 7, 2020, the SCAG Regional Council approved the RTP portion of Connect SoCal to submit for federal conformity. The SCS portion was delayed 120 days in order for SCAG to verify or correct entitlements and report back on the effects of the economic shutdown due to COVID-19.

Part of the reason for the 120-day delay was for SCAG to verify entitlements are accurately reflected in the RTP/SCS (“Connect SoCal”) growth forecast. There is one entitled project (Centennial) in Unincorporated LA County that has been publically identified as an item of concern. In an internal analysis, SCAG did their own analysis on entitlements and, due to their calculations and assumptions, identified six jurisdictions of the 197 in the region where they believed a handful of entitled projects may not have been accurately incorporated into the RTP/SCS.

Of the six jurisdictions that SCAG identified as possibly having issues with entitlements, three were in Orange County. If your jurisdiction has not been contacted thus far, it is not one of the three. At this time, for the 32 OC jurisdictions that have not been individually contacted, there is no further action that needs to be taken. Further elaboration and discussion on this will occur at the June 2 OCCOG TAC meeting.

It has been determined, upon review and consultation with the three jurisdictions on the entitlements in question and the local input submitted by the jurisdictions, the jurisdictions’ local input data was correct. As a result of the discussion with the jurisdictions, issues of concern have been raised about SCAG’s process and analysis regarding entitlements. These can be incorporated into the overall “lessons learned.”

7. SCAG Housing Element Data Books

SCAG is working to provide housing element data support for local jurisdictions. To help cities and counties save on time and resources in preparing for the update, SCAG staff is developing a package containing a range of data and information required by HCD as part of the housing element update. Tom Vo and Kevin Kane from SCAG provided additional information about the data package. It will include parcel-land use data that provides a first pass for a jurisdiction’s site

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inventory, which will be pre-certified by HCD. Additionally, it will have capabilities to help gauge a city's physical capacity for ADU's. The tool will be available by the Fall.

8. Housing Bills

On May 20th, Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins unveiled a package of five bills that are proposed as the Senate's approach to housing legislation for the remainder of the 2020 session. A Senate Housing Production Legislative Package Fact Sheet has been included in the agenda that discusses the housing bills in more detail.

REPORT FROM CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

There was no additional report from the Chair or Vice Chair.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There was no additional report from the Executive Director.

MATTERS FROM OCCOG TAC MEMBERS

There was no additional report from the OCCOG TAC members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OCCOG TAC NON-MEMBERS

There was no additional report from OCCOG TAC Non-Members.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no items discussed for next meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES OR UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom Demographic Workshop on June 11th and June 18th
Chapman Economic Forecast Update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Farnsworth until Tuesday, July 7, 2020 via video and teleconferencing.

Submitted by:

Justin Equina, City of Irvine
OCCOG TAC Vice Chair

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ATTENDANCE:

Nate Farnsworth, City of Yorba Linda
Jaime Murillo, City of Newport Beach
Joanna Chang, County of Orange
Steven Giang, County of Orange
Ruby Zaman, Center of Demographic Research
Deborah Diep, Center of Demographic Research
Marika Poynter, City of Irvine
Benjamin Zdeba, City of Newport Beach
Ashley Brodtkin, City of Orange
Justin Equina, City of Irvine
Brian James, City of Fountain Valley
Kimberly Clark, Southern California Associated Government
Jonathan Hughes, Southern California Associated Government
Kevin Kane, Southern California Associated Government
Tom Vo, Southern California Associated Government
Melanie McMann, City of Santa Ana
Sandie Kim, City of Westminster
Larry Longenecker, City of Mission Viejo
Belinda Deines, City of Dana Point
Marnie Primmer, OCCOG
Jay Wu, City of Laguna Hills
Minoo Ashabi, City of Costa Mesa
Justin Arios, City of Costa Mesa
Ron Santos, City of Lake Forest
Jennifer Savage, City of San Clemente
Warren Whiteaker, OCTA
Nicolle Aube, City of Huntington Beach
Cheryl Kuta, City of Rancho Santa Margarita
City of Laguna Niguel



Item 2: Center for Demographic Research (CDR) Updates
Recommended Action: Receive reports.

Reports

1. Housing Inventory System (HIS) Data Collection

CDR will send requests for the January 1 – June 30, 2020 HIS data on July 1, 2020 with a **deadline to submit the data to CDR by Friday, July 24, 2020.**

HIS submission forms were updated in 2020 to include additional sample entries, clarifications in the instructions, and an updated HIS unit flow chart to better explain how to record unit activity when attached ADUs are involved. This is similar to DOF’s new housing survey flow chart DOF, but is tailored to CDR’s 4 ADU types. An additional optional column was added “Building Permit Date Issued” to assist in compiling HIS, DOF and HCD APR data.

Please submit data to CDR using the new 2020 HIS form located at <http://www.fullerton.edu/cdr/HISform.xls> . Revisions to prior years may use either the new or old form. Please verify that the same data reported to CDR is also provided to DOF in their annual Housing Unit Change Survey. For HIS questions, please contact Tania Torres at 657-278-3417 or tatorres@fullerton.edu.

2. Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP)

Orange County agencies are partnering with SCAG to pool resources to create purchase online and GIS-accessible aerial imagery for Orange County. This is patterned off of LA County’s collaborative GIS effort known as LARIAC (Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium). <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/lariac/>

This joint effort, called the Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP), will reduce the cost of purchasing aerial imagery and other GIS information that can be used by all departments within an agency without the need for GIS software by including a user-friendly, non-GIS platform; GIS users would have access to GIS data. Cycle 1 will include 3-inch pixel aerial/ortho imagery, infrared, and building footprints. The services will include in-person training, webinars, and additional support. Imagery and reference information is expected to be collected in July 2020, which would provide a critical baseline reference for the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census and the 2024 RTP/SCS. Some of the goals are to reduce or eliminate duplicate purchases across the region, reduce costs using economies of scale, allow for unlimited and cross-departmental users within an agency.

The total project cost for Cycle 1 is \$383,603. Currently, 16 agencies have verbally indicated participation and full funding has been reached to proceed with the project. On June 22, 2020, SCAG’s Executive and Administration Committee approved the vendor contract with Pictometry. The OCCOG Board has authorized OCCOG take the lead in invoicing the participating agencies in Cycle 1 for the OCDAP. OCCOG will collect the funds and send to SCAG. A Participant Agreement will need to be signed by each agency participating in Cycle



1 of OCDAP; the Agreement will also be signed by OCCOG, which will be invoicing and collecting the funds, and SCAG who is handling the procurement of the vendor contract. Copies of the Participant Agreement will be prepared and distributed by SCAG for signature; this is expected to occur in late-June. Additional agencies may still participate; those interested in participation should contact Javier Aguilar, SCAG: (213) 236-1845 Cell: (213) 999-1252 aguilar@scag.ca.gov.

Attachments:

- SCAG Data Collaborative FAQ 6/23/2020

Contact:	Ms. Deborah Diep, Director, Center for Demographic Research 657/278-4596 ddiep@fullerton.edu
Employment data:	Ms. Ruby Zaman, Assistant Director, CDR 657/278-4709 ruzaman@fullerton.edu
For GIS:	Mr. Ian Boles, GIS Analyst, CDR 657/278-4670 iboles@fullerton.edu
For HIS:	Ms. Tania Torres, Demographic Analyst, CDR 657/278-3417 tatorres@fullerton.edu

Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP)



Jurisdiction	1 Price covers 2 years	Cycle 1 Participation?
Aliso Viejo	\$2,000	
Anaheim	\$5,000	yes
Brea	\$2,000	yes
Buena Park	\$2,000	Interested
Costa Mesa	\$2,000	yes
Cypress	\$2,000	
Dana Point	\$2,000	Cycle 2
Fountain Valley	\$2,000	yes
Fullerton	\$2,000	
Garden Grove	\$2,000	Interested
Huntington Beach	\$5,000	
Irvine	\$5,000	Interested
Laguna Beach	\$2,000	
Laguna Hills	\$2,000	yes
Laguna Niguel	\$2,000	yes
Laguna Woods	\$2,000	
La Habra	\$2,000	Interested
Lake Forest	\$2,000	Interested
La Palma	\$2,000	
Los Alamitos	\$2,000	
Mission Viejo	\$2,000	yes
Newport Beach	\$2,000	yes
Orange	\$2,000	Interested
Placentia	\$2,000	
Rancho Santa Margarita	\$2,000	
San Clemente	\$2,000	yes
San Juan Capistrano	\$2,000	
Santa Ana	\$5,000	yes
Seal Beach	\$2,000	
Stanton	\$2,000	
Tustin	\$2,000	Interested
Villa Park	\$2,000	
Westminster	\$2,000	Interested
Yorba Linda	\$2,000	yes
County of Orange	\$15,000	

Project cost for Cycle 1: \$383,603

Includes:

- 3" aerial/ortho imagery with infrared for all Orange County (tif, ecw...)
- Building Footprints
- Ability to download and retain local copies of above data to use in GIS and/or CAD systems software
- Vendor-hosted online software application for unlimited non-GIS users to view data listed above and perform data analysis
- Training for all participants
- One price for two years' worth of access

Committed Regional Agencies:

- SCAG- \$230,000
- MWDOC- \$50,000
- OCWD- \$50,000
- OCFA- \$62,275
- OCCOG- \$20,000
- Cities- \$28,000

Project funding: Reached

Draft pricing for jurisdictions is based on minimum base fee of \$2,000 that covers the online software/user-interface and aerial images.

CONTACT JAVIER AGUILAR IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING.

With unlimited user access, all departments within an agency can utilize the information to address their unique needs. This can be done on mobile devices or at their workstation instead of having to go out into the field.

Some example uses are:

- Reference/point-in-time snapshots
- Planning: Measuring height of buildings or setbacks
- Public Works: distance between manhole openings, curb-to-curb
- Fire: Counting number of floors in a building; locating fire hydrants
- Police: assessing access points on a building
- Sidewalk analyses
- Tree canopy coverage
- Vegetation coverage

Orange County Data Acquisition Partnership (OCDAP)



Project Overview

OCDAP is a regional partnership to procure and share aerial imagery and other spatial data focusing on Orange County, California. Cycle 1 will have imagery flights completed to serve as a benchmark for the 2020 Decennial Census and RTP 2024 base year. Envisioned as a 10-year program with five two-year cycles, this data collaborative among Orange County agencies and SCAG is part of a broader, region-wide effort SCAG is undertaking.

As part of the project, SCAG staff is helping to manage the project, assist to secure funds, host a consortium website, and coordinate activities with agency technical staff. Currently, a small group of staff from SCAG, Orange County jurisdictions, water districts, non-profits, and special districts are working to secure funds for the project, establish project parameters, and oversee the project. Meetings have been held around Orange County to discuss the project. Contact Javier Aguilar, SCAG at aguilar@scag.ca.gov to be included on the email distribution list regarding the project and future meetings.

Objectives

1. Obtain high accuracy aerial imagery (and related products) to support local agencies' needs, such as land use and asset monitoring, pre-engineering design, and geospatial analyses.
2. Unify imagery acquisition to improve communication among Orange County agencies and SCAG.
3. Eliminate duplicate imagery acquisitions for many agencies and leverage economies of scale to obtain more and better products.
4. Save taxpayer money and increase efficiency through collaboration.
5. Integrate aerial imagery and related products with the SCAG land use database and other geographic information system (GIS) layers.

What's Included in Cycle 1?

- Aerial imagery flown in late spring/early summer 2020
 - 3" aerial/ortho imagery with infrared for all Orange County (tif, ecw...)
 - Building Footprints
- Ability to download and retain local copies of above data to use in GIS and/or CAD systems software
- Vendor-hosted online software application for unlimited non-GIS users to view data listed above and perform data analysis
- Training for all participants
- One price for two years' worth of access

Timeline

- Ongoing - Outreach to OC agencies for participation
- SCAG execute contract with vendor Pictometry/EagleView in June 2020
- Imagery flights in ~late July 2020
- Training and outreach on product throughout Cycle 1
- Products available in late 2020
- Billing for Cycle 1 in summer 2020 (FY2020/21)

FAQs

- Cycle 2 expected to include everything in Cycle 1 plus:
 - Obliques/45-degree angle aerial imagery
 - Contours
 - LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)— a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the Earth
- An agency can sign up for one cycle at a time; this is not a 10-year commitment.
- If an agency needs to drop out in future cycles, they will still have access to their original cycle's data.
- Even if you only want some of the products, there is a minimum base fee on the pricing that covers the online software/user-interface and aerial images; no city will pay less than the \$2,000 base fee.
- Recognizing agencies may currently be in multi-year contracts, this information can be used for future budgeting and procurement.
- Cycles run for two fiscal years:
 - Cycle 1: July 2020-June 2022
 - Cycle 2: July 2022-June 2024
 - Cycle 3: July 2024-June 2026
 - Cycle 4: July 2026-June 2028
 - Cycle 5: July 2028-June 2030
- Aerials will be flown every two years
- LiDAR- about every 5-6 years (TBD)



Item 3: **CalFire Land Use Planning Program**
Recommended Action: Discussion.

Reports

The CalFire Land Use Planning Program was initiated as a result of 2012 Senate Bill 1241. SB 1241 changed Government Code Section 65302(g)(3) to include fire hazard planning within a city or county's General Plan Safety Element and Government Code Section 66474.02 which added language to the Sub-Division map act. CalFire staff will be providing a brief presentation on what you need to know about the Land Use Planning Program as you begin to update your Housing Elements.

Attachments:

- 1) CalFire Land Use Planning Program Fact Sheet



Developing Your Safety Element to Comply with SB 1241

Land Use Planning Program



Land Use Planning Program Mission

To assist local government (cities and counties), as they address the unreasonable risk from wildfire by planning for new development in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) containing Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).

Safety Element Compliance with SB 1241

Today's topics of discussion:

1. Senate Bill 1241 and CGC 65302
 - Who, When, What, How
2. Fire Hazard Planning in the Safety Element
3. Useful Resources

Fire Hazard Planning - The Big Picture

Emergency Management



The goal of fire hazard planning is to reduce the impact of wildland fire in the short, near, medium and long term by looking beyond jurisdictional boundaries.



Safety Element of the General Plan

Senate Bill 1241 & GOV 65302

SB 1241: Safety Element of General Plan (65302)

Safety Element in the General Plan must be Consistent with:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Unit Fire Plan
- Other Specific Local Fire Plans



Fire Hazard Planning in General Plan

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP)

Unit Fire Plan

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

Agencies with fire protection responsibility

Historical Wildfires

Fire Hazard Planning in General Plan (Safety Element)

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Measures

- Land use
- Fuel modification
- Access
- Fire protection
- Infrastructure
- Cooperation with public agencies

SB 1241: Safety Element of General Plan (65302)

Board of Forestry Review Process and Timeline

Review Process and Timeline

The county, local jurisdiction, and local fire unit will receive and review technical guidance documents, the BOF checklist, and other relevant information from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and CAL FIRE.



The county or local jurisdiction will work closely with the local fire unit during the development of the general plan and the safety element in particular.



90 days prior to the adoption or amendment of the General Plan: The county or local jurisdiction will submit the safety element to the Board of Forestry for review.



No more than 30 days later: The Board will work with the unit to develop findings and recommendations.



No more than 60 days later: The Board will consider the fire unit's recommendations and will approve or approve with amendments the recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Safety Element of General Plan

Summary

All local governments with SRA (Counties) or LRA with VHFHSZ are now required to plan for wildland fires in the Safety Element of their General Plan and submit it to the Board of Forestry upon the next revision of their Housing Element or upon the next amendment to their Safety Element. The Safety Element must be internally consistent with any other plans (LHMP, CWPP, Unit Fire Plan, etc.).



Conducting Fire Hazard Planning

Land Use Planning Program



Conducting Fire Hazard Planning

Background Information Summary

1. Are Fire Hazard Severity Zones Identified?
 - CAL FIRE or Locally Adopted Maps
2. Is historical data on wildfires or a reference to where the data can be found included?
3. Has the general location and distribution of existing and planned uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) and in state responsibility area (SRA) including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities, been identified?
4. Are other fire protection plans, such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, CAL FIRE Unit of Contract County Fire Plans, referenced or incorporated into the Safety Element?

Conducting Fire Hazard Planning

Goals, Policies, Objectives and Feasible Implementation Measures

Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with the new uses of land.

- Land Use
- Fuel Modification
- Access
- Fire Protection

Conducting Fire Hazard Planning

Goals, Policies, Objectives and Feasible Implementation Measures

Develop adequate infrastructure if a new development is located in the SRA or VHFHSZ

- Waterflow/Water supply
- Maintenance of water systems
- Evacuation and emergency vehicle access
- Fuel modification and defensible space
- Vegetation clearance maintenance on public and private roads
- Visible home and street addressing and signage
- Community-wide fire breaks

Conducting Fire Hazard Planning

Goals, Policies, Objectives and Feasible Implementation Measures

Work cooperatively with public agencies responsible for fire protection

- Map of existing service facilities and areas lacking coverage (specifically in VHFHSZ)
- Assessment and projection of future emergency service needs
- Goals and standards for emergency services training
- Inter-agency preparedness coordination and mutual aid multi-agency agreements

Current Situation

How do we prevent this?



Current Situation

Summary

Wildland fires are occurring more frequently, becoming more damaging and destructive and continuing to cost more to suppress.



Item 5: **ADU Ad Hoc Committee**
Recommended Action: Discussion.

Reports

The ADU Ad Hoc Committee was informed that SCAG is making similar efforts to analyze ADU capacity and affordability throughout the region. OCCOG TAC leadership reached out to SCAG to better understand their plans. SCAG is planning to replicate an ADU analysis similar to SACOG's: https://www.sacog.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/adu_affordability_analysis_methodology_2020-3-31.pdf?1587493624. This would be shared with HCD for comments before approving a final draft that could be used by cities. If approved, this analysis would not require SCAG jurisdictions to utilize their ADU analysis, but would provide a tool for jurisdictions who may not be able to perform their own analysis.



Item 6: **Connect SoCal Update**
Recommended Action: Receive reports.

Reports

Background

On May 7, 2020, the SCAG Regional Council approved the RTP portion of Connect SoCal to submit for federal conformity. The SCS portion was delayed 120 days in order for SCAG to verify or correct entitlements and report back on the effects of the economic shutdown due to COVID-19.

Update

On June 5, 2020 the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration approved the RTP for air quality conformance.

At the June 18, 2020 Technical Work Group meeting, SCAG staff discussed the planning process used to align the SCS with local general plans following the Growth Forecast Guiding Principles, which were developed with input from SCAG's CEHD Policy Committee and Technical Working Group. The process consisted of contacting local jurisdictions to confirm alignment with general plans along with an analysis of housing capacity for quality control purposes. Additionally, SCAG staff analyzed shifts on growth resulting from Connect SoCal policies. The analysis considered differences, within the locally-established density ranges, which do not exceed general plan capacities, of the growth projected by Connect SoCal compared to local growth based on general plans, or "Local Input", provided directly by local jurisdictions. Following the Technical Work Group Meeting, SCAG staff will be providing a 60-day update on Connect SoCal at the July 2, 2020 Regional Council meeting.

Additionally, the RHNA is still awaiting final approval of the Connect SoCal plan before it can proceed with the appeals process. For your interest, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) was assigned its regional determination from the State. ABAG's total number is 135% higher than their 5th Cycle RHNA, while SCAG's is 229% higher than its 5th Cycle RHNA.

Attachment: ABAG's Final Regional Housing Need Determination

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-2911 / FAX (916) 263-7453
www.hcd.ca.gov



June 9, 2020

Therese W. McMillan, Executive Director
Association of Bay Area Governments
375 Beale Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Therese W. McMillan,

RE: Final Regional Housing Need Determination

This letter provides the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) its final Regional Housing Need Determination. Pursuant to state housing element law (Government Code section 65584, et seq.), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to provide the determination of ABAG's existing and projected housing need.

In assessing ABAG's regional housing need, HCD and ABAG staff completed an extensive consultation process from March 2019 through May 2020 covering the methodology, data sources, and timeline for HCD's determination of the Regional Housing Need. HCD also consulted with Walter Schwarm with the California Department of Finance (DOF) Demographic Research Unit.

Attachment 1 displays the minimum regional housing need determination of **441,176** total units among four income categories for ABAG to distribute among its local governments. Attachment 2 explains the methodology applied pursuant to Gov. Code section 65584.01. In determining ABAG's housing need, HCD considered all the information specified in state housing law (Gov. Code section 65584.01(c)).

As you know, ABAG is responsible for adopting a methodology for RHNA allocation and RHNA Plan for the projection period beginning June 30, 2022 and ending December 31, 2030. Pursuant to Gov. Code section 65584(d), the methodology to prepare ABAG's RHNA plan must further the following objectives:

- (1) Increasing the housing supply and mix of housing types, tenure, and affordability
- (2) Promoting infill development and socioeconomic equity, protecting environmental and agricultural resources, and encouraging efficient development patterns
- (3) Promoting an improved intraregional relationship between jobs and housing
- (4) Balancing disproportionate household income distributions
- (5) Affirmatively furthering fair housing

Pursuant to Gov. Code section 65584.04(d), to the extent data is available, ABAG shall include the factors listed in Gov. Code section 65584.04(d)(1-13) to develop its RHNA

plan, and pursuant to Gov. Code section 65584.04(f), ABAG must explain in writing how each of these factors was incorporated into the RHNA plan methodology and how the methodology furthers the statutory objectives described above. Pursuant to Gov. Code section 65584.04(h), ABAG must submit its draft methodology to HCD for review.

Increasing the availability of affordable homes, ending homelessness, and meeting other housing goals continues to be a priority for the State of California. To support these goals the 2019-20 Budget Act allocated \$250 million for all regions and jurisdictions for planning activities through the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant programs. ABAG has \$ 23,966,861 available through the REAP program and HCD applauds ABAG's efforts to engage early on how best to utilize these funds and HCD looks forward to continuing this collaboration. All ABAG jurisdictions are also eligible for LEAP grants and are encouraged to apply to support meeting and exceeding sixth cycle housing element goals. While the SB 2 Planning Grant deadline has passed, ongoing regionally tailored technical assistance is still available through that program.

In addition to these planning resources HCD encourages local governments to consider the many other affordable housing and community development resources available to local governments that can be found at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/nofas.shtml>

HCD commends ABAG and its leadership in fulfilling its important role in advancing the state's housing, transportation, and environmental goals. ABAG is also recognized for its actions in proactively educating and engaging its board and committees on the RHNA process and the regional housing need, as well as creating tools to aid the public understanding in the process. HCD especially thanks Paul Fassinger, Gillian Adams, Aksel Olsen, Dave Vautin, Bobby Lu, Matt Maloney, and Elizabeth Bulgarin for their significant efforts and assistance. HCD looks forward to its continued partnership with ABAG and its member jurisdictions and assisting ABAG in its planning efforts to accommodate the region's share of housing need.

If HCD can provide any additional assistance, or if you, or your staff, have any questions, please contact Megan Kirkeby, Acting Deputy Director, at megan.kirkeby@hcd.ca.gov or Tom Brinkhuis, Housing Policy Specialist at (916) 263-6651 or tom.brinkhuis@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Megan Kirkeby
Acting Deputy Director

Enclosures

ATTACHMENT 1

HCD REGIONAL HOUSING NEED DETERMINATION ABAG: June 30, 2022 through December 31, 2030

<u>Income Category</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Housing Unit Need</u>
Very-Low*	25.9%	114,442
Low	14.9%	65,892
Moderate	16.5%	72,712
Above-Moderate	42.6%	188,130
Total	100.0%	441,176
* Extremely-Low	15.5%	Included in Very-Low Category

Notes:

Income Distribution:

Income categories are prescribed by California Health and Safety Code (Section 50093, et. seq.). Percents are derived based on Census/ACS reported household income brackets and county median income, then adjusted based on the percent of cost-burdened households in the region compared with the percent of cost burdened households nationally.

ATTACHMENT 2

HCD REGIONAL HOUSING NEED DETERMINATION: ABAG June 30, 2021 through December 31, 2030

Methodology

ABAG: PROJECTION PERIOD (8.5 years)		
HCD Determined Population, Households, & Housing Unit Need		
Reference No.	Step Taken to Calculate Regional Housing Need	Amount
1.	Population: December 31 2030 (DOF June 30 2030 projection adjusted + 6 months to December 31 2030)	8,273,975
2.	<i>- Group Quarters Population: December 31 2030 (DOF June 30 2030 projection adjusted + 6 months to December 31 2030)</i>	-169,755
3.	Household (HH) Population	8,159,280
4.	Projected Households	3,023,735
5.	+ Vacancy Adjustment (3.27%)	+98,799
6.	+ Overcrowding Adjustment (3.13%)	+94,605
7.	+ Replacement Adjustment (.50%)	+15,120
8.	<i>- Occupied Units (HHs) estimated June 30, 2022</i>	-2,800,185
9.	+ Cost-burden Adjustment	+9,102
Total	6th Cycle Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA)	441,176

Detailed background data for this chart is available upon request.

Explanation and Data Sources

- 1-4. Population, Group Quarters, Household Population, & Projected Households: Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 65584.01, projections were extrapolated from DOF projections. Population reflects total persons. Group Quarter Population reflects persons in a dormitory, group home, institute, military, etc. that do not require residential housing. Household Population reflects persons requiring residential housing. Projected Households reflect the propensity of persons within the Household Population to form households at different rates based on American Community Survey (ACS) trends.
5. Vacancy Adjustment: HCD applies a vacancy adjustment (standard 5% maximum to total projected housing stock) and adjusts the percentage based on the region's current vacancy percentage to provide healthy market vacancies to facilitate housing availability and resident mobility. The adjustment is the difference between standard 5% vacancy rate and regions current vacancy rate based (**1.73%**) on the 2014-2018 ACS data. For ABAG that difference is **3.27%**.
6. Overcrowding Adjustment: In regions where overcrowding is greater than the comparable region's overcrowding rate, or in the absence of comparable region the national overcrowding rate. HCD applies an adjustment based on the amount the regions overcrowding rate (**6.73%**) exceeds the comparable region's rate (**3.60%**). For ABAG that difference is **3.13%**. Data is from the 2014-2018 ACS.
7. Replacement Adjustment: HCD applies a replacement adjustment between .5% and 5% to the total housing stock based on the current 10-year annual average percent of demolitions the region's local government annual reports to Department of Finance (DOF). For ABAG the 10-year annual average multiplied by the length of the projection period is .40%, and the minimum **.50%** adjustment is applied.

8. Occupied Units: This figure reflects DOF's estimate of occupied units at the start of the projection period (June 30, 2022).
9. Cost Burden Adjustment: HCD applies an adjustment to the projected need by comparing the difference in cost-burden by income group for the region to the cost-burden by income group for the comparable regions, as determined by ABAG. The very-low and low income RHNA is increased by the percent difference ($66.64\% - 66.00\% = .64\%$) between the region and the comparable region cost burden rate for households earning 80% of area median income and below, then this difference is applied to very low- and low-income RHNA proportionate to the share of the population these groups currently represent. The moderate and above-moderate income RHNA is increased by the percent difference ($16.25\% - 13.10\% = 3.15\%$) between the region and the comparable region cost burden rate for households earning above 80% Area Median Income, then this difference is applied to moderate and above moderate income RHNA proportionate to the share of the population these groups currently represent. Data is from 2012-2016 CHAS.



Item 7: SCAG Housing Flyer
Recommended Action: Discussion.

Reports

In partnership with the California Department of Housing and Community Development, SCAG will be providing a number of data and technical assistance tools to local jurisdictions. These resources will help member jurisdictions reduce costs with development 6th cycle housing element updates. The pre-certified Housing Needs Data will be available in July and SCAG's Parcel Data for Site Inventory and Analysis will be available in the Fall.

Attachment: SCAG Technical Assistance for Housing Element Updates

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATES

In partnership with the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD), SCAG will be providing a number of data and technical assistance tools to local jurisdictions. These resources will help member jurisdictions reduce costs associated with developing 6th cycle housing element updates as well as streamline the review process.

AVAILABLE JULY 2020

Pre-Certified Housing Needs Data

- Data sets will be pre-certified by HCD for use in housing elements. Use of these datasets will help to streamline housing element development and review.
- Data sets for each jurisdiction include: Large families, seniors, housing stock characteristics, overcrowding, and more! [Click here for a full list of required data.](#)
- Available as a spreadsheet and completed report.
- NEW! Analysis of regional ADU rents to assist in matching anticipated ADUs to RHNA income categories

AVAILABLE FALL 2020

SCAG Parcel Data for Site Inventory & Analysis¹

SCAG's parcel-level land use data ([available online](#)) will be updated and augmented to help provide a first pass for a local jurisdiction's site inventory. In addition, SCAG is in the process of developing two new approaches to help identify and analyze sites:

Jurisdiction Parcel Listing

- SCAG parcel data can be used for an identification of nonresidential sites with potential for inclusion.
- Map and parcel level GIS data provided individually to jurisdictions.
- Attributes include: Vacant parcels, public-owned land, underutilized commercial and retail land and more.
- Selected Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), AB 686 and SCAG Priority Growth Area data also available.

ADU Physical Capacity

- Gauge each jurisdiction's total physical ADU capacity based on user selection
- Generate estimates based on certain variables: Eligible parcel types, ADU sizes, configuration, land cover, slope, etc.

¹ Note: Does not constitute SCAG's estimate of infill potential. Inclusion of a site may require additional documentation per HCD guidelines. Additional analysis from the jurisdiction is required

www.scag.ca.gov/housing

Contact housing@scag.ca.gov for more information.



Item 8: Housing Element Sites Inventory Guidebook
Recommended Action: Discussion.

Reports

On June 10, 2020, the State Housing and Community Development Department released the Housing Element Sites Inventory Guidebook. The purpose of the Guidebook is to assist jurisdictions and interested parties with the development of the site inventory analysis for the 6th Housing Element Planning Cycle and identify changes to the law.

In addition to providing guidance on the new laws, it consolidates all the existing technical assistance related to the required sites inventory analysis into one step-by-step guidebook.

More information is available at https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/docs/Sites_inventory_memo_final06102020.pdf



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- Transportation
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June 8, 2020

Hon. Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Extension for Housing Element Submissions and LEAP

Dear Speaker Rendon and President pro Tempore Atkins:

On behalf of the 191 cities and six counties in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, thank you for your leadership in taking early and aggressive action in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). SCAG is at the ready to assist you and your colleagues in whatever way we can.

Meeting our Region’s Housing Goals in Unusual Times

We concur that the state housing crisis warrants attention despite the challenges of COVID-19. SCAG continues to assist our member agencies to meet their Regional Housing Needs Assessment, which will cover the planning period October 2021 through October 2029. This work includes the development of an allocation methodology that distributes the share for each city and county of the existing and projected housing need in the SCAG region. SCAG is confident that we can meet the statutory requirements related to the RHNA distribution despite having a number that was nearly three times larger than our previous allocation.

Where the challenge exists, however, is in the amount of time that our six counties and 191 cities in our region will need to adopt an effective housing element that can make a real contribution to solving the state’s housing crisis. SCAG has identified that nearly every jurisdiction in our region has resources and personnel who are stretched thin. Staff with whom we would normally collaborate on these and other programs, have been pulled from their regular assignments to address the more immediate public health challenges.

These challenges will limit the ability of local jurisdictions to deliver final housing elements of the quality and caliber needed to fully address the

state housing crisis. The recent major disruptions of government at all levels and other operations have precluded progress with most local government functions, including planning. Because of the importance of housing, additional time is needed to complete this work, which will allow communities to develop and adopt quality plans and programs that will enact and sustain progress addressing the state's housing crisis.

Put simply, more time will be needed if our communities are to create the housing policies that will truly address the crisis. In addition to providing an inventory and analysis of sites that are available for housing development, housing element updates must also identify the development of programs that eliminate barriers to housing, assist in development and preservation of lower- and moderate income housing, and address the needs of the homeless population. Housing element updates also require updates of other general plan elements, and accompanying environmental review and certifications.

Finally, making the challenge even more substantial is that our communities will be addressing many new state laws for the first time that require deeper considerations of affordability. The cities and counties of Southern California—representing half of the state's population—need additional time (at least six months). The benefit to the state will be better housing elements that last through the year 2029.

Two Policy Requests to Support Local Agency Efforts to Meet State Housing Goals

For this reason, SCAG offers the following two proposals:

- (1) Extend the deadline for Housing Element Submissions by at least an additional six months.** With the recent adoption of a final RHNA Allocation Methodology, SCAG is now in the final stages of completing the 6th cycle RHNA. The SCAG region's total determination for the 6th cycle RHNA is 1.3 million units, nearly three times larger than the determination provided under the 5th cycle. For this 6th cycle, housing element updates are subject not only to this substantially larger allocation but also to new statutory requirements. For the SCAG region, housing element updates are due in October 2021.
- (2) Authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to extend the application deadline for LEAP.** This program is critical to support updating of local plans, environmental review and programs to accelerate housing production. SCAG is supportive of initial trailer bill language relating to Energy, Transportation,

Housing, Local Government, and Labor, released by the Department of Finance, that proposes to extend the LEAP application due date to January 31, 2021.

These two modest changes would support local jurisdictions in updating their housing elements to meet their share of the region's housing need. Our proposed changes would allow cities and counties to devote more time and attention toward this process to support housing's role in post-pandemic economic recovery.

Again, thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented public health crisis. SCAG appreciates the dialogue you have always afforded. If we can provide any additional information on our suggestions outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager, at (213) 236-1878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kome Ajise". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "A" and "j".

Kome Ajise
Executive Director



June 10, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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RE: One-Year Extension Request – SB 743 Implementation

REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Community, Economic &
Human Development
Jorge Marquez, Covina

Energy & Environment
David Pollock, Moorpark

Transportation
Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization representing six counties, 191 cities, and 19 million residents, **I would like to submit this letter respectfully requesting a one-year extension to the implementation of a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric under Senate Bill (SB) 743.**

Signed in 2013, SB 743 alters the way in which transportation impacts are identified under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Through implementation of a VMT-based CEQA transportation impact analysis process, SB 743 changes the focus of analysis from motor vehicle delay to greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction for development projects.

SCAG supports the change to a VMT metric required by SB 743. Specifically, the change supports Connect SoCal, SCAG’s 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, which balances our mobility needs with the achievement of identified GHG reduction goals. SB 743 reinforces the regional mobility, accessibility, public health, and GHG reduction goals presented in Connect SoCal through its focus on the facilitation of centralized, infill development; encouragement of mixed-use, transit accessible communities; and improvement of active transportation infrastructure.

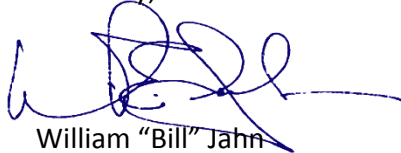
SCAG has consistently coordinated with stakeholders over many years as the revised CEQA guidelines were being developed. Throughout this process, SCAG has worked to ensure the meaningful involvement of our local jurisdictions through the provision of multiple workshops, solicitation of stakeholder feedback, and presentations to various technical and policy committees. SCAG hosted a total of eight (8) SB 743 stakeholder workshops on the following dates: October 28, 2014; July 28, 2015; October 12, 2016; November 14, 2016; April 3, 2017; January 31, 2018 (Caltrans); June 14, 2018; and March 1, 2019. Equally important, SCAG has supported local jurisdictions through our Sustainability Grant Program. The grant program is currently funding three projects with a unifying focus of providing an SB 743 implementation template for potential replication in other areas throughout the SCAG region.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
June 10, 2020
Page 2 of 2

SCAG is committed to the successful implementation of SB 743 throughout our region, and these initial outreach efforts and projects are indicative of SCAG's regional leadership role in this effort. **Given that the implementation date of SB 743 comes at a time when California is facing a housing shortage and significant economic uncertainty, SCAG respectfully requests one final extension to the implementation of the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric under SB 743.**

Thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. SCAG appreciates the dialogue you have always afforded with our region. If we can provide any additional information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager, at (213) 236-1878.

Sincerely,



William "Bill" Jahn
Immediate Past President, SCAG
Council Member, City of Big Bear Lake



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June 10, 2020

Hon. Anthony Rendon
 Speaker of the Assembly
 California State Assembly
 State Capitol, Room 219
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Toni Atkins
 President pro Tempore
 California State Senate
 State Capitol, Room 205
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Extension for Housing Element Submissions and LEAP

Dear Speaker Rendon and President pro Tempore Atkins:

On behalf of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), we respectfully request additional time for our local jurisdictions to take the steps necessary to thoughtfully plan for their future housing needs. Specifically, in light of the staff capacity and community outreach hurdles currently facing local governments, we support additional time for local jurisdictions to apply for the state Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grants and request an additional six-months for our regions’ cities and counties to complete their Housing Element updates for the 6th Housing Element cycle.

We strongly agree that the state’s housing crisis warrants our full attention and we remain committed partners with the state. We also recognize that the unique circumstances relating to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) should not be used as a general reason to delay important requirements and timelines. There are, however, limited and targeted circumstances where some adjustments will help ensure a better outcome, provided that they keep the state and local governments on target toward meeting their goals.

The cities and counties in our three regions must all submit their housing element updates next year. Due to our regions’ Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) schedules, our member jurisdictions are currently right in the middle of their housing element update processes, which

involve detailed planning development and community outreach. We have been working diligently to assist our member agencies and many are making progress. We are also working closely with our jurisdictions to ensure they are prepared for the opportunity for LEAP and Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding, which will further help them in their housing element update processes.

COVID-19 upended this momentum as our member agencies have had to unexpectedly shift to address the crisis. Local jurisdictions had to quickly divert resources and staff and completely rethink effective community outreach events. This has understandably caused a delay in the housing element update process. The current challenges facing cities and counties limit the ability of local agencies to deliver housing elements of the quality and caliber, and with the robust community input, needed to fully address the housing crisis. Housing elements are complex documents that serve as the cornerstone for local policies. To be done right, they require extensive community outreach and input. They provide a site-specific inventory of sites that are available to accommodate their entire RHNA allocation. They also include detailed plans and programs to eliminate local barriers to housing production, preserve and expand existing stocks of affordable housing, and plan for needed shelter housing and homeless programs. As they are developed, other general plan elements must be adjusted so older policies are not in conflict with new housing requirements. Local agencies then go through environmental review and further public outreach. The housing element update this cycle is particularly complex as our member agencies work to make meaningful changes to appropriately address and respond to the housing crisis. Jurisdictions are concerned they may not be able to engage their communities in this process in a meaningful way without additional time.

In light of these circumstances, SANDAG, SACOG, and SCAG respectfully request a six-month extension of the submittal deadline of the 6th Cycle Housing Element Update for the cities and counties in our regions. This reasonable extension provides our cities and counties the flexibility to thoughtfully develop a detailed housing element that achieves the numbers our respective RHNA methodologies assigned them and to find creative solutions to ensure meaningful community engagement. We have limited our request to communities in our regions, or on a similar timeline, in recognition that not all communities are in the same situation. Some regions still have many months before the housing element process starts.

We also support the Administration's proposed Trailer Bill language to extend the application deadline for LEAP grants. This program is critical to support the updating of local plans, the development of programs to accelerate housing production, and the environmental review process. However, the timeline for cities and counties to apply for these funds is fast approaching and less than 20% of local communities have applied to date. We believe these delays are for the same reasons cited above: local agencies are stretched thin.

These two modest changes support local jurisdictions in updating their housing elements to meet their housing need share as they also focus on responding to the pandemic and addressing its longer-term impacts. It is important to note that current development applications on current sites would not be affected and housing development will continue to proceed.

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented public health crisis. We appreciate the dialogue you have always afforded. If we can provide any additional information on our suggestions outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact Robyn Wapner, SANDAG Manager of Government Relations, at (619) 699-1994, Christina Lokke, SACOG Policy Manager, at (916) 340-6230, or Kevin Gilhooley, SCAG Legislation Manager, at (213) 236-1878.

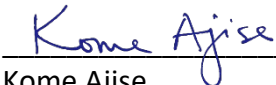
Sincerely,



Hasan Ikhata
Executive Director
San Diego Association of Governments



James Corless
Executive Director
Sacramento Area Council of Governments



Kome Ajise
Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments

cc: Gustavo Velasquez, Director, California Department of Housing and Community Development