



Southern California Association of Governments  
June 4, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EEC). A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

<b>Hon. Rick Denison (Chair)</b>	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
<b>Hon. Daniel Ramos (Vice Chair)</b>	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Ana Beltran	<i>Westmoreland</i>	ICTC
Hon. Art Bishop	<i>Town of Apple Valley</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Daniel Brotman	<i>Glendale</i>	District 42
Hon. Martha Cardenas-Singh		Imperial County
Hon. Robert Copeland	<i>Signal Hill</i>	GCCOG
Hon. Margaret Clark	<i>Rosemead</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Hon. Carmen Hernandez	<i>Barstow</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Shari Horne	<i>Laguna Woods</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Britt Huff	<i>Rolling Hills Estates</i>	SBCCOG
Hon. Brian Johsz	<i>Chino Hills</i>	SBCTA
Hon. Joe Kalmick	<i>Seal Beach</i>	District 20
Hon. Elaine Litster	<i>Simi Valley</i>	VCOG
Hon. Vianey Lopez		Ventura County
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Yasmine-Imani McMorrin	<i>Culver City</i>	WCCOG
Hon. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios	<i>Ventura</i>	VCOG
Hon. Suely Saro	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 29
Hon. Patty Senecal	<i>Seal Beach</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Jennifer Stark	<i>Claremont</i>	SGVCOG
Hon. Ali Taj	<i>Artesia</i>	Pres. Appt
Hon. Tamala Takahashi	<i>Burbank</i>	SFVCOG
Hon. Stephanie Virgen	<i>Coachella</i>	CVAG

**Members Not Present**

Hon. Ned Davis	<i>Westlake Village</i>	LVMCOG
Hon. Steven Leash	<i>Cahuilla Band of Indians</i>	
Hon. Cory Moss	<i>City of Industry</i>	Pres. Appt
Hon. Connor Traut	<i>Buena Park</i>	OCCOG
Hon. Dale Welty	<i>Canyon Lake</i>	WRCOG

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Denison called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Second Vice President, Jenny Crosswhite, Santa Paula, District 47, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff confirmed a quorum was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chair Denison opened the public comment period and noted that this was the time for members of the public to offer comment on matters that are within SCAG’s jurisdiction but are not listed on the agenda.

Chair Denison asked if any comments were received after the deadline. SCAG staff acknowledged there were no public comments received after the 5:00 p.m. deadline on March 4, 2026.

Seeing no public comment, Chair Denison closed the public comment period for matters not listed on the agenda.

**REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests to prioritize agenda items.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACTION ITEM**

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chief Counsel Jeffery Elder stated one nomination had been received for Chair, Rick Denison, Yucca Valley. He stated that in addition to nominees received before the meeting, SCAG’s rules allowed nominations from the floor. He then described the process for nominations from the floor and the election.

Chief Counsel Jeffery Elder stated the floor was open for nominations for Chair. Seeing no nominations from the floor, he closed the nomination period.

Chief Counsel Jeffery Elder stated they would move to the nominations for Vice Chair. He stated one nomination had been received for Vice Chair, for Daniel Ramos, City of Adelanto. He stated the floor was open for nominations for Vice Chair. Seeing no nominations from the floor, he closed the nomination period.

Chief Counsel Jeffery Elder stated the vote for Chair and Vice Chair would be combined into one vote and requested the clerk proceed with roll call.

Roll call was taken to approve the nomination for Rick Denison as Chair and Daniel Ramos as Vice Chair. The vote passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Beltran, Bishop, Brotman, Cardenas-Singh, Clark, Copeland, Crosswhite, Denison, Hernandez, Horne, Huff, Kalmick, Litster, Lock Dawson, Lopez, Ramos, Sanchez-Palacios, Stark, Taj, and Virgen (20)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting – February 5, 2026

##### Receive and File

3. EEC Outlook and Future Agenda Items
4. REAP 2.0 Program Update
5. Innovative Clean Transit Regional Assessment Study Update

A MOTION was made (Kalmick) to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion was SECONDED (Stark) and passed by the following votes:

**AYES:** Beltran, Bishop, Brotman, Cardenas-Singh, Clark, Copeland, Crosswhite, Denison, Hernandez, Horne, Huff, Kalmick, Litster, Lock Dawson, Ramos, Sanchez-Palacios, Stark, Taj, and Virgen (19)

**NOES:** None (0)

**ABSTAIN:** None (0)

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 6. Connect SoCal 2050: Vision, Goals, and Policy Review

There were no public comments on item 6.

Leslie A. Cayton, Associate Regional Planner, indicated that the plan framework included implementation strategies, vision and goals, and regional planning policies, which were adopted prior to the draft plan release in July 2023. She stated that the vision aimed for a prosperous, accessible, and connected region by 2050, supported by goals across mobility, communities, environment, and economy. She indicated that policy priorities were organized into mobility, communities, environment, and economy, including several new policy areas, with equity and resilience applied across all. Lastly, she presented new and upcoming initiatives that included scenario planning through Connect SoCal Futures, a draft policy development framework, and the launch of a Local Data Exchange.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

### 7. Release of SCAG's Regional Resilience Toolkit

There were no public comments on item 7.

Sebastian Shetty, Associate Regional Planner, provided a brief introduction on the Resilience Toolkit and stated that resilience planning helped communities recover from shocks and addressed ongoing stressors while reducing risks and improving recovery outcomes. He indicated SCAG supported regional resilience by providing policies, resources, and opportunities for collaboration among jurisdictions and stakeholders. He stated that the toolkit served as a practical, flexible guide with tools and resources that supported both planning and compliance efforts and that understanding local risks required identifying vulnerabilities and aligning local priorities with regional coordination. Lastly, he indicated that resilience planning was critical to recovery by improving resource mobilization and funding resilience efforts involved a mix of grants, financial tools, private investment and innovative financing opportunities.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

### 8. LA County Heat Action Plan

There were no public comments on item 8.

Ali Frazzini, Policy Director, LA County Chief Sustainability Office, indicated that a heat action plan was needed due to increased heat impacts on health, infrastructure, and inequities. She stated that the plan provided a coordinated, equity-centered framework to address heat impacts across jurisdictions and support regional collaboration. She stated that the plan was developed through extensive engagement with community members, technical experts, and stakeholders to incorporate both data and lived experiences. She indicated key goals were cooling outdoor spaces, improving indoor resilience, and improving urban greening. She stated the CHAP was adopted in February 2026 and would guide coordinated action across governments, organizations, and funders. Lastly, she stated next steps were coordination on state funding opportunities, preparations for 2026 heat season and partnerships to support heat resilience for mega events.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

#### 9. Green Schoolyard Retrofits for Resilience

There were no public comments on item 9.

Claire Robinson, Executive Director, Amigos de Los Rios, stated that she had spent over two decades redesigning public school campuses in under-resourced communities to address climate impacts, outdated infrastructure, and student wellbeing. She indicated that traditional schoolyards dominated by asphalt created extreme heat conditions, poor drainage, and limited opportunities for play and learning. She stated this prompted her team to replace these surfaces with “green schoolyard” designs that integrated tree canopy, shade structures, pervious concrete, stormwater capture systems, and nature-based play areas. She stated that these multi-benefit projects reduced heat exposure, mitigated flooding and vector issues, improved physical and mental health, and enhanced academic engagement by connecting students to environmental concepts like watershed management. She indicated that the work also addressed accessibility gaps for disabled and neurodivergent students while serving as a model for broader community resilience. She noted that despite long-term cost savings, implementation of green schoolyards faced barriers such as limited school funding, high staff turnover, lack of technical expertise, and fragmented coordination across agencies. Lastly, she stated there was a need for stronger collaboration between school districts and municipalities to scale solutions.

The comprehensive staff report was included in the agenda packet and posted on the SCAG website. The meeting video is also available on the SCAG website.

#### **CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chair Denison stated that SCAG has published a new resource to support local communities with collaborative planning, information and resource sharing, that limit the effects of disasters and accelerate recovery for local communities and the entire Southern California region. He stated the toolkit is intended for use by any jurisdiction in Southern California, regardless of size,

population, experience in resilience planning, or direct encounters with the shocks and stressors of the current age. He stated SCAG had also published the “Water Resolution White Paper” which evaluated shared water management challenges. He stated that the Regional Council would vote on an action to approve \$871,000 in Last Mile Freight Program Rebate Program funding for three projects to purchase Class 4/5 battery-electric vehicles. He stated that the SoCal Greenprint has moved into the final phase of development and that SCAG had begun outreach to agency staff and business and environmental representatives of the Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee. He indicated that their input will inform the subsequent tool to be developed and released in June.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ivette Macias, Senior Government Affairs Officer, reminded the committee about the upcoming General Assembly occurring in Palm Desert. She stated that SCAG Scholarship Program in partnership with the California Transportation Foundation, would award nine \$4,000 scholarships to high school or community college students from the SCAG region. She indicated that students in any field of study were invited to apply and the program application period would close March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

There were no announcements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Denison adjourned the Energy and Environment Committee meeting at 11:17 a.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EEC]

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**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**2025-2026**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Total Mtgs Attended To Date</b>
Beltran, Ana	Westmoreland, ICTC	1			0		0			1	1				3
Bishop, Art	Apple Valley, SBCTA	1			0		1			1	1				4
Brotman, Daniel	Glendale, RC District 42				1		0			0	1				2
Cardenas-Singh, Martha	Imperial County				1		1			0	1				3
Clark, Margaret	Rosemead, RC District 32	1			1		1			1	1				5
Copeland, Robert	Signal Hill, GCCOG	0			0		1			0	1				2
Crosswhite, Jenny	Santa Paula, RC District 47	1			1		1			1	1				5
Davis, Ned	Westlake Village, LVMCOG	1			1		1			1	0				4
Denison, Rick	Yucca Valley, RC District 11	1	<b>D</b>		1		1	<b>D</b>		1	1				5
Hernandez, Carmen	Barstow, SBCTA	1	<b>A</b>		1		1	<b>A</b>		1	1				5
Horne, Shari	Laguna Woods, OCCOG	1	<b>R</b>		1		1	<b>R</b>		0	1				4
Huff, Britt	Rolling Hills Estates, SCBCOG	1	<b>K</b>		0		1	<b>K</b>		1	1				4
Johsz, Brian	Chino Hills, SBCTA	1			0		1			0	1				3
Kalmick, Joe	Seal Beach, RC District 20	1			1		1			1	1				5
Leash, Steven	Cahuilla Band of Indians	0			0		0			1	0				1
Litster, Elaine	Simi Valley, VCOG	1			1		0			1	1				4
Lock Dawson, Patricia	Riverside, District 68	0			0		0			1	1				2
Lopez, Vianey	Ventura County	1			1		1			1	1				5
McMorrin, Yasmine-Imani	Culver City, WCCOG	1			1		1			1	1				5
Moss, Cory	City of Industry, Pres. Apt	0			0		1			0	0				1
Ramos, Daniel	Adelanto, SBCTA	1			1		1			1	1				5
Sanchez-Palacios, Jeanette	Ventura, VCOG	0			0		0			0	1				1
Saro, Suely	Long Beach, RC District 29	0			0		1			1	1				3
Senecal, Patty	Seal Beach, OCCOG	1			0		0			1	1				3
Stark, Jennifer	Claremont, SGVCOG	1			1		1			1	1				5
Taj, Ali	Artesia, Pres. Apt	1			0		1			1	1				4
Takahashi, Tamala	Burbank, SFVCOG	1			1		1			1	1				5
Traut, Connor	Buena Park, OCCOG	1			1		1			1	0				4
Virgen, Stephanie	Coachella, CVAG	0			1		1			1	1				4
Welty, Dale	Canyon Lake, WRCOG	1			1		1			1	0				4