



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

3452 East Foothill Blvd. Suite 910, Pasadena, California 91107 Phone: (626) 564-9702 FAX: (626) 564-1116 E-Mail SGV@sgvcog.org

DATE: March 2010
TO: Governing Board Delegates and Alternates
FROM: Nicholas T. Conway, Executive Director
RE: Monthly Report

Major work activities and accomplishments achieved during the month include but are not limited to:

General Administration

Washington D.C. Trip

Since 1996, COG representatives travel annually to Washington D.C. to meet with our Federal representatives on a variety of issues of importance to the San Gabriel Valley. This trip is scheduled to concur with the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. In addition to individual meetings with legislatures, the COG, in partnership with ACE, Foothill Transit, and the Economic Partnership, hosts a reception for our representatives as well as key Federal legislators and staff who are involved in reviewing and supporting our various requests for assistance. This year, this conference is scheduled for March 13th through March 17th, and the San Gabriel Valley reception is scheduled for March 15th. The President will provide a full report on this trip at the March Governing Board meeting.

Federal Advisory Services for SGVCOG Priority Areas

This month, the Governing Board will consider action to authorize the Executive Director to initiate a procurement process and contract with a firm to perform federal advisory services in Washington D.C. With the new Obama administration and the passage of the Federal stimulus package, there are increased opportunities to fund projects related to the COG's priority issue areas including transportation, housing, energy and the environment. In order to identify funding sources and successfully secure support for these projects, it is my recommendation that the COG hire a firm to represent the COG in Washington D.C. This will ultimately ensure that the San Gabriel Valley receives its fair share of funding. The cost for these services is anticipated to be \$40,000- \$50,000 per year. The funds for the initial year of this effort, through the end of FY 2010-2011, will be from the COG fund balance. This year, the revised mid-year FY 2009-2010 budget indicates an increase in the fund balance from \$100,000 to \$158,000 due a variety of factors, included renewed COG memberships and increased grant funding.

SCAG Regional Council Elections

Every two years, SCAG holds elections for its Regional Council Districts. This year, elections are being held in the following districts in the San Gabriel Valley:

- District #32 (El Monte, Rosemead, and South El Monte)
Current Representative: Margaret Clark (Rosemead)
- District #34 (Alhambra, Montebello and Monterey Park)
Current Representative: Barbara Messina (Alhambra)
- District #36 (La Canada Flintridge, Pasadena and South Pasadena)
Current Representative: Mike Ten (South Pasadena)
- District #38 (Claremont, La Verne, Pomona and San Dimas)
Current Representative: Paula Lantz (Pomona)

Prior to the March 1st nomination deadline, no competing nominations were received for Districts 34 or 38. Therefore, those representatives (Barbara Messina and Paula Lantz) were automatically re-elected. Elections for the other two districts (32 and 36) will be held on March 18th, prior to the Governing Board meeting. The results of those elections will be announced at the March Governing Board meeting.

Policy Committees

Transportation Committee

Gold Line East Side Extension

At the February Transportation Committee meeting, Metro staff provided an update on this project. Earlier this year, the Metro Board of Directors took action to move forward with studying two alignments: SR-60 and Washington Blvd. This project will now begin going through a public scoping process. As Metro staff studies both alternatives, there a number of challenges along both alignments including superfund sites, flood control areas, SCE's planned expansion, truck designated corridors, and capitol costs that still need to be addressed.

210 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP)

At the February Public Works TAC, SCAG staff and their consulting team presented an update on the 210 CSMP. CSMP's are developed using detailed data collection to identify bottlenecks and safety issues. These micro-simulations allow for time-of-day analysis to determine when and where freeways fall between peak flows. As a next step, SCAG's consultants plan to develop a list of scenarios, comprised of possible improvements such as on and off ramps and ramp metering, to create a model that will evaluate their effectiveness in relieving congestion. The COG is facilitating a meeting of public works staff from cities along the I-210 to review the initial list of projects identified by SCAG and prioritize them for inclusion in future modeling efforts.

Congestion Pricing

Last month, staff from Metro presented at the COG's Transportation Committee and provided an update on the Congestion Reduction Demonstration Project. In 2008 the U.S. Department of

Transportation (USDOT) selected to Los Angeles County to receive \$213.6 million in federal funds for its Congestion Reduction-Demonstration Initiative, which would convert high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes along the I-10 and I-110. Along the I-10, this project would extend from the I- 605 to Alameda Street near the Union Station and along the I-110 the project would extend from the 182nd Street/Artesia Transit Center to Adams Blvd. Initially, the terms of the grant agreement required that the HOT lanes be operational by December 31, 2010.

However, Metro is requesting to extend the implementation for this pilot program by at least two years. This delay will allow Metro to collect a full year of data and analysis to ensure that the region secures the \$210 million in federal funds. Having less than 12 months of data on the demonstration program will put the \$210 million funding at risk. Additionally, in order to further educate and receive input from the public, Metro is preparing a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Finally, there are a number of complimentary projects, including upgrades to the El Monte Transit Center and re-stripping of the I-10 to create an additional lane, that should be completed prior to implementation of the HOT lanes. Due to existing construction and repaving efforts along the I-10, these companion projects have been delayed.

In order to allow a change in the implementation of this pilot study, Metro is seeking passage of legislation, AB 1224 (Eng) to amend State law that originally authorized this program. In February, the COG took a position of support for this legislation.

710 Tunnel Geotechnical Feasibility Study

On March 30th, Caltrans and Metro will host a final meeting of the 710 Tunnel Geotechnical Feasibility Study Steering and Technical Advisory Committees. Based on the draft reports that have been circulated to the committees, it is anticipated that the final report will find it geotechnically feasible to construct a tunnel to close the 710 gap. The Steering Committee is expected to take action to forward this report to the Metro Board of Directors. Once this report has been reviewed and accepted by the Metro Board of Directors, there will be an effort to enter this project into the environmental review process.

Corridor Planning Activities

The COG continues to move forward working with various member agencies to develop inter-jurisdictional corridor plans. These efforts are important to enhance mobility and plan for future growth. Currently, planning efforts are underway along Arrow Highway, Rosemead Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard. Below is status update on each corridor:

- **Arrow Highway:** This project includes participation from the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, and Irwindale as well as unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5. In 2008, an initial planning document was developed with funding from SCAG. Since that time, the group, with staff support from the COG interns, has created a database consisting of parcel information for the properties within ¼ mile radius of Arrow Highway. Currently, Supervisors' offices and the LA County CEO's office are researching the feasibility of creating a multi-jurisdictional redevelopment project area in order to improve this area and have hired special legal counsel to assist with this effort.
- **Rosemead Boulevard:** This project includes the participation of the cities of Pasadena, Temple City, El Monte, Rosemead, South El Monte and Los Angeles County

Supervisory Districts 1 and 5. This group is reviewing options related to mobility, beautification and other enhancements to improve this important North-South Corridor. Currently, the group is reviewing options to fund an initial assessment study, including grant applications, SCAG funding and self-assessment. Simultaneously, COG staff has been preparing a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure consultant services for this study.

- **Valley Boulevard:** This project includes the participation of the cities of La Puente, Industry, West Covina, Walnut, and Pomona and County Supervisorial District 1. This group is focusing on prioritizing transportation investments and creating a cohesive vision for the corridor. Currently, the group is reviewing options to fund an initial assessment study, including grant applications, SCAG funding and self-assessment. The group plans to develop a scope of work for consultant services in March.

Staff will continue to provide updates on these corridor planning efforts as they become available.

EENR Committee

Green Waste Policy Paper

In March, the Solid Waste Working Group will present a Green Waste Policy Paper to the Governing Board for review. This is an information only item.

For many years, San Gabriel Valley cities have participated in green waste recovery as part of their municipal solid waste operations. A key contributor to the implementation of these programs is AB 939, landmark legislation passed in 1989 that mandated local jurisdictions to meet diversion goals of 25% by 1995 and 50% by 2000. In order to comply with these regulations, many cities began curbside green waste collection programs that required residents to collect and dispose of yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves, and tree trimmings, separately from their general waste stream. The segregated green waste is now taken to Puente Hills landfill where the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) has implemented the first green waste as alternative daily cover (ADC) Program approved in the State of California. Currently, this allows cities to recycle uncontaminated green waste and count the recovered material towards their diversion goal. With the closure of the Puente Hills in 2013, LACSD has indicated that its waste-by-rail program, which will be hauling the solid waste previously sent to this landfill, will not accept green waste as ADC.

In order to address the green waste issue, the COG's Solid Waste Working Group has undertaken an examination of green waste management issues in response to the looming closure of Puente Hills landfill in 2013. The Working Group met with solid waste consultants, haulers, the regional air quality regulatory agency, and representatives from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to gather information and formulate policy recommendations for the COG's member agencies. The Working Group has developed a Green Waste Policy Paper which outlines the challenges and issues associated with managing the green waste stream as well as recommends policy positions for ensuring the long-term reliability of green waste management and diversion credits.

SB 918 (Pavley): Uniform Statewide Water Recycling Criteria

In March, the Governing Board will consider taking a position of support for SB 918 (Pavley), which will create uniform State-wide health criteria for recycled water. Every year, California discharges nearly 4 million acre feet of used water into the ocean. Much of that water could be recycled, but because uniform safety standards have not been adopted, the permitting and design processes for creating recycling facilities are unpredictable, discouraging local communities from tapping into this major water source. SB 918 would require the Department of Public Health to develop and adopt uniform water recycling criteria for indirect potable water reuse, and investigate the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse, consistent with a specified timeline. By adopting uniform health criteria for using recycled water to augment local drinking water supplies, the Department of Public Health can provide project designers with the guidance they need to cost-effectively create new water recycling facilities that are fully protective of public health. The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District has requested the COG support this legislation. The EENR Committee reviewed this legislation at its February meeting and recommends a position of “support” to the Governing Board.

AB 811 (Solar and Energy-Efficiency Financing)

AB 811 (Levine), which was signed into law in 2008, authorizes all cities and counties in California to designate areas within which willing property owners could enter into contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed renewable generation, as well as energy efficiency improvements, that are permanently fixed to the property owner's residential, commercial, industrial, or other real property. These financing arrangements would allow property owners to finance renewable generation (including solar) and energy efficiency improvements through low-interest loans that would be repaid as an item on the property owner's property tax bill.

The County of Los Angeles is developing an AB 811 program, of which cities can participate without any cost. The COG Energy Working Group has been meeting to provide input to the County on various aspects of the program and to identify opportunities for collaboration as a subregion. The County was notified in February that it was not awarded grant funding from the State Energy Program to support elements of their AB 811 program including financing, marketing, education, and outreach. It is anticipated that the County will adopt its AB 811 ordinance by April 2010, and cities will be able to adopt ordinances to participate in the program shortly thereafter. The County aims to begin offering loans in July 2010.

Housing Committee

SB 375

SCAG continues to move forward with its SB 375 planning efforts. In February, SCAG staff presented to the COG's Planning Directors TAC on the anticipated process for joint implementation of RHNA and SB 375 in 2012. Additionally, COG staff has been meeting with SCAG staff to plan an SB 375 workshop for the San Gabriel Valley (see Upcoming Events). Additionally, Metro has formed an SB 375 Committee to look at coordination efforts within the County. Originally, this effort was anticipated to fall under the jurisdiction of Metro's

Sustainability Committee, which only includes representation from the Westside. However, with the effort of the San Gabriel Valley representatives, including Director John Fasana and Supervisor Michael Antonovich, a separate committee was created that will have balanced representation.

Homeless Services Needs Assessment Implementation

In April 2009, the Governing Board voted unanimously to:

- ✓ Adopt the regional homeless services strategy,
- ✓ Establish an ad hoc Homeless Services Committee that will spearhead the creation of the San Gabriel Valley Housing and Homeless Services Coordinating Council (“Coordinating Council”), and
- ✓ Allocate \$15,500 in matching funds for needed staffing resources to support getting the Coordinating Council organized and operational over the next six months.

COG staff is working with the County to secure funding for the Council’s first year of operation as well as recruiting participants for the COG ad hoc homeless services committee (Committee).

The COG staff have supported the Committee’s in developing the organization including drafting a mission statement, organizational structure, bylaws, and membership agreement forms. Once these elements are complete, the Committee will begin presenting this information to key stakeholder groups including not-for-profit and faith-based organizations, local government representatives, and the business and philanthropic community to invite participation. One of the key next steps will be the recruitment of an Executive Director for this new organization.

Upcoming Events

There are a number of important events that are scheduled in the upcoming weeks, as shown below. Please see the SGVCOG website (www.sgvkog.org) for more information.

Date	Time	Event	Place
March 4	10:00 a.m.	SCAG Regional Council and Policy Committee	SCAG Offices
March 4	3:00 p.m.	Ad Hoc Homeless Services Steering Committee	SGVCOG Offices
March 10	9:00 a.m.	Water Working Group	Upper San Gabriel WD Offices
March 16	1:00 p.m.	AB 811 Working Group	Arcadia Police Facility
March 18	6:00 p.m.	Governing Board	CTAC
March 22	10:00 a.m.	Solid Waste Working Group	Monrovia Public Works Yard
March 22	12 noon	Public Works TAC	Courtyard Monrovia
March 23	9:00 a.m.	Federal Stimulus Workshop	Garvey Community Center
March 24	10:30 a.m.	EENR Committee	Monrovia Public Works Yard
March 24	1:30 p.m.	San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership Meeting	SGVCOG Offices
March 25	12 noon	Planning Directors’ TAC	Monrovia Community Center
March 29	1:00 p.m.	SB 375 Workshop	West Covina City Hall

Federal Stimulus Workshop – March 23

In response to requests from our member agencies, the COG has scheduled a workshop for local government staff to discuss transportation and energy efficiency stimulus projects.

At this workshop, participants will:

- ✓ Learn the latest information on stimulus projects in the San Gabriel Valley
- ✓ Have an opportunity to discuss and troubleshoot challenges relative to project implementation and reporting with other cities and stakeholder agencies.

This workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 23rd, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Garvey Community Center in Rosemead. Staff members involved with managing and reporting on stimulus-funded projects are strongly encouraged to attend.

SB 375 Workshop – March 29

SCAG has organized an SB 375 workshop for the San Gabriel Valley to take place on Thursday, April 29th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at West Covina City Hall. The purpose of this workshop is as follows:

- Provide an overview of SB 375
- Discuss local projects already being implemented or planned in the San Gabriel Valley that are consistent with SB 375
- Gather feedback from San Gabriel Valley’s elected and appointed officials on possible future strategies that may be incorporated into the Sustainable Communities’ Strategy (SCS)

We strongly encourage at least one elected official and one staff member from each city to attend.

Water Bond Education Forum – April 15

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District is sponsoring a water bond education forum in cooperation with AQUA, Latino Water Coalition, and the COG. This public forum will present nonpartisan information on the water bond scheduled for the November 2010 ballot. The COG will assist with advertisement and planning of the event. It is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 15th at the Courtyard Marriott in Baldwin Park. More details will follow.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and participation. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of these items in greater detail, please feel free to contact our offices at (626) 564-9702.

Cc: City Managers Technical Advisory Committee
Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee
Public Works Technical Advisory Committee