



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: February 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

SGVCOG Strategic Planning Session (See Agenda Item 7.1)

On Saturday, January 30th, the COG hosted its eighth semi-annual strategic planning session at Las Casitas del Arroyo in Pasadena. Approximately 50 attendees representing 23 of the COG member agencies attended this day-long planning exercise. Additionally, there was participation from ACE, LA County Department of Public Works, Metro, and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

The COG's strategic planning process gave us the opportunity to reflect on our many accomplishments over the past three years and specifically the past six-months. Furthermore, it allowed us to look prospectively in refining our long-term goals and developing new six-month objectives.

The long-term goals that are to be achieved over the next three years (2009-2012) are as follows:

- ✓ Obtain our fair share of stimulus and future local, state and federal dollars (e.g., transportation, housing, energy, environment, trauma care)
- ✓ Advocate for the Gold Line extensions
- ✓ Secure funding for COG transportation projects
- ✓ Develop and Implement Regional Solutions for Transportation, Housing, Economic Growth and the Environment

One of the major changes that resulted from this recent strategic planning session was to eliminate the goal, "Advocate for San Gabriel Valley Residents' Access to Trauma Centers and for Prevention of Emergency Room and Hospital Closure." While the COG will still report on issues of importance to our member agencies, such as travel time for the dedicated San Gabriel Valley trauma care helicopter, it was determined that this goal, which involves health care and its service delivery system, was largely outside of the COG's primary mission and scope of responsibilities.

As a result of the discussions at the Strategic Planning session, COG staff plans to present revised three year goals to the Governing Board that reflect focus on discreet issue areas (i.e. Transportation, Environment and Housing). This is intended to be more reflective of the COG's structure, including committees. Currently, objectives for each of these issue areas run across several of the Strategic Plan goals, making it more difficult for committees to track progress and develop a workplan.

In addition, at the January Strategic Planning session, new six-month objectives were developed to achieve these goals. The goals and corresponding objectives are included with Agenda Item 7.1. Once the updated strategic plan is adopted by the Governing Board, this matrix will be updated monthly to indicate progress in achieving the identified objectives.

U.S. Census and California Redistricting Presentations (See Agenda Items 6.2 and 6.3)

Every ten years, the Federal government undertakes a census to enumerate all individuals currently living in the United States. This process has far reaching effects, from apportionment of funding to states and local jurisdictions to congressional representation and boundaries. Additionally, this process triggers a redistricting process within the State of California to redraw the boundaries of its legislative and State Board of Equalization districts to reflect the new population data. Beginning in 2010, this process will be significantly different in California as a result of Proposition 11. This proposition, which was passed in November 2008, transferred the responsibility for developing these new boundaries from the legislature to a new "Citizens Redistricting Commission." This process has the potential to dramatically change the landscape of the California legislature.

Because of the far reaching effects of both the census and the redistricting processes, ensuring active participation in both efforts by all jurisdictions in the San Gabriel Valley was identified as an objective at the COG's recent Strategic Planning Session. Staff from the U.S. Census and the Rose Institute will be giving presentations on the census and new redistricting processes respectively at the February Governing Board meeting.

Policy Committees

Transportation Committee

California High Speed Rail Authority

Staff is currently participating on the California High Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) Technical Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles (Union Station) to San Diego segment. There are a number of routes and stations under consideration. In the San Gabriel Valley, it is anticipated that one station location will be selected among the following options: El Monte, West Covina, Industry, Pomona, and Cal Poly Pomona. At the November Transportation Committee, staff from the CHSRA presented and the Governing Board took a position of "support in concept" for this project, specifically with a station located in the San Gabriel Valley. Currently, the CHSRA is reviewing alignment options and has identified several significant right-of-way constraints that present a challenge in finalizing a preferred alignment.

Initially, the following route alignments through the San Gabriel Valley were under consideration: 1) adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right of way, 2) the SR-60, 3) existing Metro right of way, and 4) the SR-60 to the I-10 via the I-605. However, following meetings of the CHSRA Technical Advisory Committee and other outreach efforts, an all I-10 route, from Union Station through the San Gabriel Valley, has also been identified as an alternative. This new route is being presented to the COG's Transportation Committee for review and comment in February.

Arrow Highway Corridor Planning

The Arrow Highway Corridor Working Group is a COG sponsored project made up of representatives 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. The group was formed to facilitate plans related to the redevelopment of the 8.5 mile stretch of Arrow Highway. This fall, the group, with staff support from the COG interns, created a database consisting of parcel information for the properties within ¼ mile radius of Arrow Highway. County Supervisors Molina and Antonovich provided the funding for this data inventory project. Since that time, I have been meeting with staff from the Supervisors' offices and the LA County CEO's office to determine the feasibility of creating a multi-jurisdictional redevelopment project area in order to improve this area.

Rosemead Boulevard Corridor Planning

In January, the COG convened the first meeting of the Rosemead Boulevard Corridor Planning Group, which includes the participation of the cities of Pasadena, Temple City, El Monte, Rosemead, South El Monte and Los Angeles County Supervisorial 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. Additional information on this project will be available in the coming months.

Gold Line East Side Extension

At the October Metro Board meeting, the Board took action to reduce the number of Build Alternatives for study for this project from four to two. The two alternatives being recommended for study are the SR-60 Light Rail Transit (LRT) line, which is the route that has been supported by our COG, and the Washington Boulevard LRT. Both the Beverly Blvd. LRT and Beverly/Whittier LRT lines were not recommended for further study. This project has \$1.27 Billion in Measure R funds secured, to be available beginning FY 2022-2024. As this project is about to enter into the public scoping process, Metro staff will present an update at the February Transportation Committee meeting.

EENR Committee

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 energy generation, as well as energy efficiency improvements, that are permanently fixed to the property owner's residential, commercial, industrial, or other real property.

The County of Los Angeles is developing an AB 811 program, of which cities can participate without any cost. COG and city staff have been participating in the County's working groups to develop various elements of the program including marketing, eligibility requirements, and stakeholder coordination. It is anticipated that the County will adopt its AB 811 ordinance by March 2010, and cities will be able to adopt ordinances to participate shortly thereafter. The County aims to begin offering loans in July 2010. During the month of December, staff provided input on the County's grant applications to the State Energy Program (SEP) and the U.S. Department of Energy. If awarded, it is anticipated that these grants will provide funding to the COGs for marketing, education and outreach. In order to allow the County to move forward with the SEP grant application, the COG Governing Board is considering action in February to authorize the County to accept funds from the California Energy Commission, which is a requirement of the grant application.

Southern California Edison (SCE) Strategic Plan Support Request for Proposals (See Agenda Item 7.2)

As part of the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership (SGVEWP, which is being implemented with SCE, the COG has received notification of new funding opportunity for which it intends to apply. As discussed in previous months, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved continuation of local partnerships, such as the SGVEWP, through the 2010-2012 cycle. As part of this decision, the CPUC approved an additional \$32 million for SCE eligible local government activities that support the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan. SCE recently released a request for proposals (RFP) for local jurisdictions currently participating in Local Government Partnerships to apply.

Of the \$32 million allocation, SCE will award \$27.5 million to local governments under this solicitation and retain \$4.5 million for administration. This solicitation is expected to be competitive as there are currently 17 eligible partnerships representing 111 cities and counties operating in SCE's service territory, and each jurisdiction can request up to \$1 million. The COG anticipates submitting a proposal for funding between \$2 – 5 million.

COG staff has been working with SCE to begin identifying eligible activities appropriate to the needs and interests of the San Gabriel Valley. Staff has identified the following potential activities:

- ***Home Energy Performance Workshops*** –These workshops would focus on educating residents, contractors, and city staff on the importance of energy efficiency as a first step in reducing energy costs and educate them about the proper loading order for rehabilitation projects. The timing of these workshops is important as the County will introduce its AB 811 Energy Efficiency Financing Program in the coming months. Residents need to be informed as to how they can maximize energy savings and utilize the most cost-effective approach for equipment upgrades.
- ***Energy Efficiency Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories*** – Cities would have the opportunity to complete energy usage energy efficiency savings analysis in order to

identify and prioritize projects and strategies. This will help cities save money, comply with AB 32, and demonstrate their leadership in becoming more energy efficient.

- ***Energy Efficiency Portion of Climate Action Plans/Energy Action Plans*** – Building off of the inventories, cities can then develop and adopt an energy efficiency chapter of their climate action plan or develop a standalone energy action plan. This activity will help cities develop a road map for decreasing energy usage, increasing financial savings, and implementing AB 32 requirements.
- ***Procurement and Implementation Strategy for Facility Energy Management System*** – The County of Los Angeles has purchased an unlimited license for an online Energy Management System (EMS), whereby for a fee, cities can opt in to track and monitor energy usage in their facilities. This will allow cities to strategize cost-effective measures that significantly impact building efficiency. Under this proposal, cities will be able to procure this program through the County at a significantly reduced cost and develop an implementation strategy for ongoing management.

COG staff has requested additional input from the cities’ regarding their interest in these or other proposed activities. This solicitation will be agendaized for discussion at the next COG City Managers’ Steering Committee meeting scheduled for February 17th as well as the COG AB 811/Energy Working Group meeting scheduled for February 16th. The proposal is due on March 22nd and decisions on funding are expected to be made by April.

Please note, that in order to encourage an equitable distribution of funding among our member agencies and protect against “double-dipping”, the COG will only include in its application those San Gabriel Valley cities that have indicated that they will not be submitting a separate application. In order to be included in the COG application, the COG is requiring a letter confirming your cities’ participation and support. A sample letter has been sent out to all cities.

Housing Committee

SB 375

SB 375 is an implementation bill of AB 32. This legislation addresses local government’s role in achieving greenhouse gas reductions through land use changes and the corresponding reductions in vehicle miles traveled. Recognizing the major impact this legislation will have on our cities, participants in COG’s strategic planning session identified the development of a strategy for addressing SB 375 as an ongoing objective for the agency.

In Southern California, SCAG serves as the regional MPO. Of particular importance to the SCAG region, SB 375 identifies SCAG as the only MPO with the authority to sub-delegate the development of a SCS or an APS to its subregions. SCAG set a **December 2009** deadline for subregions to indicate their intentions to develop a subregional SCS that will later be incorporated into a regional SCS.

In November, SB 375 Working Group, Planning Directors’ TAC, Housing Committee, and City Manager’s Steering Committee reviewed SCAG’s proposed activities and recommended to the Governing Board that, to the extent feasible given funding and staffing limitations, SGVCOG indicate a willingness to engage in a collaborative process. Due to liability and funding issues, it

was not recommended that the SGVCOG accept responsibility for developing a subregional SCS. The Governing Board unanimously concurred with this recommendation and authorized me to transmit a letter indicating the SGVCOG's position to SCAG.

In December, a survey of the other thirteen subregions indicated that only three subregions (City of Los Angeles, Orange County Council of Governments, and Ventura Council of Governments) were considering accepting formal delegations, and ultimately it appeared likely that only the City of Los Angeles will take action to accept sub-delegation. To date, only OCCOG has taken action to accept subdelegation. All other subregions had indicating that they would not be accepting formal sub-delegation for the same reasons cited by the SGVCOG.

However, subsequent to that survey, Gateway Cities' COG Board took action to recommend to their member agencies that their COG develop a subregional SCS. A sample staff report was sent out to all member agencies in that COG recommending ratification of their Board's action. In that letter, Gateway COG identified several reasons for undertaking this effort including:

- Allowing Gateway COG to “fully present its achievements and the achievements of individual cities in reducing GHGs”
- Increasing local control
- Allowing for more direct communication with ARB
- Allowing for Gateway COG to more accurately track costs and file test claims with the State Mandates Commission

Additionally, Gateway COG believes that many elements of an SCS already exist in studies and reports that they have completed over the past decade. Gateway COG estimates that they will need to assess their member agencies \$250,000-\$750,000, as a starting point, to develop the SCS, but that additional funding may be needed. Conversely, we believe that the SGVCOG can provide services relative to coordinating SB 375 activities with SCAG in-house with the assistance of our SB 375 Working Group. The SGVCOG will continue to monitor Gateway COGs efforts and provide information to our member agencies.

Currently, SCAG is in the process of scheduling SB 375 workshops in each subregion. Based on conversations with SCAG staff, it is my understanding that these workshops have two purposes:

1. Ensure that all elected and appointed officials have a basic understanding of SB 375 and the current conditions in their subregion relative to transportation investments, land use and economic conditions that will impact future planning efforts, including the development of an SCS.
2. Measure tentative support/opposition/feasibility of various land use and transportation demand management strategies (TDMs) that might be incorporated into an SCS.

SCAG is intending to incorporate the initial feedback received from these workshops into the soft GHG emissions reduction estimate that they will submit to ARB in either March or April of this year (see “Statewide Target-Setting Process” below). Initially, a workshop was planned to be held in the San Gabriel Valley on January 28th. However, one week prior to that workshop, COG staff, along with the SB 375 Working Group, still had significant reservations regarding the proposed agenda. Specifically, there were concerns as to whether the format and agenda items

would achieve the above outlined goals. As a result, COG staff is working with SCAG staff to reschedule this workshop for late February. It is our belief that this will provide the additional time necessary to secure an agenda and presentations that lead to a meaningful discussion. Once a date has been set, the COG will send out notifications to all cities.

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 has been 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). With funding in place, the Committee resumed meeting in December and recently approved a mission statement, guiding principles, and organizational structure for the Coordinating Council.

The Committee’s next step is to develop bylaws and membership agreement forms. Once these elements are finalized, 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.

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
February 4	10:00 a.m.	SCAG Regional Council and Policy Committee	SCAG Offices
February 4	3:00 p.m.	Ad Hoc Homeless Services Steering Committee	SGVCOG Offices
February 9	10:00 a.m.	Storm Water Management Working Group	Monrovia Public Works Yard
February 10	9:00 a.m.	Water Working Group	Upper San Gabriel WD Offices
February 16	1:00 p.m.	AB 811 Working Group	Arcadia Police Facility
February 17	12 noon	City Managers’ Steering Committee	SGVCOG Offices
February 18	4:00 p.m.	Transportation Committee	CTAC
February 18	6:00 p.m.	Governing Board	CTAC
February 22	10:00 a.m.	Solid Waste Working Group	Monrovia Public Works Yard
February 22	12 noon	Public Works TAC	Courtyard Monrovia
February 24	10:30 a.m.	EENR Committee	Monrovia Public Works Yard
February 24	1:30 p.m.	San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership Meeting	SGVCOG Offices

SB 375 Workshop – TBD

Staff is currently working with SCAG and its public outreach team to develop and execute an SB 375 Workshop in the San Gabriel Valley. This event is targeted at elected officials and city staff and will

include information on demographic and market trends, future scenario planning, and planned transportation investments. Additionally, this workshop will include an interactive component to gauge participants' level of interest and commitment of various land use strategies. Further information about this event will be distributed once it is available.

National League of Cities Congressional City Conference: March 13th – March 17th

Since 1996, the COG has an annual reception in Washington D.C. Invitees include our federal and state representatives, respectively, as well as other key Federal legislators and staff who are involved in reviewing and supporting our various requests for assistance. COG and ACE are planning a similar event this coming year for the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington D.C. This conference is scheduled for March 13th through March 17th. A full schedule of events will be distributed as this date approaches. The joint COG, ACE, and Foothill Transit reception is scheduled for **March 15th**. Invitations will be sent out to all councilmembers.

League of California Cities Legislative Action Days: April 21st – 22nd - CANCELLED

Please note that this event has been cancelled. As a result, the SGVCOG's annual Sacramento Legislative Reception has also been cancelled. It is anticipated that a similar event may be scheduled for August. Staff will send out notifications once additional information is available.

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