

### **Housing Element Update Workshops**

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will be holding a number of workshops throughout the SCAG region to assist local jurisdictions with updating their housing elements: October 30 (Orange), November 13 (SCAG Los Angeles office), November 14 (Ontario), November 20 (Palm Desert), November 28 (Camarillo), and December 5 (Long Beach). Videoconferencing will be available at SCAG satellite offices for the November 13 workshop. To RSVP, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov/HEW2012](http://www.scag.ca.gov/HEW2012). The deadline for the jurisdictions to submit their 5th Cycle local housing element updates to HCD is October 15, 2013.

### **CalEPA Environmental Health Screening Tool Update**

A workshop intended to offer local governments and stakeholders the opportunity to receive relevant information and provide input to CalEPA on the draft Environmental Health Screening Tool will be held during the week of December 10 at SCAG's Los Angeles office. Participation from SCAG's satellite offices will also be available. I will provide information on the workshop once details are confirmed.

### **City Managers' Summits**

Throughout the fall, I have been traveling the region and meeting with City Managers to discuss areas of shared interest. In October, I met with City Managers from Las Virgenes Malibu, Gateway Cities, Western Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial and Coachella Valley and hosted a meeting at SCAG's Los Angeles Office. I will meet with the San Gabriel Valley and Ventura County City Managers in November. The agenda for these meetings included the following topics: RTP/SCS Subcommittees, Southern California Economic Recovery & Job Creation Strategy Phase II, 2016 RTP/SCS Growth Forecast Process and SCAG's upcoming Sustainability Program. I try to meet with the City Managers several times a year to update them on SCAG activities and receive their input on increasing member benefits and making SCAG membership more valuable.

### **Imperial County Highway Sanctions Update**

On October 16, the Board of Directors of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) held a public hearing and approved ICAPCD's revised Fugitive Dust Rules and Regulations. The adopted Fugitive Dust Rules and Regulations Revisions were subsequently submitted to the California Air Resources Board on October 23. The ICAPCD Board of Directors' action represents a major milestone which is on, if not ahead of, the expected schedule of efforts by various agencies to turn off the highway sanctions by February 2013. As I reported previously, no job loss and no impact on transportation projects will occur if the highway sanctions are lifted as anticipated by February 2013.

### **Regional CEOs Sustainability Working Group**

As part of the follow-up implementation activities related to the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), SCAG has convened a working group of the County Transportation Commissions' Chief Executive Officers and key staff. The purpose of this group is to discuss and develop initiatives that promote overall sustainability, implement the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and contribute policy ideas for the 2016 RTP/SCS. The first meeting of the group was held on October 29 at SCAG. Staff will provide periodic reports to the Regional Council on the group's progress.

### **SCAG Clean Cities Recognition**

The SCAG (Southern California) Clean Cities Coalition region was recognized as the leader out of over 100 participating Department of Energy (DOE) sanctioned coalitions, receiving top awards in a number of categories, including: greatest displacement in petroleum using compressed natural gas (CNG) and greatest increase in both liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuel use and propane (LPG) fuel use. SCAG and its Clean Cities Coalition commend the efforts that the regional partners have undertaken in recent years designed to reduce petroleum consumption through the advancement of alternative fuels. The SCAG Clean Cities Coalition looks forward to working with the regional partners to further advance the displacement of petroleum composition in the SCAG region.

## **Brawley Bypass Ribbon Cutting**

On October 18, I attended the Brawley Bypass Ribbon Cutting with 1st Vice President Greg Pettis and Regional Council Member Cheryl Viegas-Walker. The Brawley Bypass is an eight-mile, four-lane divided expressway from SR-86 north of the city of Brawley to 1.5 miles south of the eastern junction of SR-111 and SR-78 in Imperial County. The route is scheduled to open to the public in late November.

The Brawley Bypass project was one of the strategic priorities in the very first Imperial County Long Range Transportation Plan jointly developed by SCAG, IVAG and Caltrans District 11 and adopted back in June, 1990. It is an important project for the Imperial Valley as it provides tremendous air quality and quality of life benefits for the people in Brawley. Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to make it a reality.

## **Regional Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan**

In 2011, SCAG, in partnership with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Western Riverside Council of Governments, and South Bay Cities Council of Governments, applied for and received a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a Regional Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. Work is proceeding on this effort, with UCLA Luskin Center engaged as a consultant. At this time, SCAG, with its partners, is preparing a proposal to CEC to supplement the existing contract in order to fund participation in a national marketing campaign promoting electric vehicles. SCAG and SCAQMD would represent the region in development of the campaign led by the national group "GoElectricDrive." SCAG's role is to ensure the inclusion of California and Southern California messages, themes and communication in the national campaign. The Energy and Environment Committee has an information item on this proposal on the November 1 agenda. SCAG staff expects to submit a proposal during the month of November.

## **GIS Services Program Update**

The SCAG GIS Services Program is a free service to SCAG member agencies. Currently, 79 local jurisdictions and two partner agencies (Coachella Valley Association of Governments and Imperial County Transportation Commission) are participants. I would like to welcome the Cities of Brea, Calabasas, Carson, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Hemet, Huntington Beach, Monrovia, Orange, Redondo Beach, San Fernando, Thousand Oaks, Victorville and Westminster and the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange and the Ventura County Transportation Commission as new participants. SCAG looks forward to assisting these jurisdictions and partners with customized GIS projects.

The SCAG GIS Services Program is intended to help local agencies save money and better leverage their assets, add efficiency to their planning processes, and/or provide new services to their residents and businesses. SCAG has provided nearly 200 different types of GIS services through the program, including the training of over 300 participating staff from member jurisdictions (expected to exceed 500 participants by the end of 2012) and has provided free hardware, ArcGIS software and data to 20 local jurisdictions. SCAG's conservative estimate of savings to participating jurisdictions is \$2 million to date.

## **SCAG Research Accepted for Presentation at Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting**

SCAG regularly conducts research on best practices and future innovations in regional planning. This year, SCAG Staff submitted two research papers to the TRB's 2013 Annual Meeting that detailed recent work completed on the Environmental Justice Analysis for the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Both papers were selected through a highly competitive review process for inclusion in this year's program. TRB, which is a division of the National Research Council, draws over 11,000 transportation professionals to its Annual Meeting. Attendees include policy makers, practitioners, researchers, administrators and representatives of industry, government and academic institutions. This year's conference theme is "Deploying Transportation Research – Doing Things Smarter, Better, Faster."

## **Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Grant**

The California Strategic Growth Council recently issued guidelines for a third round of Urban Greening Planning and Project Grants. Grant funds can be awarded to, among others, local governments, councils of governments, county authorities, metropolitan planning organizations, special districts, joint powers authorities where at least one entity qualifies as an eligible applicant, or non-profit organizations. Two workshops are scheduled in the SCAG region. The first is scheduled for November 1 (10 am to 1 pm) at Pasadena City College and the second on November 15 (10 am to 1 pm) at Anaheim City Hall. For additional information, please visit: [http://www.sgc.ca.gov/urban\\_greening\\_grants.html](http://www.sgc.ca.gov/urban_greening_grants.html).