

## **SCAG MAKES FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA HOUSING SUMMIT**

For the past several months, SCAG staff have been working with more than 30 partners to plan the California Housing Summit, happening Oct. 11 at the L.A. Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The summit, "The Cost of Not Housing," will address the critical issue of housing affordability across the state and its impact on local, regional and statewide economies. The summit program includes speakers from a broad cross section of parties – from community leaders to elected officials, developers and stakeholders. Online registration has been closed, as the event has almost reached its full capacity. But there are a limited number of seats available to elected officials and city managers. For more information and to download the latest program, visit [www.scag.ca.gov/housingsummit](http://www.scag.ca.gov/housingsummit).

## **DR. LUCY JONES JOINS NEW SCAG EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE**

SCAG, in partnership with world-renowned geo-scientist Dr. Lucy Jones and the Center for Science and Society, has launched a new Regional Earthquake Preparedness Initiative to help local jurisdictions prepare for the "Big One" and protect the Southern California economy from disruption following an earthquake. As part of this initiative, Dr. Jones will lead a series of regional seminars for city managers and elected officials in the Fall of 2016. The seminars will cover the region's earthquake risks and effective approaches to developing consensus on actions, especially with regard to strengthening infrastructure and the built environment. This initiative is designed to allow jurisdictions to build the collaborative partnerships necessary for managing such a major regional challenge. For more information, please contact Mark Butala at [butala@scag.ca.gov](mailto:butala@scag.ca.gov).

## **SCAG LAUNCHES PILOT OF NEW LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCING TOOLS**

SCAG has initiated a pilot study for three planned transportation projects in order to examine the economic development opportunities available through tax increment financing. Established under Senate Bill 628 and Assembly Bill 2, Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFDs) and Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIAs) are key economic development strategies and financing mechanisms currently available to local jurisdictions. SCAG's new pilot study will result in location-specific analysis on the potential economic benefits of an EIFD or CRIA for funding sustainable infrastructure and constructing affordable housing. Staff are working with county transportation commissions and local jurisdictions on this study.

## **AMENDMENT TO THE 2016 RTP/SCS IN THE WORKS**

In September, SCAG received requests from multiple county transportation commissions (CTCs) to amend the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). The Imperial, Orange, and Riverside CTCs requested that the plan's project list be amended to reflect additions or changes to project scopes, costs and/or schedules. Updating the plan's project list will allow transportation projects in the region to continue as planned without jeopardizing funding. SCAG staff is currently reviewing project submittals and it is anticipated that technical work will be initiated in October and the 2016 RTP/SCS amendment presented to the Regional Council for approval in Spring 2017. In the coming months, SCAG will provide updates to the Regional Council and opportunities for the public to comment.

## **FREIGHT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS STATE SUSTAINABLE ACTION PLAN AND FUNDING**

On Sept. 21, SCAG hosted a meeting of the California Freight Advisory Committee (CFAC). The committee, which represents a wide range of agencies, business interests and stakeholders, discussed next steps for the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan, including the establishment of working groups to develop economic competitiveness targets and measures. The CFAC also discussed the requirements associated with the freight components of the FAST Act, including the need to ensure that the California Freight Mobility Plan is in compliance by December 2017. Compliance includes designations of Critical Urban Freight Corridors and Critical Rural Freight Corridors to facilitate eligibility for federal freight funding. SCAG staff has initiated the designation process regionally, working with county transportation commissions and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. A statewide meeting with Caltrans also is anticipated in October. The next meeting of the CFAC is expected to convene in January 2017.

## **AIR RESOURCES BOARD SEEKS INPUT ON EMISSION REDUCTION SCOPING PLAN**

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is in the process of updating their Climate Change Scoping Plan, which includes the state's vision, goals, and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Updates to the Scoping Plan will shape climate change priorities and funding opportunities for the next few years. ARB is collaborating with numerous state agencies and hosting a series of public workshops to inform development of the updates. ARB released for public input a preliminary document on potential transportation-sector and land use strategies. SCAG is preparing comments and recommendations to the document, and will keep the Regional Council informed throughout this important update process. For more information on the Scoping Plan, visit: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/meetings/meetings.htm>.

## **UPDATED CALENVIROSCREEN TOOL NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

On Sept. 6, the California Environmental Protection Agency released the latest draft version of the California Communities Environmental Health Screening (CalEnviroScreen) tool for a six-week public review and comment period. They will be accepting comments until October 21st. CalEnviroScreen is a screening tool for identifying California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of environmental pollution and is used to prioritize funding resources for disadvantaged communities. The SCAG region's high share of these significantly impacted communities may draw a higher proportion cap-and-trade funding. The new version includes several proposed updates and improvements from its predecessor, which was released in 2014. For more information on the Draft CalEnviroScreen Version 3.0 including the Draft Report, Draft Results and an interactive mapping tool, visit: <http://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30-draft>.

## **2017 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ADOPTED**

On Sept. 1, 2016 the Regional Council approved the transportation conformity determination for the 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and directed staff to submit the document to the federal funding agencies. The FTIP is a federally mandated list of transportation investment priorities in the region, developed and maintained in cooperation with Caltrans, county transportation commissions and public transit operators. The 2017 FTIP includes approximately 2,000 projects representing an investment of close to \$28 billion over a six year period. Inclusion in the FTIP signifies project sponsors can move forward with state and federal environmental review or project funding allocation, and it is also an indicator of how the region is moving forward in implementing the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). For more information about the 2017 FTIP, visit <http://ftip.scag.ca.gov/Pages/2017/adopted.aspx>.

## **SCAG STAFF AND BOARD SHARED KNOWLEDGE AT CALIFORNIA ADAPTATION FORUM**

Several SCAG board members and staff participated in the second annual California Adaptation Forum, held Sept. 7-8, in Long Beach. The event drew an audience of over 500, and many elected officials from across the state attended, including Regional Council members Michele Martinez, Pam O'Connor, Carmen Ramirez and Margaret Clark. SCAG's Green Region Program Manager Grieg Asher also moderated a well-received panel on the "Adaptation Role of MPOs" alongside speakers from San Diego Association of Governments, Sacramento Area Council of Governments and the Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Additionally, three SCAG CivicSpark fellows presented at the forum's Tools Salon on Sept. 7, where they shared their Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators Map (available on the Sustainability Program webpage: <http://scag.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3d287a90316c417582c2ef95975e69af>).

## **SCAG GIS SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE**

Earlier this month, SCAG staff held an Advanced Topics GIS training at the City of Imperial, supported by co-sponsors Imperial County and the Imperial Irrigation District. In addition, SCAG held an Introduction to GIS training at the City of Downey. All sessions were well-attended by local jurisdiction staff. This month, SCAG also conducted a GIS Rollout in the City of Irwindale, presenting the city with a free laptop computer, ArcGIS software, spatial data and software training. SCAG has also continued a pilot internship program to bring additional GIS services and resources to member agencies. The program sends SCAG-sponsored interns to assist and work directly at selected jurisdictions, supporting local geographic information needs and other planning projects. For the past month, SCAG interns have been working with the cities of Baldwin Park, Jurupa Valley, La Puente, San Fernando and Santa Paula, where they are supporting a wide range of mapping and planning activities. Upcoming participants in the Pilot GIS Internship Program include Irwindale, Pico Rivera and Los Alamitos.

## **SCAG CONTINUES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

On Sept. 7, SCAG hosted a delegation from China's Ministry of Commerce. The 18-member delegation, led by their Deputy Director General, came to SCAG to gain an understanding of how we collaborate with federal and state agencies on regional sustainable transportation planning and low carbon economic development. SCAG staff introduced our primary functions and key programs, highlighted our upcoming regional conferences, and some of SCAG's main programs and publications, such as the 2016 RTP/SCS.