SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
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JOINT MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC)

Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend In-Person & Remotely
Thursday, December 3, 2026
9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

To Attend In-Person:
SCAG Main Office - Regional Council Room
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

To Watch or View Only:
https://scag.ca.gov/scag-tv-livestream

To Attend and Participate on Your Computer:
https://scag.zoom.us/j/82245194979

To Attend and Participate by Phone:
Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 822 4519 4979

PUBLIC ADVISORY

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 236-1895. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.

Instructions for Attending the Meeting

To Attend In-Person and Provide Verbal Comments: Go to the SCAG Main Office located at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or any of the remote locations noticed in the agenda. The meeting will take place in the Regional Council Room on the 17th floor starting at 9:30 a.m.

To Attend by Computer: Click the following link: https://scag.zoom.us/j/82245194979. If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click "Download & Run Zoom" on the launch page and press "Run" when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically. Select "Join Audio via Computer." The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, "Please wait for the host to start this meeting," simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.

To Attend by Phone: Call **(669) 900-6833** to access the conference room. Given high call volumes recently experienced by Zoom, please continue dialing until you connect successfully. Enter the **Meeting ID:** 822 4519 4979, followed by **#**. Indicate that you are a participant by pressing **#** to continue. You will hear audio of the meeting in progress. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.

Instructions for Participating and Public Comments

Members of the public can participate in the meeting via written or verbal comments.

In Writing: Written comments can be emailed to: ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov. Written comments received **by 5pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2026**, will be transmitted to members of the legislative body and posted on SCAG's website prior to the meeting. You are **not** required to submit public comments in writing or in advance of the meeting; this option is offered as a convenience should you desire not to provide comments in real time as described below. Written comments received after 5pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, will be announced and included as part of the official record of the meeting. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of this committee regarding any item on this agenda (other than writings legally exempt from public disclosure) are available at the Office of the Clerk, at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 or by phone at (213) 630-1420, or email to aguilarm@scag.ca.gov.

Remotely: If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, please wait for the presiding officer to call the item for which you wish to speak and use the "raise hand" function on your computer or *9 by phone and wait for SCAG staff to announce your name/phone number.

In-Person: If participating in-person, you are invited but not required, to fill out and present a Public Comment Card to the Clerk of the Board or other SCAG staff prior to speaking. It is helpful to indicate whether you wish to speak during the Public Comment Period (Matters Not on the Agenda) and/or on an item listed on the agenda.

General Information for Public Comments

Verbal comments can be presented in real time during the meeting. Members of the public are allowed a total of 3 minutes for verbal comments. The presiding officer retains discretion to adjust time limits as necessary to ensure efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting, including equally reducing the time of all comments.

For purpose of providing public comment for items listed on the Consent Calendar, please indicate that you wish to speak when the Consent Calendar is called. Items listed on the Consent Calendar will be acted on with one motion and there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the legislative body so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately.

In accordance with SCAG's Regional Council Policy, Article VI, Section H and California Government Code Section 54957.9, if a SCAG meeting is "willfully interrupted" and the "orderly conduct of the meeting" becomes unfeasible, the presiding officer or the Chair of the legislative body may order the removal of the individuals who are disrupting the meeting.

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS*

Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee

Valerie Amezcua 1037 Sherwood Lane Santa Ana, CA 92706	**Don Caskey** 27182 Hidden Trail Road Laguna Hills, CA 92653	**Debra Dorst-Porada** City of Ontario - City Hall 303 East B Street Conference Room 2 Ontario, CA 91764
Bob Engler City of Thousand Oaks - City Hall 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd Thousand Oaks, CA 91362	**Rose Espinoza** City of La Habra - City Hall 110 East La Habra Boulevard La Habra, CA 90631	**Martin Fuentes** 4464 California Place Long Beach, CA 90807
John Grass SCAG Imperial County Regional Office 1503 N. Imperial Avenue, Suite 104 El Centro, CA 92243	**Peggy Huang** City of Yorba Linda - City Hall 4845 Casa Loma Ave Yorba Linda, CA 92886	**William "Bill" Hussey** City of Grand Terrace - City Hall 22795 Barton Road Grand Terrace, CA 92313
Lynda Johnson City of Cerritos - City Hall City Manager Conference Room 18125 Bloomfield Avenue Cerritos, CA 90703	**Matt LaVere** Supervisor LaVere Hall of Administration 800 S. Victoria Ave, 4th Floor Ventura, CA 93009	**Anni Marshall** City of Avalon - City Hall 410 Avalon Canyon Road Avalon, CA 90704
Betty Martinez Franco City of Irvine - City Hall 1 Civic Center Plaza Irvine, CA 92623	**Joseph Morabito** City of Wildomar - City Hall 23873 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 110 Wildomar, CA 92595	**Cynthia Moran** 6132 Park Crest Drive Chino Hills, CA 91709
Sharona Nazarian City of Beverly Hills - City Hall 455 N. Rexford Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210	**Sonny Santa Ines** City of Bellflower - City Hall 16600 Civic Center Drive Bellflower, CA 90706	**David J. Shapiro** City of Calabasas - City Hall 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302
Becky A. Shevlin City of Monrovia - City Hall 415 S Ivy Avenue Monrovia, CA 91016	**Mary Solorio** 1425 Hollister Street San Fernando, CA 91340	**Valerie Vandever** 1745 Old Mill Court San Jacinto, CA 92583
Judy Woolsey City of Yucaipa - City Hall Executive Conference Room 34272 Yucaipa Boulevard Yucaipa, CA 92399	**Tony Wu** 4509 Temple City Boulevard Temple City, CA 91780	

Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

Ana Beltran America's Best Value Inn Lobby 351 W. Main Street Westmorland, CA 92281	**Art Bishop** Town of Apple Valley - Town Hall 14955 Dale Evans Pkwy Conference Room A Apple Valley, CA 92307	**Daniel Brotman** City of Glendale - City Hall 613 E Broadway, Ste 200 Glendale, CA 91206

Ed Chen 450 Bauchet Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	**Robert D. Copeland** City of Signal Hill - City Hall 2175 Cherry Avenue Council Chambers Signal Hill, CA 90755	**Ned E. Davis** City of Westlake Village - City Hall 31200 Oak Crest Drive Westlake Village, CA 91361
Carmen Hernandez City of Barstow - City Hall 220 E. Mountain View Barstow, CA 92311	**Shari L. Horne** City of Laguna Woods - City Hall 24264 El Toro Road Laguna Woods, CA 92637	**Britt Huff** City of Rolling Hills Estates - City Hall 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North Rolling Hills Estates CA, 90274
Brian Johsz 5615 Gableview Court Chino Hills, CA 91709	**Steven Leash** 1577 C Street Anchorage, AK 99501	**Elaine Litster** City of Simi Valley - City Hall 2929 Tapo Canyon Road Simi Valley, CA 93063
Jennifer Stark City of Claremont - City Hall 207 Harvard Avenue 2nd City Council Office Claremont, CA 91711	**Ali Taj** 11856 E. 187th Street Artesia, CA 90701	**Dale Welty** City of Canyon Lake - City Hall 31526 Railroad Canyon Road Canyon Lake, CA 92584

Transportation Committee (TC)

Brian S. Berkson City of Jurupa Valley - City Hall 8930 Limonite Avenue Jurupa Valley, CA 92509	**Denise Delgado** City of Coachella - City Hall 1515 6th Street Coachella, CA 92236	**Jonathan Dumitru** 1 MacArthur Pl #600 Santa Ana, CA 92707
Bryan "Bubba" Fish City of Culver City - City Hall 9770 Culver Boulevard Patio Conference Room, 3rd Floor Culver City, CA 90232	**Jason Gibbs** City of Santa Clarita - City Hall 23920 Valencia Boulevard Orchard Conference Room Santa Clarita, CA 91355	**Lauren Hughes-Leslie** City of Lancaster - City Hall Council Conference Room 44933 Fern Avenue Lancaster, CA 93534
Fred Jung City of Fullerton - City Hall 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832	**Carlos Leon** City of Anaheim - City Hall 200 S Anaheim Boulevard Anaheim, CA 92805	**Ken Mann** City of Lancaster - City Hall Council Conference Room 44933 Fern Avenue Lancaster, CA 93534
Marsha McLean City of Santa Clarita - City Hall 23920 Valencia Boulevard Orchard Conference Room Santa Clarita, CA 91355	**L. Dennis Michael** City of Rancho Cucamonga - City Hall 10500 Civic Center Drive Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730	**Carol Moore** City of Laguna Woods - City Hall 24264 El Toro Road Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Zizette Mullins City of Burbank - City Hall 275 E. Olive Avenue, 2nd Floor Burbank, CA 91502	**Juan Muñoz-Guevara** City of Lynwood - City Hall Annex Building 11330 Bullis Road Lynwood, CA 90262	**David Ready** City of Palm Springs - City Hall 3200 E Tahquitz Canyon Way Small Conference Room Palm Springs, CA 92264
Crystal Ruiz 674 Sunnyside Boulevard San Jacinto, CA 92582	**Zak Schwank** City of Temecula - City Hall Third Floor – Canyons Conference Room 41000 Main Street Temecula, CA 92590	**Asam Sheikh** City of Torrance - City Hall 3031 Torrance Blvd, 3rd Floor Torrance, CA 90503

Ward Smith City of Placentia Council Chambers 401 E. Chapman Avenue Placentia, CA 92870	**Wes Speake** City of Corona - City Hall 400 S. Vicentia Avenue Corona, CA 92882	**Cynthia Sternquist** 6131 Camellia Avenue Temple City, CA 91780
William "Bill" Uphoff City of Lomita - City Hall 24300 Narbonne Avenue Lomita, CA 90717	**Alicia Weintraub** City of Calabasas - City Hall 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302	

* Under the teleconferencing rules of the Brown Act, members of the body may remotely participate at any location specified above.

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Members – December 2026

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   CEHD Chair, Simi Valley, RC District 46

2. **Hon. Jeff Wood**
   CEHD Vice Chair, Lakewood, RC District 24

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   Long Beach, RC District 30

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   Santa Ana, RC District 16

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   Rialto, SBCTA

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   La Palma, RC District 18

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   Mission Viejo, RC District 13

8. **Hon. Chelsea Byers**
   West Hollywood, RC District 41

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   Laguna Hills, OCCOG

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    Los Alamitos, RC District 20

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    ICTC Representative

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25. **Hon. Cecilia Hupp**
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    Tribal Govt Regl Planning Board Representative

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    Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

34. **Hon. Joseph Morabito**
    Wildomar, WRCOG

35. **Cynthia Moran**
    Chino Hills, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

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    San Fernando, SFVCOG

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    San Bernardino, RC District 7

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46. **Hon. Mark Waronek**
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    Fontana, RC District 8

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49. **Hon. Tony Wu**
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50. **Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama**
    Cerritos, RC District 23

51. **Hon. Frank Zerunyan**
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   EEC Chair, Yucca Valley, RC District 11

2. **Hon. Daniel Ramos**
   EEC Vice Chair, Adelanto, RC District 65

3. **Hon. Ana Beltran**
   Westmorland, ICTC

4. **Hon. Arthur Bishop**
   Apple Valley, SBCTA

5. **Hon. Daniel Brotman**
   Glendale, AVCJPA

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   Imperial County

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   Temple City

8. **Hon. Margaret Clark**
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   Signal Hill, GCCOG

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13. **Hon. Carmen Hernandez**
    Barstow, SBCTA

14. **Hon. Shari Horne**
    Laguna Woods, OCCOG

15. **Hon. Britt Huff**
    Rolling Hills Estates, SBCCOG

16. **Hon. Brian Johsz**
    Chino Hills, SBCTA

17. **Hon. Steven Leash**
    Cahuilla Band of Indians

18. **Hon. Elaine Litster**
    Simi Valley, VCOG

19. **Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson**
    Riverside, RC District 68

20. **Sup. Vianey Lopez**
    Ventura County

21. **Hon. Yasmine-Imani McMorrin**
    Culver City, WCCOG

22. **Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios**
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25. **Hon. Jennifer Stark**
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26. **Hon. Ali Taj**
    Artesia, GCCOG

27. **Hon. Tamala Takahashi**
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28. **Hon. Connor Traut**
    Buena Park, OCCOG

29. **Hon. Stephanie Virgen**
    Coachella, CVAG

30. **Hon. Dale Welty**
    Canyon Lake, WRCOG

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Members – December 2026

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   Calipatria, ICTC
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    Business Representative, Non-Voting Member
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    RCTC Representative

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20. **Hon. Lauren Hughes-Leslie**
    Lancaster, NCTC JPA

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22. **Hon. Fred Jung**
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23. **Hon. Ardy Kassakhian**
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26. **Hon. Lauren Kleiman**
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    Hemet, RC District 3

28. **Hon. Andrew Lara**
    Pico Rivera, RC District 31

29. **Hon. Kaylee Law**
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30. **Hon. Carlos Leon**
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31. **Hon. Bridgett Lewis**
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32. **Hon. Clint Lorimore**
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33. **Hon. Steven Ly**
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34. **Hon. Ken Mann**
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35. **Hon. Steve Manos**
    Lake Elsinore, RC District 63

36. **Hon. Ray Marquez**
    Chino Hills, RC District 10

37. **Hon. Larry McCallon**
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38. **Hon. Marsha McLean**
    Santa Clarita, RC District 67

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43. **Hon. Zizette Mullins**
    Burbank, AVCJPA

44. **Hon. Juan Muñoz-Guevara**
    Lynwood, GCCOG

45. **Hon. Frank Navarro**
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46. **Hon. David Ready**
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47. **Hon. Gil Rebollar**
    Brawley, RC District 1

48. **Hon. Ed Reece**
    Claremont, SGVCOG

49. **Hon. Marlon Regisford**
    Caltrans, District 7, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member

50. **Hon. Gabriel Reyes**
    Adelanto, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

51. **Hon. Crystal Ruiz**
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52. **Hon. Ali Saleh**
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53. **Hon. Steve Sanchez**
    La Quinta, RC District 66

54. **Hon. Tim Sandoval**
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55. **Hon. Zak Schwank**
    Temecula, RC District 5

56. **Hon. Emma Sharif**
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64. **Hon. Butch Twining**
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    Perris, Pres. Appt. (Member at Large)

68. **Hon. Scott Voigts**
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69. **Sup. Donald Wagner**
    Orange County

70. **Hon. Colleen Wallace**
    Banning, WRCOG

71. **Hon. Alicia Weintraub**
    Calabasas, LVMCOG

72. **Hon. Thomas Wong**
    Monterey Park, RC District 34

73. **Hon. Zhen Wu**
    San Clemente, OCCOG

JOINT MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEES (CEHD, EEC, AND TC) MEETING AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 – Regional Council Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Thursday, December 3, 2026
9:30 AM

The Joint Policy Committees may consider and act upon any of the items on the agenda regardless of whether they are listed as Information or Action items.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Honorable Ray Marquez, President
The Honorable Rocky Rhodes, Chair, Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee
The Honorable Rick Denison, Chair, Energy and Environment Committee
The Honorable Mike T. Judge, Chair, Transportation Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Matters Not on the Agenda)
This is the time for public comments on any matter of interest within SCAG's jurisdiction that is ***not*** listed on the agenda. For items listed on the agenda, public comments will be received when that item is considered. Although the committee may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon at this time.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. SCAG Economic Roundtable Fourth Quarter Update — 30 Mins. — PG. 18
(Echo Zheng, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG)

2. Mega-Events, Communities, and Economic Opportunity: Lessons from the FIFA World Cup
(Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer, SCAG) — 40 Mins. — PG.28

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

3. Minutes of the Meetings – April 9, 2026 — PG. 31

Receive and File

4. Senate Bill 1087 (Cabaldon): Update and Next Steps — PG. 40

ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA ITEM 1

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
December 3, 2026

To: JPC - Joint Policy Committees

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

From: Echo Zheng, Senior Regional Planner
213-630-1505, zheng@scag.ca.gov

Subject: SCAG Economic Roundtable Fourth Quarter Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:
This item supports the following Strategic Priority 3: Spur innovation and action through leadership in research, analysis and information sharing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The SCAG Economic Roundtable met for its quarterly discussion on Nov. 6, 2026. The discussion focused on housing and outlook for 2027. Dr. David Roland-Holst, Managing Director and Principal of the Berkeley Economic Advising and Research and faculty in the Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, will present highlights of the roundtable discussion at the Joint Policy Committees Meeting on Dec. 3, 2026.

Key findings include:

- ***Job growth remains slow and narrow.*** ***Job creation in the SCAG region improved slightly in 2026. Based on data through September, the region is likely to have added 24,000 non-farm jobs by year's end, ahead of last year's increase (13,000) but still relatively weak. Healthcare continues to supply nearly all net new jobs.***
- ***2027 should be modestly better.*** ***GDP growth of about 2.5 percent appears reasonable to expect for the region, with slightly lower inflation and mortgage rates, but investors remain cautious, and AI-related white-collar job losses are a major downside risk.***
- ***Housing connects the region's economy to its people.*** ***Through September, housing permits are 19 percent higher in 2026 than 2025. Production generates construction labor demand, positively impacts other industries, and can alleviate underhousing, especially given low population growth. Nonetheless, rents, purchase prices, and mortgage rates are all high. Lower materials costs, long permit-to-completion times, and policy efforts surrounding CEQA and condos all help production further.***

- ***Aerospace employment is rising throughout Orange County and across Southern California's hubs in El Segundo, Hawthorne, Long Beach, Huntington Beach, Irvine, the Antelope Valley and the Santa Clarita Valley.***

The final SCAG Economic Roundtable Quarterly Report will be released on Dec. 3, 2026, and can be accessed on SCAG's website at: https://scag.ca.gov/economic-insights-data-resources. Supporting data are available on the SCAG Economic Trends Tool.

BACKGROUND:
SCAG's Economic Roundtable consists of a select group of economists from across the region who meet quarterly to discuss trends, data, and current events impacting the region's economy. Regular analysis and discussion of the regional economic trends and events inform the multi-year development and implementation of Connect SoCal, SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), and support ongoing communication with SCAG stakeholders through various outreach efforts.

Roundtables are timed to occur in advance of March, June, and September Regional Council meetings and December Joint Policy Committees meeting. A quarterly report summarizing the roundtable discussion will be released in advance of the subsequent meeting. A roundtable economist will present key findings and provide an update on the regional economy at the meeting.

SCAG's Economic Roundtable members collectively cover geographic expertise across each of the six SCAG counties, as well as six economic topic specialties including access to economic opportunity and mobility, labor economics, workforce development, industry competitiveness and agglomeration, economic impacts of housing development and policies, and emerging technologies and trends. The Roundtable members are:

- David Roland-Holst, Berkeley Economic Advising & Research and University of California, Berkeley
- Gary London, London Moeder Advisors
- Manfred Keil, Inland Empire Economic Partnership and Claremont McKenna College
- Marianne Boules, Boules Consulting
- Mark Schniepp, California Economic Forecast
- Shannon Sedgwick, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation
- Samuel Maury-Holmes, Zenith Economics, LLC
- Wallace Walrod, Tech Coast Consulting Group

The SCAG Economic Roundtable met for its quarterly discussion on Nov. 6, focusing on housing and the the economic outlook for 2027. Roundtable members expect 2027 to be modestly better than 2026, but still a transition year without clear signals. The roundtable's outlook assumes in part an end

to the Iran war, which could ease inflation and interest rates. The outlook also depends in part on how far AI continues to disrupt white-collar employment. Members found that the regional economy continues to grow slowly and narrowly, with health care accounting for nearly all new jobs, while residential construction picked up and commercial development slowed. The discussion drew on data through September 2026 from SCAG's SoCal Economic Trends Tool and on briefs prepared by roundtable members. It builds on the third-quarter report, which described the region's "slow, narrow, and jobless growth."

What's Happening in the United Stated and California?

The national labor market held steady through the fall: the U.S. unemployment rate fell from 4.2 percent to 4.1 percent in the according to the latest employment data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics released on Nov. 6. California's rate, at 5.1 percent, remains the highest of the 50 states. Inflation is unlikely to reach the Federal Reserve's 2.0 percent target before 2028, with U.S. core personal consumption expenditures inflation at 3.1 percent as of September, although an end to the war could lower oil prices, inflation, and interest rates. Mortgage interest rates averaged about 6.5% in 2026 and are expected to drop by a few tenths of a percent 2027, a slightly better financing environment but not enough to restart the otherwise stagnant existing-home market.

Roundtable members noted that the outcome of the midterm election could matter for the region in several ways. Historically, the stock market rose from October to June following 23 of the last 25 midterm elections dating back to 1926, by an average of 20 percent, as divided government produces gridlock that business tends to read as predictability. Members were also somewhat more optimistic that large federal health-care funding cuts will not persist long-term, which would protect the region's largest source of recent job growth. While California faces challenges related to business costs and regulations, it remains a center for innovation and entrepreneurship, and post-election shifts elsewhere, including more union agreements in Texas, could erode some competitor states' cost advantages. SCAG's own long-run population forecasting has observed that a less welcoming political climate outside California has been one barrier to out-migration for the region's diverse population, and that this barrier could come down if there are lasting shifts in other states' policies and political dynamics.

Other national risks discussed include the reset of about 150,000 adjustable-rate mortgages in 2027, meaning that homeowners and business property owners could be subject to far higher interest rates than they'd budgeted for. The costs of El Niño storms are already damaging public infrastructure, much of which is funded by gas taxes stretched thin due to increasing transportation costs and vehicle fuel efficiency .

Modes, Narrow Job Growth in the SCAG Region

Job creation in the SCAG region and California improved slightly in 2026, but diversification remains minimal. Based on data through September, the annualized pace of job creation in 2026 is

approximately 24,000 non-farm jobs, ahead of last year (13,000) but still relatively weak. Health care continues to supply nearly all net new jobs. Between September 2025 and September 2026, the region added 41,200 nonfarm jobs (+0.5 percent), outperforming the nation (+0.3 percent) but trailing California (+0.8 percent). The Health Care and Social Assistance sector accounted for more than the entire year-over-year net gain, adding 60,300 jobs while the rest of the SCAG region's economy collectively lost approximately 19,100.

Adjusted for seasonality, the region's unemployment rate dropped from 5.6 percent in September 2025 to 4.6 percent in September 2026. While declining unemployment rates usually reflect a strong job market, in the past year, the labor force shrank by 1.8 percent and resident employment fell by 0.9 percent. As such, a one-percentage point drop in the unemployment rate is not cause for celebration—instead, it reflects a shrinking labor force with little new hiring. The labor market remains similar to the situation described in the third-quarter report.

Established and Emerging Industries

Aerospace is the region's clearest bright spot. California aerospace employment is at or near record levels, about 96,000, and is strengthening across the region's hubs, driven by space as well as defense. Defense employment in El Segundo is growing, and Anduril, already expanding in Tustin, will open its $1 billion Long Beach campus in mid-2027 with about 5,500 jobs.

Technology job losses are continuing, and deeper in the region than in the rest of California. The information sector lost 12,700 jobs over the past year in the region (-5.9 percent) compared with a 4.2 percent decline both statewide and nationally. The SCAG region holds about 40 percent of California's information jobs but 57 percent of its losses. The Bay Area fared better, down 3.6 percent in San Francisco-Oakland and 0.7 percent in San Jose. AI is clearly a factor in an ongoing, large-scale economic disruption, but the degree and the future prognosis remains unclear. Nonetheless, white-collar downsizing in information is expected to continue and is likely to impact adjacent sectors as well.

Hollywood production, measured in film days and employment, is running at roughly half of 2022 levels, although 2022 activity was inflated by post-pandemic production backlogs. On-location filming declined 4.8 percent year over year in the third quarter, although productions supported by California's tax incentives now account for 40 percent of scripted on-location shooting, twice their share a year earlier. The entertainment economy faces additional uncertainty from the proposed Paramount–Warner merger, which could put approximately 4,500 local film and television jobs at risk over the next three years.

Tourism is steady and strongest in Orange County, where Disneyland crowds are the largest since 2022 and hotel occupancy is approaching 80 percent. Roundtable members discussed the "premiumization" of consumer experiences (which generally make up a large and increasing share of

the economy compared to goods) in the context of theme parks. In contrast to Disneyland, attendance at Universal Studios Hollywood, Knott's Berry Farm and Six Flags Magic Mountain declined in 2025, raising the question of a "K-shaped" consumer economy in which higher-income households continue to spend on premium experiences while mid-market spending weakens.

Residential development picked up in 2026 across the SCAG region and the state despite high interest rates, while commercial and industrial development slowed everywhere except Orange County. In Orange County, the commercial and industrial development market is driven by several large projects: Hoag Hospital's roughly $1 billion Sun Family Campus in Irvine, the build-out of Irvine's Great Park planned by the end of the decade; the redevelopment of the former Westminster Mall into an 83-acre mixed-use district; and, in Anaheim, continued construction at OCVIBE and groundbreaking of DisneylandForward in August.

While office vacancies in the Bay Area have declined markedly (e.g., in San Francisco and San Mateo counties), roundtable members question whether this trend could be replicated elsewhere in California, given the Bay Area's high concentration of AI-related investment. Nonetheless, office market conditions showed signs of improvement in the third quarter of 2026, with declining vacancy rates and positive net absorption in several markets. Orange County has improved slightly, but downtown Los Angeles and San Diego remain weak—Brookfield properties recently returned the keys of a high-rise to its lender, and the Irvine Company exited its downtown San Diego portfolio. Roundtable members speculate that effective vacancy rates might be closer to 50 percent, especially if owners purchased buildings at rock bottom prices and are relatively unconcerned about vacancy. Many owners are evaluating conversions to hotel or residential use, and while return-to-office mandates have restored some foot traffic, Roundtable members agreed that professional-services space needs are "dramatically and permanently down."

Housing Connects Communities to the Economy

Housing is central to people's well-being and the regional economy. The connections are numerous: housing production generates demand for labor, materials, and lending capital, and the construction industry creates economic spillover effects across other industries. Housing costs, conditions, and location affect household spending, access to jobs, and quality of life, and homeownership provides an important pathway for long-term wealth accumulation.

SCAG is in the early stages of its 7th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment, currently consulting with the California Department of Housing and Community Development on the relationship between cost and planning for additional supply to better understand regional conditions to inform evidence-based policymaking.

At its quarterly meeting, the roundtable discussed the many connections between housing, communities, and regional economy, including various dimensions of housing cost burdens and major structural barriers to housing production.

Affordability and the regional housing need. California households spend a substantial share of their income on housing, often at the expense of other spending. Housing cost burdens fall disproportionately on lower-income households. Based on the Census Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data, in 2024, the median household across the SCAG region spent 23 percent of income housing, but this share rose sharply to 67 percent for households in the lowest income quintile.

Compared with their national counterparts, households in the region's lowest quintile spent 53 percent more of their income on housing. Even in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, where housing is relatively more affordable than the region's coastal counties, households in the lowest income quintile spent about 30 percent more of their income on housing than their national counterparts.

Homeownership is out of reach for many renter households in Southern California. Recent research finds that purchasing and owning a median-price home in the Los Angeles metro area (Los Angeles and Orange counties) would require the equivalent of 100 percent of the median renter household's annual income. While insurance and utilities costs have certainly increased, the study also suggests that the region's homeownership affordability challenge is driven primarily by high home purchase prices and associated mortgage costs.

While households relocate for a variety of reasons, out-migration is one observable response to cost burden. A 2026 ADP Research study ranks Southern California metro areas near the bottom in a composite measure of wages, hiring rate, and cost of living for recent college graduates. U-Haul's 2026 reports shows that while out-migrants born before 1980 favor neighboring Arizona and Nevada, younger movers leaving California are more likely to head to Texas and the Pacific Northwest. Within California, Gen Z movers from Los Angeles are heading to the Bay Area, Fresno, and Bakersfield.

Labor and costs. The construction labor market is facing multiple cost pressures contributing to the overall economic outlook for the region. While lower-skilled labor moves through largely informal supply networks depending heavily on immigrants, immigration enforcement actions are closely associated with productivity losses on job sites. Shortages of high-skilled trades are making it more difficult to meet construction timelines and realize target profits.

Adding to the stress in the construction labor market, the average construction worker cannot afford the median one-bedroom rental in Los Angeles County, which ranks 3,106th of 3,140 U.S. counties in real-wage purchasing power, and more than 30 percent of Los Angeles-area construction workers are paid below the minimum wage.

In one bright spot for construction costs, prices for concrete, steel, and aluminum are declining, though the outlook for lumber is less clear given tariffs on Canadian timber. Nonetheless, the cost of capital, driven by high interest rates, remains the dominant constraint and likely outweighs the good news on materials. Modular construction reduces financing and carrying costs but not total costs, because factory materials and fabrication remain expensive.

***Delivery and regulation*.** The time from permit to completion has roughly doubled over 20 years, to about 42 months, with San Bernardino County completing projects far faster than Los Angeles County. Causes include permitting delays, inspection backlogs, utility hookup lags and red tape. Roundtable members identified the California Environmental Quality Act as the most significant impediment to housing and to development generally—we will likely see more future reform proposals.

Roundtable members also highlighted state policy activity around condominiums – a rare entry-level for-sale product for many urban and suburban buyers in the region that is essentially absent from the development pipeline. Assembly Bill 2050 places reserve funding requirements on condo and townhome homeowner associations (HOAs) to help fund deferred maintenance; however, such requirements could drastically increase costs and financing difficulties for a housing type that is also struggling with rising insurance costs. A serious effort to reform a construction liability issue plaguing condo builders was not successful this year (AB 1903, Wicks) but is expected to return next year and could genuinely remove a major administrative hurdle blocking condo production.

Looking Ahead to 2027

Roundtable members expect 2027 to be modestly better than 2026 but still a transition year without clear signals. This expectation is rooted in part in the assumption that the Iran war will not continue long-term which will lead to improvements in oil prices, transportation costs, inflation, and mortgage rates. The outlook also depends in part on how far AI continues to disrupt employment in information, financial services, and professional and business services. Onshoring, data centers, the aerospace resurgence, and continued infrastructure spending could add jobs, and GDP growth of about 2.5 percent appears reasonable to expect for the region. If large health-care cuts are avoided, health-care hiring can partly offset white-collar losses.

Investment decisions, however, remain in “rigor mortis”: borrowing money is and will remain expensive, aging, migration, and immigration enforcement do not bode well for labor supply, and investors are waiting for clearer indicators —which 2027 is unlikely to provide. Conditions should be slightly better in Southern California, but many owners of investment properties are expected to hand the keys back to lenders. The roundtable also discussed technology wildcards, including humanoid robots targeted for late 2027 at $20,000 to $25,000 per unit, which they did not expect to solve labor shortages, and a new SpaceX–Qualcomm agreement to offer national cell service.

Additional County Highlights

Imperial County
Imperial County's unemployment rate remains the highest in the SCAG region and ranks 58th out of California's 58 counties. Imperial County's recent decline in unemployment rate came almost entirely from about 500 public administration jobs; the hoped-for natural-resource jobs have not arrived. Lithium Valley is stalling after a state appeals court found the environmental impact report for Hell's Kitchen, the earliest and largest project, inadequate, setting the project back at least a year. About $310 million has been invested without production. Geothermal output is now expected in 2028 and lithium in 2030 at the earliest, but in the meantime workers trained for lithium jobs have none to go to.

A proposed data center in Imperial County carries a projected economic impac t of about $2.9 billion and property-tax savings of about $180 per resident, but potentially steep long-term environmental costs. The Latino Community Foundation has released a community-led economic development strategy for the county. A quarantine for Huanglongbing (citrus greening) disease covers a 66-square-mile area around Calexico through 2028 under an emergency program; infections so far are in residential areas rather than commercial orchards.

Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County entered the fourth quarter with modest job growth: nonfarm payrolls rose 0.5 percent year over year in the third quarter, up from 0.2 percent in the second quarter. Health care and social assistance added about 31,000 jobs, more than the county's total gain, while the rest of the economy lost about 11,000, with information, manufacturing and business services contracting. The unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent (seasonally adjusted), the lowest since 2019, but this is largely because the labor force has grown smaller; it remains about 89,000 below its September 2024 level.

Housing permits through September reached about 22,500 units, up 48.5 percent, with multifamily accounting for about 93 percent of the increase. Separately, reports from SCAG and the University of California estimate that between roughly 37 and 47 percent of new housing units in Los Angeles County are ADUs. January 2025 wildfire losses totaled roughly 12,500 structures; according to current estimates, 4,500 have been permitted, meaning that the 2026 increases far exceed this amount!

Taxable retail and food-service sales rose 4.7 percent in the second quarter (3.4 percent excluding gasoline, in nominal terms). The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach each recorded their busiest month on record in September, and combined San Pedro Bay cargo volume is up about 11 percent through September. On-location filming fell 4.8 percent in the third quarter, and expansion of the state film tax credit is under discussion.

Orange County
Orange County has one of the tightest labor markets in California, with 4.3 percent unemployment (the lowest in Southern California), but the county economy is defined by moderate growth and rising costs. Payrolls are up only 0.6 percent (9,900 jobs), almost all of them are in health care, and the labor force is contracting. The CSUF Woods Center forecast sees payroll growth of just 0.44 percent in 2027, attributing the slow hiring to shrinking labor supply (an aging workforce and sharply lower immigration) and AI-driven productivity gains.

The CSUF Orange County Business Expectations Survey, conducted in late September, shows executives getting more upbeat. Chapman University's purchasing managers' survey also shows that Orange County manufacturers are still expecting growth, but at a slower pace.

Commercial real estate is firmer in Orange County than elsewhere in the region. Direct office vacancy fell to 11.5 percent in the third quarter from 12.3 percent a year earlier, with three straight quarters of positive net absorption and asking rents up 4.6 percent year over year. Industrial vacancy also edged down to 8.8 percent, though the industrial construction pipeline is the smallest in five years. Apartment construction is rising, with roughly 7,450 units underway, up 6.8 percent from a year earlier and led by the Irvine Company's 1,858-unit Discovery Park.

Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
Unemployment in the Inland Empire is 5.5 percent, compared with 5.2 percent statewide, and up from a post-pandemic low of 3.9 percent. As in the last quarter, the labor force is shrinking faster than employment, masking weaknesses in the labor market. Private education and health services account for all employment growth, while all other sectors combined are losing jobs. Federal health-care funding cuts are expected to be offset by state funding this year; midterm election results show some indication that federal cuts might not persist long-term.

Riverside and San Bernardino counties are the only SCAG counties to have gained population since 2020, though both show shrinking labor force and employment numbers. Logistics, local government and public education, and health care make up more than half of employment, and one worker in five is employed in logistics in San Bernardino County. This concentration recalls the region's vulnerability during the defense cuts and the housing bust of the 1990s. The effect of diesel prices on the logistics economy is not yet clear. California diesel prices are up nearly 60 percent from a year ago, but Inland Empire transportation and warehousing still added about 4,200 jobs over the past year. An effect on employment may appear in 2027 if import volumes cool while fuel costs stay high.

Ventura County
Ventura County has had six straight months of job losses since April, though as in the region's other counties this largely reflects a shrinking labor force–the county's unemployment rate is fairly low at

4.5 percent. Inflation-adjusted taxable sales are in steady decline, existing-home sales are stagnant, and new-home construction is running 5 percent below last year's pace. Some new developments are coming on-line including Panoramo Riverpark in Oxnard, Arrive Ventura, and the Lewis Road supportive housing project in Camarillo. Port of Hueneme exports are down 26 percent, and imports are down 7 percent. As a major port for European automobiles, the Port of Hueneme is hurt by tariffs more than other ports.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None.

AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
December 3, 2026

To: JPC - Joint Policy Committees

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

From: Courtney Aguirre, Department Manager
213-236-1990, aguirre@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Mega-Events, Communities, and Economic Opportunity: Lessons from the FIFA World Cup

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Information Only – No Action Required

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:
This item supports the following Strategic Priority 1: Establish and implement a regional vision for a sustainable future. 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region. 3: Spur innovation and action through leadership in research, analysis and information sharing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
As the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Southern California, SCAG supports informed regional decision-making through economic analysis, planning, and research. Large-scale events, such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LA28 Games), affect regional and local economies, transportation systems, businesses, and communities. Understanding these impacts can help inform planning and investment decisions, address potential challenges, and expand opportunities for regional benefits. At SCAG's Annual Economic Update, staff will present findings from the 2026 FIFA World Cup economic and community impact assessment, which examines Southern California's experience as a host region and identifies lessons for the LA28 Games. The full report will be published separately following the Annual Economic Update convening. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) will also present its report on the projected economic impacts of the LA28 Games.

BACKGROUND:
As the MPO for the six-county Southern California region, SCAG monitors economic conditions, demographic trends, and regional performance indicators to support planning and policymaking. Since 2009, SCAG's Annual Economic Update has provided stakeholders with analyses and insights into the economic conditions of the region and its six counties. This research helps regional leaders understand emerging issues and their implications for economic vitality and long-term regional development. SCAG's assessment of the World Cup's initial economic and community impacts, alongside research conducted by regional partners, builds on this role by advancing understanding of

how major events affect Southern California. Together, these efforts provide insights into opportunities and challenges that can inform preparations for the LA28 Games and other large-scale events.

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP OVERVIEW

The World Cup is one of the world's largest sporting events. The 2026 tournament was the largest single-sport event in history, featuring 48 teams and 104 matches across 16 host cities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Southern California hosted eight matches at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, with total attendance exceeding 560,000 across the eight matches. The tournament's reach extended beyond the stadium as domestic and international visitors and Southern California residents participated in fan festivals, fan zones, watch parties, and other community events. These activities brought the World Cup into communities throughout the region, highlighting the importance of coordinating transportation, visitor information, and local preparations across multiple destinations.

Transportation coordination was a central component of the region's hosting efforts. Metro served as the official public transit provider for the event and led implementation of the transportation strategy for spectators in collaboration with transit agencies (e.g., Metrolink and the Orange County Transportation Authority) and transportation partners throughout Southern California. This regional effort connected existing transit services with enhanced World Cup service, expanding access to SoFi Stadium from across Los Angeles and Orange counties. The World Cup provided an opportunity to test a regional transit-first approach for major events and generated lessons that can inform planning for the LA28 Games and future large-scale events.

Alongside transportation preparations, business engagement programs helped local companies prepare for tournament-related opportunities. The Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee collaborated with FIFA's Local Impact Supplier Program to identify, vet, and select local companies to meet tournament procurement needs. The Get in the Game Initiative, a multiyear effort led by a coalition of business and community organizations, provided training, resources, and connections to help small businesses prepare for contracts associated with the World Cup and other major events and investments. LAEDC complemented these efforts through regional outreach, sharing supplier and procurement opportunities, promoting business engagement resources, and helping businesses prepare for visitor activity and participate in fan zones and community events.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LA28 GAMES AND SCAG'S ROLE

While the LA28 Games will be significantly larger and more geographically dispersed, the World Cup offers valuable lessons to inform preparations for the LA28 Games and other large-scale events. Understanding what worked, where challenges emerged, and how outcomes varied across businesses and communities can help policymakers and agencies identify priorities for planning, investment, and coordination.

SCAG leads the Games Mobility Executives (GME) Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Subcommittee and co-leads the GME Marketing, Communications and Outreach Subcommittee alongside the Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the LA28 Games (LA28). Through these roles, SCAG is coordinating regional strategies to manage travel demand, support reliable access for residents and businesses, and provide consistent travel information. SCAG is also leading a Community Hubs Program to activate public spaces and support community-centered placemaking during the LA28 Games. Findings from the World Cup assessment can inform these efforts, including strategies to encourage transit use and multi-modal travel, strengthen business readiness, and support community events and local programming.

2026 ANNUAL ECONOMIC UPDATE PRESENTATIONS

SCAG conducted the 2026 FIFA World Cup economic and community impact assessment, titled "Mega-Events, Communities, and Economic Opportunity: Lessons from the FIFA World Cup," to evaluate visitor trends, economic activity, transportation outcomes, and community impacts associated with the tournament. Amitabh Barthakur, Partner at HR&A Advisors, will present key findings from the assessment and their implications for the LA28 Games. To complement this presentation, Shannon Sedgwick, Vice President of Research at LAEDC, will present highlights from LAEDC's recently published analysis of the projected economic impacts of the LA28 Games. These presentations provide both a retrospective assessment of the World Cup and a forward-looking perspective on the opportunities associated with the LA28 Games. SCAG's full report will be published separately following the Annual Economic Update convening. LAEDC's report can be found online here.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Southern California Association of Governments
December 3, 2026

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SPECIAL JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES
(COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CEHD);
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC); AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TC))
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCAG WEBSITE AT: http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/

The Joint Policy Committees of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

CEHD Members Present:

Hon. David Shapiro (Chair)	***Calabasas***	**District 44**
Hon. Rocky Rhodes (Vice Chair)	***Simi Valley***	**District 46**
Hon. Joe Baca	*Rialto*	SBCTA
Hon. Debbie Baker	*La Palma*	District 18
Hon. Wendy Bucknum	*Mission Viejo*	District 13
Hon. Tanya Doby	*Los Alamitos*	OCCOG
Hon. Debra Dorst-Porada	*Ontario, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Ms. Lucy Dunn	Business Representative	Ex-Officio
Hon. Keith Eich	*La Cañada Flintridge*	District 36
Hon. Shaunna Elias	*Glendora*	District 33
Hon. Bob Engler	*Thousand Oaks*	VCOG
Hon. Margaret E. Finlay	*Duarte*	District 35
Hon. John Gabbard	*Dana Point*	District 12
Hon. Mike Goodsell		ICTC
Hon. John Grass	*Brawley*	ICTC
Hon. Mark Henderson	*Gardena*	District 28
Hon. Cecilia Hupp	*Brea*	OCCOG
Hon. William Hussey	*Grand Terrace*	SBCTA
Hon. Megan Kerr	*Long Beach, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Sup. Matt LaVere	*Ventura County*	CoC
Hon. John Mirisch	*Beverly Hills, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Joseph Morabito	*Wildomar*	WRCOG
Hon. Cynthia Moran	*Chino Hills*	Member at Large
Hon. Sheila Rossi	*South Pasadena*	AVCJPA

Hon. Becky Shevlin	*Monrovia*	SGVCOG
Hon. Mark Waronek	*Lomita*	SBCCOG
Hon. Jeff Wood	*Lakewood*	District 24
Hon. Judy Woolsey	*Yucaipa*	SBCTA
Hon. Tony Wu	*West Covina*	SGVCOG
Hon. Frank Yokoyama	*Cerritos*	District 23

CEHD Members Not Present:

Hon. Cindy Allen	*Long Beach*	District 30
Hon. Valerie Amezcua	*Santa Ana*	District 16
Hon. Drew Boyles	*El Segundo*	District 40
Hon. Chelsea Byers	*West Hollywood*	District 41
Hon. Don Caskey	*Laguna Hills*	OCCOG
Hon. Rose Espinoza	*La Habra*	OCCOG
Hon. Waymond Fermon	*Indio*	CVAG
Hon. Claudia M. Frometa	*Downey*	District 25
Hon. Martin Fuentes	*Cudahy*	GCCOG
Hon. Victoria Garcia	*San Fernando, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Gary Gardner	*Desert Hot Springs*	District 2
Hon. Peggy Huang	*Yorba Linda*	OCCOG
Hon. Lynda Johnson	*Cerritos*	GCCOG
Hon. Jed Leano	*Claremont*	SGVCOG
Hon. Anni Marshall	*Avalon*	GCCOG
Hon. Betty Martinez Franco	*Irvine, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	*Tribal Gov't Reg'l Planning Rep.*	
Hon. Geneva Mojado	*Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians*	
Hon. Joseph Murphy	*Pechanga Band of Indians*	
Hon. Sharona Nazarian	*Beverly Hills*	WSCCOG
Hon. Misty Perez	*Port Hueneme, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Nithya Raman	*Los Angeles*	District 51
Hon. Sonny Santa Ines	*Bellflower*	GCCOG
Hon. Mary Solorio	*San Fernando*	SFVCOG
Hon. Helen Tran	*San Bernardino*	SBCTA
Hon. Valerie Vandever	*San Jacinto*	WRCOG
Hon. Acquanetta Warren	*Fontana*	SBCTA
Hon. Frank Zerunyan	*Rolling Hills Estates*	SBCCOG

EEC Members Present:

Hon. Daniel Ramos (Vice Chair)	***Adelanto***	**District 65**
Hon. Ana Beltran	*Westmoreland*	ICTC

Hon. Art Bishop	*Apple Valley*	SBCTA
Hon. Martha Cardenas-Singh		Imperial County
Hon. Margaret Clark	*Rosemead*	District 32
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	*Santa Paula*	District 47
Hon. Carmen Hernandez	*Barstow*	SBCTA
Hon. Shari Horne	*Laguna Woods*	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff	*Rolling Hills Estates*	SBCCOG
Hon. Joe Kalmick	*Seal Beach*	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster	*Simi Valley*	VCOG
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	Riverside	District 68
Hon. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Patty Senecal	Seal Beach	OCCOG
Hon. Jennifer Stark	*Claremont*	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Taj	*Artesia, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Tamala Takahashi	*Burbank*	SFVCOG
Hon. Dale Welty	*Canyon Lake*	WRCOG

EEC Members Not Present:

Hon. Rick Denison (Chair)	**Yucca Valley**	**District 11**
Hon. Daniel Brotman	*Glendale*	AVCJPA
Hon. Robert Copeland	*Signal Hill*	GCCOG
Hon. Ned Davis	*Westlake Village*	LVMCOG
Hon. Brian Johsz	*Chino Hills*	SBCTA
Hon. Steven Leash	*Cahuilla Band of Indians*	
Hon. Yasmine-Imani McMorrin	Culver City	WCCOG
Hon. Cory Moss	*Industry, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios	*Ventura*	VCOG
Hon. Suely Saro	Long Beach	District 29
Hon. Connor Traut	Buena Park	OCCOG
Hon. Stephanie Virgen	*Coachella*	CVAG

TC Members Present:

Hon. Mike T. Judge (Chair)		**VCTC**
Hon. Thomas Wong (Vice Chair)	**Monterey Park**	**District 34**
Hon. Zeel Ahir	*Artesia*	GCCOG
Hon. Phil Bacerra	*Santa Ana, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Ryan Balius	*Anaheim*	District 19
Hon. Brian Berkson	*Jurupa Valley, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Denise Delgado	*Coachella, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Jonathan Dumitru	*Orange*	District 17
Hon. John Dutrey	*Montclair*	District 9

Hon. William Go	*Irvine*	District 14
Hon. Jan Harnik		RCTC
Hon. Lauren Hughes-Leslie	*Lancaster*	NCTCJPA
Hon. Fred Jung	*Fullerton*	OCCOG
Hon. Trish Kelley		TCA
Hon. Linda Krupa	*Hemet*	District 3
Hon. Ken Mann	*Lancaster*	NCTC
Hon. Steve Manos	*Lake Elsinore*	District 63
Hon. Ray Marquez	*Chino Hills*	District 10
Hon. Larry McCallon		Air District Representative
Hon. Marsha McLean	*Santa Clarita, Pres. Appt.*	District 67
Hon. L. Dennis Michael	*Rancho Cucamonga*	SBCTA
Hon. Carol Moore	*Laguna Woods*	OCCOG
Hon. Juan Muñoz-Guevara	Lynwood	GCCOG
Hon. Frank Navarro	*Colton*	District 6
Hon. David Ready	Palm Springs	CVAG
Hon. Gabriel Reyes	*Adelanto, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Crystal Ruiz	*San Jacinto*	WRCOG
Hon. Ali Saleh	*Bell*	District 27
Hon. Tim Sandoval (Chair)	*Pomona*	District 38
Hon. Zak Schwank	*Temecula*	District 5
Hon. Emma Sharif	*Compton*	District 26
Hon. Marty Simonoff	*Brea*	District 22
Hon. Wes Speake	*Corona*	WRCOG
Hon. Karen Spiegel		Riverside County
Hon. Steve Tye	*Diamond Bar*	District 37
Hon. William Uphoff	Lomita	SBCCOG
Hon. Michael Vargas	*Perris, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Wallace, Colleen	*Banning*	WRCOG
Hon. Alicia Weintraub	*Calabasas*	LVMCOG

TC Members Not Present:

Hon. Javier Amezcua	*Calipatria*	ICTC
Hon. Adele Andrade-Stadler	*Alhambra*	SGVCOG
Hon. Kathryn Barger		Los Angeles County
Hon. Austin Bishop	*Palmdale*	District 43
Hon. Jeanette Burns	*Morongo Band of Mission Indians*	
Hon. Bryan Fish	*Culver City*	WCCOG
Hon. Jason Gibbs	*Santa Clarita*	NCTC
Hon. Curt Hagman		San Bernardino County
Hon. Laura Hernandez	*Port Hueneme*	District 45

Hon. Heather Hutt	*Los Angeles*	District 57
Hon. Lauren Kleiman	*Newport Beach*	District 15
Hon. Andrew Lara	Pico Rivera	District 31
Hon. Carlos A. Leon		OCTA
Hon. Bridgett Lewis	*Torrance, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Clint Lorimore	*Eastvale*	District 4
Hon. Tim McOsker	*Los Angeles*	District 62
Hon. Linda Molina	*Calimesa, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Zizette Mullins	*Burbank*	AVCJPA
Hon. Ara Najarian	*Glendale*	SFVCOG
Hon. Nikki Perez	*Burbank*	District 42
Hon. Gil Rebollar	*Brawley*	District 1
Hon. Ed Reece	*Claremont*	SGVCOG
Mr. Marlon Regisford	*Caltrans District 7*	Ex-Officio Member
Hon. Steve Sanchez	*La Quinta*	District 66
Hon. Asam Sheikh	*Torrance*	SBCCOG
Hon. Jeremy Smith	*Canyon Lake, Pres. Appt.*	Member at Large
Hon. Ward Smith	*Placentia*	OCCOG
Hon. Hilda Solis		Los Angeles County
Hon. Cynthia Sternquist	*Temple City*	SGVCOG
Hon. Butch Twining	*Huntington Beach*	District 64
Hon. Scott Voigts	*Lake Forest*	OCCOG
Hon. Don Wagner		Orange County
Hon. Alan Wapner		SBCTA/SBCOG
Hon. Zhen Wu	*San Clemente*	OCCOG

Staff Present

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer
Julie Shroyer, Chief Information Officer
Jefferey Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First Vice President Ray Marquez called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and asked the Honorable

Mike Goodsell, ICTC, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was confirmed.

Remote Participation
Frank Navarro: ADA

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

First Vice President Marquez opened the Public Comment Period for persons to comment on any matter pertinent to SCAG's jurisdiction that were not listed on the agenda.

Ruben Duran, Board Counsel, acknowledged there were no public comments.

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

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no reprioritization of items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Connect SoCal 2050: Policy Development and Trends

First Vice President Marquez stated that they had gathered all the Policy Committees to discuss Connect SoCal 2050, which was the next update to their Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). He explained that developing this plan every four years was one of SCAG's major statutory requirements and noted that each of the Policy Committees had received presentations in recent months with updates about goals for this plan, and the overall process to prepare them for the work ahead. He indicated that during the meeting they would hear about regional trends and preliminary growth projections to set the stage for the policy discussions that they would be engaging in over the next two years.

Philip Law, Deputy Director of Regional Planning, Policy, and Analysis, provided an overview of the kickoff of the Connect SoCal 2050 update. He reported that substantial technical work had already been completed, including prior policy committee reviews of the current Connect SoCal plan and applicable federal and state requirements. He noted that the Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee had approved the Growth Vision Guiding Principles for Regional Council consideration and that the Local Data Exchange process with the region's 197 jurisdictions would begin shortly. Mr. Law explained that the update would assess regional conditions, growth projections, and future challenges through the new Connect SoCal Futures Project. He emphasized the plan's role as a federally required long-range planning document that supports transportation

funding eligibility, regional planning, and related processes such as Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). He also outlined the draft Policy Development Framework, introduced the proposed Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee to provide cross-cutting policy guidance, and reviewed the project timeline, with plan adoption activities continuing through 2027 and early 2028, along with upcoming committee appointments, policy framework finalization, and policy discussions.

Sarah Dominguez, Department Manager of Planning Strategy, presented SCAG's *State of the Region* report, which was developed to provide a historical and current assessment of regional trends and inform Connect SoCal 2050 policy discussions. She reported on key findings across the areas of mobility, communities, environment, and economy, including increasing population diversity and educational attainment, changing travel patterns marked by higher levels of remote work and declining per-capita transit ridership, and rising pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities. Ms. Dominguez also noted that housing production had not kept pace with household growth, contributing to ongoing affordability challenges, while environmental indicators showed reductions in vehicle miles traveled and water consumption alongside increasing climate-related impacts such as extreme heat. She further reported that the region's economy had demonstrated resilience through recovery from the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, with improvements in income, employment, and poverty rates, and encouraged members to review the interactive report for additional details.

Kevin Kane, Planning Supervisor of Demographics & Growth Vision, presented the demographic, housing, and employment forecasts that will serve as a foundation for Connect SoCal 2050. He reported that the region's population of approximately 18.5 million was projected to remain relatively unchanged through 2050 due to declining fertility rates and reduced immigration, while household growth was expected to continue with the addition of approximately 850,000 households as housing production addresses longstanding shortages and changing demographic trends. Mr. Kane also noted that employment growth was projected to be modest, with most gains occurring before 2035 and concentrated in the healthcare and social assistance sector. He highlighted long-term trends including an aging population, rising median age, and smaller household sizes, and emphasized that housing affordability, equitable housing opportunities, and workforce support would remain key policy considerations. He concluded that the forecast provides a technically credible basis for Connect SoCal 2050 and noted that additional local-level data would be evaluated through the upcoming Local Data Exchange process.

Committee members and Regional Council members engaged in a discussion regarding the demographic, housing, employment, and transportation forecasts presented for Connect SoCal 2050. Questions focused on population growth, household formation, housing affordability, artificial intelligence, workforce development, immigration, aging demographics, transportation trends, and the relationship between Connect SoCal forecasts and the RHNA. Staff explained that the forecasts reflect national and regional demographic trends, including declining fertility rates, slower population growth, an aging population, changing household structures, and the increasing influence of automation and technological change. Staff also discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on

travel behavior, remote work, migration patterns, and population growth, and noted that housing affordability, workforce needs, healthcare access, and housing production would remain important policy considerations. Members emphasized the need for coordination between education and workforce development, consideration of healthy communities and aging-in-place strategies, continued investment in a balanced transportation system, and careful evaluation of the long-term implications of immigration trends, healthcare demand, artificial intelligence, and economic change. Staff further introduced the Futures Initiative as a parallel effort to explore a range of plausible future scenarios and emerging trends to help inform Connect SoCal 2050 policy development, while noting that many of the policy issues raised would be examined in future committee and subcommittee discussions.

The vote for Item No. 1 is reflected below with the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting – December 4, 2025

Board Counsel Duran apologized and noted that public comment had not been requested on Item No. 1 He advised the Chair to call for public comment on both the prior discussion item and the Consent Calendar.

First Vice President Marquez stated that for the sake of time he would be requesting that they include the vote for the Consent Calendar with Item No. 1. Seeing no objections, he asked if they had members of the public wishing to speak on Item No. 1 and the Consent Calendar.

The Clerk of the Board announced that Regional Council Member Chelsea Byers, West Hollywood, District 41, was not at a noticed location but had her hand raised to make a public comment.

Board Counsel Duran indicated that they could allow her to speak.

Regional Council Member Byers reflected on the presentation and discussion, emphasizing the importance of SCAG's long-range regional planning efforts and the need to maintain a forward-looking vision for Southern California. She highlighted concerns regarding projected population decline and the potential loss of congressional representation, noting the relationship between population growth, economic strength, and regional influence. Member Byers stressed the importance of addressing housing shortages and expanding a diverse range of housing opportunities to attract and retain residents, and encouraged continued efforts to support a welcoming, prosperous, and globally competitive region for future generations.

There were no other public comments on Item No. 1 or the Consent Calendar.

Board Counsel Duran informed the committee that due to the large number of participants attending the Joint Policy Committees meeting, roll call would be conducted by committee in alphabetical order consistent with regular procedures. He requested that members participating remotely remain attentive for their names to be called and keep their microphones muted until recognized. He also noted that technical issues, including audio interference and static, had occurred during the meeting and thanked members for their patience and cooperation in supporting an orderly and efficient roll call process.

A MOTION was made (Wallace) to approve Item No. 1: Recommend that the Regional Council establish a special Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee to provide overarching policy leadership for development of the Connect SoCal 2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and Consent Calendar Item No. 2. Motion was SECONDED (Mirisch). The motion passed by the following roll call votes:

AYES: **(CEHD)** Baca, Baker, Bucknum, Doby, Dorst-Porada, Eich, Elias, Engler, Finlay, Gabbard, Goodsell, Grass, Henderson, Hupp, Hussey, Kerr, LaVere, Mirisch, Morabito, Moran, Rhodes, Rossi, Shapiro, Shevlin, Waronek, Wood, Woolsey, Yokoyama; **(EEC)** Beltran, Bishop, Cardenas-Singh, Clark, Crosswhite, C. Hernandez, Horne, Huff, Kalmick, Litster, Lock Dawson, Lopez, Ramos, Taj, Takahashi, Welty; **(TC)** Ahir, Bacerra, Balius, Berkson, Dutrey, Go, Harnik, Hughes-Leslie, Judge, Jung, Kelley, Mann, Manos, Marquez, McCallon, McLean, Michael, Muñoz-Guevara, Navarro, Reyes, Ruiz, Saleh, Sandoval, Schwank, Simonoff, Spiegel, Tye, Uphoff, Wallace, Weintraub, and Wong (75)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, First Vice President Marquez adjourned the Joint Policy Committee meeting in memory of Carlene Adams at 11:40 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE JOINT POLICY COMMITTEES]

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AGENDA ITEM 4

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
December 3, 2026

To: EAC - Executive Administration Committee
JPC - Joint Policy Committees
RC - Regional Council

From: Sarah Dominguez, Department Manager (PS)
213-236-1918, dominguezs@scag.ca.gov

Subject: Senate Bill 1087 (Cabaldon): Update and Next Steps

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

Kome Ajise

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR EAC:
Information Only – No Action Required

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR JPC and RC:
Receive and File.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:
This item supports the following Strategic Priority 2: Be a cohesive and influential voice for the region.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The state's four largest Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) co-sponsored legislation Senate Bill (SB) 1087 (Cabaldon) to reform SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008). In August, both the Assembly and the Senate passed the bill. Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill on September 30. Previous staff reports on the bill sponsorship process have been taken to the SCAG Legislative/Communications and Membership Committee. This staff report provides an update for the Policy Committees and summarizes the near-term impacts to Connect SoCal 2050 and next steps.

BACKGROUND:
SB 1087 (Cabaldon) – SB 375 SCS Reform
Sponsored by the state's four largest Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and SCAG, SB 1087 by Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D-West Sacramento) seeks to modernize the SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008) framework for regional climate, land use, and transportation planning by streamlining the sustainable communities strategy (SCS) planning process.

SB 375 History

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 in 2005 calling for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The 2020 goal was codified into law in 2006 with the passage of landmark climate legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Warming Solutions Act of 2006, by former Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and Senator Fran Pavley. The new law created the first-of-its-kind program in the country, requiring the reduction of GHG emissions and tasking the California Air Resources Board (CARB) with the authority to adopt regulations and oversee the reduction of GHGs.

Senate Bill (SB) 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, by Senator Darrell Steinberg, followed in 2008. Recognizing that transportation produces nearly half of the state's GHG emissions, Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 375 into law, requiring CARB to provide each region in the state with a GHG emission reduction target for the automobile and light truck sector and for each region to develop a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) to achieve that target as part of the region's transportation plan. Specifically, the bill required CARB to determine GHG emission-reduction targets for each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the state at two points: 2020 and 2035.

Each MPO must prepare a plan detailing how it will meet the GHG emission-reduction targets through its SCS, developed as part of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). SCAG's first target for the RTP/SCS in 2012 was to achieve an eight percent reduction in per capita GHG emissions from 2005 levels by 2020 and to reduce emissions by 13 percent from 2005 levels by 2035. In March of 2018, CARB updated its regional targets and assigned the SCAG region a 19 percent emissions reduction target for 2035, relative to 2005 levels.

SCAG's most recent RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2024 contains over 2,000 projects, including railroad grade separations, street safety improvements, active transportation projects, and managed lanes. These projects are evaluated cohesively as one system, considering how they work together, and not on a project-by-project basis.

SB 375 Challenges

In 2017, California's legislature passed SB 150 by Senator Benjamin Allen, requiring CARB to prepare a report every four years on the progress that each MPO has made in meeting its regional GHG emission reduction target. The most recent 2022 Progress Report suggests that California is not on track to reduce GHG emissions from personal vehicle travel as needed under SB 375, which risks California's ability to meet its overall climate goals. This report also highlighted that achieving SB 375 GHG reduction targets requires a stronger focus on implementation, which necessitates alignment across state, regional, and local actions.

The report outlined 56 local, regional, and state actions needed to support SCS implementation. Of the 56 actions needed, 52 required actions by a state agency or the Legislature. While regional agencies are responsible for developing the SCS, implementation requires support and action at all levels of government.

Meanwhile, the state has made progress toward a zero-emission transportation sector with the passage of the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) regulation, which required that all new vehicles sold in the state starting in 2035 must be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). However, from an SB 375 perspective, this meant that regions could no longer fully account for any ZEV strategies as part of their GHG emission target achievement. So, despite the $1 billion investment in ZEV rebates documented in Connect SoCal 2024, and SCAG's past planning work for electric vehicle charging, SCAG was unable to fully account for the related GHG emission reductions in the 19 percent target achievement. In SCAG's previous RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2020, ZEV strategies, such as increased incentives and charging infrastructure, represented -1.76 percent of the 19 percent GHG emission reduction, making it the single most effective GHG emissions reduction strategy. Although ACC II is currently facing significant federal challenges, changes to the state's overall zero-emission vehicle goals are unlikely. As a result, these state policies will continue to affect the strategies and GHG reductions that can be accounted for in our plan.

SB 1087 (Cabaldon)

With the next target setting deadline of 2026 quickly approaching, the Big 4 MPOs, including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission-Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ABAG), the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and SCAG, engaged in a comprehensive, statewide stakeholder process, including housing, transportation, environmental, and business advocates, to reform and strengthen the policy framework governing SB 375. Former Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg was retained to convene these discussions.

These efforts culminated in the introduction of SB 1087 by Senator Chris Cabaldon (D-West Sacramento), which sought to modernize SB 375 by establishing a more cohesive planning framework aligned with current realities. Improvements sought by the Big 4 MPOs included focusing on implementation, ensuring the SCS reflects a balanced set of state goals, and increasing transparency around CARB's GHG emissions reduction target-setting process.

The bill underwent an extensive public participation process as Senator Cabaldon and his team, joined by the Big 4 MPOs, remained heavily engaged with stakeholders throughout the state to gather feedback and improve the bill. These discussions were guided by the original intent established by the Big 4 MPOs to make the SCS more transparent and implementable. On September 30, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law.

Major provisions of the bill include:

1. Move the process from a four-year to an eight-year cycle

An SCS takes about four years to complete. By the time it gets accepted by CARB, MPOs immediately begin work on the next plan. Moving the planning process from four years to eight years will allow MPOs to focus on plan implementation during the second half of the eight-year cycle. Per the statute, for SCAG the switch from a four-year to an eight-year cycle will occur with the 2032 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

2. Establish an SCS implementation progress report

Starting with the first non-SCS RTP cycle (2036 for SCAG) MPOs will be required to prepare a progress report. The report will summarize progress toward the applicable GHG reduction target, including regional trend indicators, and describe progress in implementing each major GHG-reducing strategy, policy, program, or project identified in the SCS. It must also assess legal, policy, and funding barriers that may be limiting further progress on the major GHG reduction strategies, including factors outside the MPO's control.

3. Add transparency and additional considerations for GHG reduction target setting

The bill requires CARB to establish and publicly disclose its target-setting methodology and assumptions, consult with MPOs, affected air districts, the Department of Transportation, California Transportation Commission, Department of Housing and Community Development, local governments, and other practitioners and technical experts, release draft targets for public comment, and hold regional workshops and public hearings before adopting final targets. It would also require targets to account for the combined effects of state, federal, and local policies and investments, including vehicle efficiency and technology, while considering existing conditions, financial constraints, and other factors affecting what is realistically achievable in each region.

4. Sets a 60-day timeline for CARB's review of a region's SCS

Currently, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has 60 days to review and accept or reject a region's SCS. However, SCAG's 2024 SCS was not approved until 309 days after submission. To ensure the review process is completed within a reasonable timeframe, SB 1087 establishes statutory safeguards that encourage timely action by CARB. Under the bill, an SCS would be deemed approved for purposes of implementation and funding alignment if CARB does not act within the prescribed timeframe.

5. Add a 2045 GHG emissions-reduction target

Amended into the bill by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, this provision builds upon the 2020 and 2035 greenhouse gas reduction targets established under SB 375 and sets the framework for CARB's next update of regional GHG reduction targets.

Other elements of the bill include state agency accountability for Caltrans to align with SCS planning and further linkages between the SCS and state housing law. The bill also reaffirms existing law that CARB and regional agencies cannot override local land use plans or housing elements.

NEXT STEPS

With the passage of SB 1087, there are limited impacts for SCAG's currently-in-development RTP/SCS, Connect SoCal 2050. SCAG's existing target of 19 percent GHG reduction from 2005 levels by 2035 remains in effect for this cycle, which will still be a four-year SCS.

The changes under SB 1087 that will have impacts to Connect SoCal 2050 mostly relate to process and do not conflict with the Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework approved by the Regional Council in October 2026. Two of the immediate changes relate to timing: SCAG will submit its draft Technical Methodology to CARB at least twelve months before plan adoption (formerly required in advance of outreach activities) and will hold the elected official briefings prior to, instead of after, the release of the draft Connect SoCal 2050. The bill also permits MPOs to hold virtual meetings to satisfy workshop and informational meeting requirements. This is a practice that SCAG used for Connect SoCal 2024 to provide access to stakeholders above and beyond the required workshops. SCAG will also need to take into account the housing needs of both the existing and projected population when identifying areas within the region sufficient to house the population, consistent with the federal requirement to use reasonable planning assumptions. Then, following adoption of Connect SoCal 2050 in spring 2028, SCAG will benefit from the increased certainty on the SCS review timeline provided by SB 1087.

The new targets for the eight-year SCSs must be set by CARB by December 31, 2028. SCAG staff anticipate engaging with CARB and other stakeholders in the new target setting and guidelines development process starting next year, but no specific dates or process beyond that established by SB 1087 have yet been communicated by CARB.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Governor Newsom: SB 1087 Signing Letter
2. PowerPoint Presentation - SB 1087

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1087, the most significant update to California's Sustainable Communities Strategy framework since SB 375 was enacted nearly two decades ago.

SB 375 established the first statewide framework for coordinating long-term transportation, infrastructure, and development planning with California's climate goals. It recognized that meeting our climate goals would require more than cleaner vehicles alone and, for the first time, called on regional planning agencies, working with the communities they represent, to take a comprehensive view of the policies and investments that help shape how their communities grow. That vision remains essential. But experience has shown that too much time and too many resources can be spent repeatedly developing plans instead of carrying them out.

SB 1087 shifts the focus toward implementation. It extends the Sustainable Communities Strategy planning cycle from four years to eight, better aligns state transportation investments with regional priorities, and strengthens accountability among state, regional, and local partners for carrying out the policies, investments, and projects needed to support sustainable development and economic growth.

SB 1087 preserves SB 375's longstanding approach to regional coordination while maintaining local land-use authority. The role of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) remains limited to establishing regional emissions-reduction targets. The bill does not authorize CARB to direct local land-use decisions or change local control over zoning, project entitlements, or permits for housing and other development projects. It does not alter state

housing law or create a new approval process for development projects. Importantly, SB 1087 establishes a more streamlined, durable framework for setting and reviewing regional emission-reduction targets without impeding the state's broader efforts to accelerate housing production.

How and where we grow shapes the long-term demands on infrastructure, natural resources, and public services. California's future depends on our ability to grow, build, and meet our climate goals together. SB 1087 provides a stronger framework to do exactly that.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 1087:
Update and Next Steps

December 2026

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV

Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Planning

Legislation setting statewide climate goals beginning in 2006 (Assembly Bill 32)



Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008)

- California Air Resources Board (CARB) sets per-capita GHG emission reduction targets
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plans must demonstrate strategies to achieve targets

SB 375: Challenges after 15+ Years









- Implementation support and funding didn't fully materialize
- SCAG and other MPO's began meeting with CARB, Caltrans, CTC, HCD to discuss possible administrative solutions in Fall 2024

SB 1087: Legislative Reform to SB 375

Co-sponsors: SCAG, MTC, SACOG and SANDAG

Author: Senator Christopher Cabaldon

Bill intent: Focus on implementation instead of technical process

"California's future depends on our ability to grow, build and meet our climate goals together. SB 1087 provides a stronger framework to do exactly that."
- Governor Gavin Newsom

Next Steps: Impacts to Connect SoCal 2050

- No change:
  - Connect SoCal 2050 will be a 4-year cycle
  - Same GHG emission reduction target of 19% below 2005 levels by 2035
- Changes:
  - Technical Methodology: Submission 12 months before plan adoption
  - Elected Official Briefings: To be held in advance of draft plan release
  - Identification of areas to house the population: to include existing and projected population
  - SCS Review: More CARB accountability to meet review timelines

Next Steps: CARB Guidelines and Target Setting

- CARB must set new targets for 2035 and 2045 by **December 31, 2028**
- CARB must hold at least two technical workshops before **December 1, 2028**, inviting MPOs, air districts, Caltrans, CTC, HCD, local governments, and other practitioners and technical experts.
- CARB must publish its methodology and assumptions **60 days** before draft targets
- Other CARB requirements include exchanges of information, public workshops, public hearing on draft targets and adoption of final targets at a board meeting.

THANK YOU

For more information, contact:
ConnectSoCal@scag.ca.gov