



Southern California Association of Governments
September 30, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**

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

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

Members Present

Hon. Ray Marquez, President	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 1st Vice President	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, 2nd Vice President	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Cindy Allen, Imm. Past President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Chair CEHD	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Jeff Wood, Vice Chair CEHD	<i>Lakewood</i>	District 24
Hon. Rick Denison, Chair EEC	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair EEC	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Mike Judge, Chair, TC		VCTC
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President's Appt.		ICTC
Hon. John Gabbard, President's Appt.	<i>Dana Point</i>	District 12
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Hon. Paul Granillo		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-At-Large
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Chair LCMC	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Jan Harnik, Vice Chair LCMC		RCTC
Hon. Steven Ly, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Rosemead</i>	District 32

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Erika Bustamante, Deputy Director Finance



Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Carmen Flores, Chief Human Resources Officer
Jonathan Holt, Chief Information Officer
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ray Marquez called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and asked Rick Denison, Yucca Valley, District 11, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Marquez opened the Public Comment Period.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran acknowledged there were no written public comments received.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – July 1, 2026
2. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-040-C01, Clean and Resilient Utility Infrastructure Study
3. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-062-C01, Regional Safety Action Plan
4. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 27-002-C01, PEIR for Connect SoCal 2050
5. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 27-014-C01, Microsoft Enterprise Agreement



6. SB 675 (Padilla) – Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Reform
7. Transportation Policy and Safety Improvements
8. SCAG Memberships and Sponsorships

Receive and File

9. SCAG Response to 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report – California Housing Mandates: The Unintended Reshaping of Orange County Neighborhoods
10. Purchase Orders, Contracts, and Contract Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
11. CFO Monthly Report

Regional Council Member Jeff Wood, Lakewood, District 24, made mention of a correction needed in the minutes. The city and district he represented needed to be updated. The Clerk of the Board noted the error, and stated minutes would be corrected.

A MOTION was made (Ramos) to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 8, with the revised minutes, and Receive and File Items 9 through 11. Motion was SECONDED (Denison) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Denison, Gabbard, Goodsell, Judge, Lock Dawson, Marquez, Masiel, Ramos, Rhodes, and Wood (13)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEM

12. SCAG Mobile Workshop – REAP 2.0 Site Visit, Ontario International Airport, and ONT Field

There were no public comments on Item 12.

Chief Operating Officer, Darin Chidsey introduced Item 12. He shared that on August 19, SCAG's mobile workshop showcased how regional priorities were being implemented through local projects. He explained the program allowed elected officials and staff to see SCAG initiatives firsthand and connect with stakeholders across Southern California. He shared the latest tour focused on the City of Ontario and SCAG's REAP 2.0 program, including visits to Ontario International Airport and the city's new baseball stadium to highlight regional growth and economic development. He stated the

workshop also highlighted REAP 2.0 funding support for a City of Upland project involving utility relocation work that will facilitate the development of more than 300 affordable housing units near the Upland Metrolink Station. He stated the tour was led by Regional Council Member Margaret Finlay on behalf of President Marquez. Mr. Chidsey concluded his remarks and introduced Mr. Robert Dalquest, the Development Services Director at the City of Upland, who would be sharing more about the work they were doing in the city.

Robert Dalquest, City of Upland's Development Services Director, provided an overview of the city's downtown revitalization efforts and the affordable housing projects supported by SCAG funding. He shared how over the past eight years, Upland had revitalized its 130-year-old downtown through business attraction programs, public space improvements, transit-oriented development, station enhancements, and planned parking infrastructure. He highlighted key housing projects near the Metrolink Station, which included a completed 32-unit townhome development; a planned 111-unit market-rate apartment project and the Euclid Villas and Magnolia Villas affordable housing developments, totaling 174 units, including senior and low-income housing. Mr. Dalquest then introduced Lorelee Farris, Planning Manager, who explained that the two projects were located adjacent to the Upland Metrolink Station, creating a highly walkable, transit-oriented community. She shared both developments would be 100% affordable, featuring one- and two-bedroom units, community amenities, and drought-tolerant landscaping. She also shared that a major challenge to development was a corridor of utility poles and overhead infrastructure on the project sites. Ms. Farris introduced Chad Shaules of Cornerstone Development who explained that utility relocation and undergrounding costs can be substantial and had long prevented development. He explained that through SCAG's REAP grant support, Cornerstone helped reduce costs, expedite utility relocation, and remove infrastructure barriers, helping make the affordable housing projects financially feasible and bringing 174 affordable housing units closer to construction.

Members of the EAC had follow-up comments commending the City of Upland for their projects and stating how they would like to see the same for the communities in their respective areas.

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, took a moment to celebrate the RUSH program but mostly to celebrate the work that the Upland Housing Development Team put together. He stated he thought they exemplified what that program was intended to do. He tied this discussion to a conversation members had during the EAC retreat in Lake Arrowhead where they talked about housing as economic development and using infrastructure to leverage housing production. He shared he thought all this came together in this one project in the City of Upland. He stated this was a clear indication that there are possibilities with being in a position to develop the kind of program they had through REAP and in particular the RUSH program such that they could leverage these types of resources. He stated he just wanted to take a moment to celebrate how they can transform communities with these kinds of grants.

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, provided the CFO Report. She shared that in August, staff completed and submitted the fiscal year 25-26 Overall Work Program year-end package that they submit to Caltrans annually. She stated this included the certification of final expenditures, the final quarter progress reports, as well as final work products for the projects that were completed throughout the fiscal year. She stated staff was also working on the fiscal year 26-27, fiscal year comprehensive Budget Amendment No. 1. She shared that the upcoming budget amendment was primarily focused on truing up their carryover balances, which were estimated at the time of budget adoption, and those true-ups were based on them closing out their budget fiscal books for the fiscal year 26. However, she stated it was also an opportunity for divisions to look at their budget needs and submit requests as needed. She stated they were reviewing those requests internally and planned on coming before the EAC and the Regional Council in November for approval of Budget Amendment No. 1. She also reported the REAP 2 expenditure deadline was fast approaching. She stated it was coming up on December 31. Lastly, she stated staff would be closely monitoring SCAG's cash flows, as well as the progress of their projects to help ensure they successfully brought the REAP 2 program across the finish line.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Marquez provided a report on Federal Recertification. He stated that every four years, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration review metropolitan planning organizations for compliance with federal laws and regulations. He shared SCAG completed its latest review between March and August and that SCAG was notified it would be recertified. He stated a final report with full results of the review would be published soon. He stated SCAG's next recertification review would occur in 2030. President Marquez also reported on the Inland ZEV Forum. He shared SCAG, the Western Riverside Council of Governments, and the Southern California Clean Cities Coalition hosted the 2026 Inland Zero Emission Vehicle Forum the previous week in Riverside. He stated the annual event brought together leaders from both the public and private sectors to collaborate on advancing zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure. He shared the forum supported their ongoing work to further clean transportation technology in Southern California. Lastly, he reported the next EAC meeting would be on Wednesday, September 30, at 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Ajise reported that SCAG held its first Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee meeting the previous month, the first of many meetings through 2028. He stated it was chaired by First Vice President Jenny Crosswhite and that the subcommittee would guide policy development for the next regional plan. He reported that at its inaugural meeting, members adopted a charter, confirmed key issues and processes, and reviewed findings from a public perception survey on the region's most critical issues. He explained policy committees were expected to consider the Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework the following day, with Regional Council consideration anticipated in

October. He stated these efforts were foundational steps toward adoption of Connect SoCal 2050 in 2028. Additionally, he reported SCAG also convened its first Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Subcommittee meeting, chaired by CEHD Chair Rocky Rhodes. He explained that the subcommittee would guide the RHNA process by developing the proposed methodology, overseeing draft and final allocations, hearing appeals, and recommending RHNA matters to CEHD and the Regional Council. He stated that while the subcommittee cannot alter HCD's housing determination or statutory requirements, it will make final decisions on appeals. On the legislative front, he shared SCAG sponsored two bills. He stated that AB 2002, which would have codified the REAP 1.0 program and extended technical assistance for housing production, was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and would not advance this session. SCAG thanked Assemblymember José Luis Solache for championing the effort and noted that they hoped to pursue the proposal in the future. He reported SCAG also continued to advocate for modernization of SB 375, the landmark 2008 law establishing Sustainable Communities Strategies. He shared that working with California's other large MPOs and a broad coalition of stakeholders, SCAG helped develop SB 1087, authored by Senator Christopher Cabaldon. He stated the bill, now awaiting the Governor's action by September 30, listed the various improvements it could deliver. Mr. Ajise noted that SCAG's most recent SCS cost more than \$220 million, with an additional \$40 million spent on preparing the RTP. He stated that despite a 309-day CARB review process, no changes were made to the plan, underscoring the need for reform. Finally, Mr. Ajise highlighted two Regional Council items scheduled for the following day. He shared there would be a panel discussion on lessons learned from recent FIFA World Cup matches in Los Angeles and how they could plan for the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He also shared the return of SCAG's quarterly economic reports featuring a presentation by Dr. Manfred Keil of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Wood requested staff to bring back an item to discuss lessons learned and best practices after the winter Olympics. Staff acknowledged Regional Council Member Wood's request and shared there had been presentations on that with the TDM working group. Staff stated they would be happy to incorporate this into future presentations on SCAG's TDM strategic plan, and what they learned from the Winter Games. Staff shared there had been a lot of takeaways from the Winter Olympics on wayfinding, that had been part of the conversations they had at the TDM, which was why wayfinding, was one of the four key things they were going to spend some resources on, because that was critical.

Hon. John Gabbard, Dana Point, District 12, stated that an issue that emerged from AB 1087 was stakeholder concern that there was no formal process for the Regional Council to review amendments to SCAG-sponsored bills before final Assembly and Senate votes. He stated that to address this in the future, perhaps a standing meeting could be scheduled in late August during years when sponsored bills were active, allowing the Regional Council, if needed, to review amendments,



discuss concerns, and decide whether to reaffirm or withdraw sponsorship. He stated this would establish a clear review process and help address similar stakeholder concerns in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Marquez adjourned the Meeting of the Executive/Administration Committee at 4:00 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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