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REVISED - TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS

MEETING OF THE

CONNECT SOCIAL 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE

*Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend
In-Person & Remotely*

**Wednesday, October 14, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

To Attend In-Person:

**SCAG Main Office – Policy B Meeting Room
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

To Participate on Your Computer:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/89044728505>

To Attend and Participate by Phone:

**Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 890 4472 8505**

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: <https://scag.ca.gov/meetings-subcommittees>.

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 Members of the Public 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 Policy B Meeting Room on the 17th floor starting at 1:00 p.m.

Attend by Computer: Click the following link: <https://scag.zoom.us/j/89044728505>. 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.

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: 890 4472 8505**, 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 **Tuesday, October 13, 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. Written comments received after 5pm on **Tuesday, October 13, 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.



REVISED

CONNECT SOCIAL 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE

TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE AT THESE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS*

Zeel Ahir 18801 Elaine Avenue Artesia, CA 90701	Art Bishop Town of Apple Valley - Town Hall 14955 Dale Evans Pkwy Conference Room A Apple Valley, CA 92307	Evelyn Blumenberg UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs 3250 Public Affairs Building, Room 5276 Los Angeles, CA 90095
Martha Cardenas-Singh 940 W. Main Street, Suite 209 El Centro, CA 92243-2839	Jenny Crosswhite City of Santa Paula - City Hall 970 E Ventura Street Santa Paula, CA 93060	Paul Granillo 2151 E Convention Center Way, Suite 210 Ontario, CA 91764
Laura Hernandez City of Port Hueneme - City Hall 250 N. Ventura Road Port Hueneme, CA	Peggy Huang City of Yorba Linda - City Hall 4845 Casa Loma Avenue Yorba Linda, CA 92886	Fred Jung City of Fullerton - City Hall 303 W Commonwealth Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832
Frederico Molina SCAG Imperial County Regional Office 1503 N. Imperial Avenue, Suite 104 El Centro, CA 92243	Joseph Murphy 3317 Forty Mile Road Weatland, CA 95692	Daniel Ramos City of Adelanto - City Hall 11600 Air Expressway Adelanto, CA 92301
Sheila Rossi City of South Pasadena - Council Chambers 1424 Mission Street South Pasadena, CA 91030	Wes Speake City of Corona - City Hall 400 South Vicentia Avenue, 3rd Floor Corona, CA 92882	Tamala Takahashi City of Burbank - City Hall 275 East Olive Avenue, 2nd Floor Burbank, CA 91502
Dale Welty Western Riverside Council of Governments 1955 Chicago Ave., Suite 200 Riverside, CA 92507	Zhen Wu City of San Clemente - City Hall 910 Calle Negocio 1st Floor Conference Room B San Clemente, CA 92673	Frank Yokoyama 11540 Gonsalves Street Cerritos, CA 90703

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



CONNECT SOCIAL 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE

CSC2050 Subcommittee Members – October 2026

- 1. Hon. Jenny Crosswhite (Chair)**
Ventura County Representative
- 2. Hon. Zeel Ahir**
Los Angeles County Representative
- 3. Hon. Joe Baca**
San Bernardino County Representative
- 4. Hon. Art Bishop**
San Bernardino County Representative
- 5. Prof. Evelyn Blumenberg**
UCLA, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
- 6. Hon. Martha Cardenas-Singh**
Imperial County Representative
- 7. Mr. Paul Granillo**
Business Representative
- 8. Hon. Laura Hernandez**
Ventura County Representative
- 9. Hon. Peggy Huang**
Orange County Representative
- 10. Hon. Fred Jung**
Orange County Representative
- 11. Mr. Frederico Molina**
Future Leaders Initiative Graduate, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
- 12. Hon. Joseph Murphy**
Tribal Representative
- 13. Prof. Dowell Myers**
USC, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
- 14. Hon. Daniel Ramos**
San Bernardino County Representative



- 15. Hon. Sheila Rossi**
Los Angeles County Representative
- 16. Hon. Wes Speake**
Riverside County Representative
- 17. Hon. Tamala Takahashi**
Los Angeles County Representative
- 18. Hon. Colleen Wallace**
Riverside County Representative
- 19. Hon. Dale Welty**
Riverside County Representative
- 20. Hon. Zhen Wu**
Orange County Representative
- 21. Hon. Frank A. Yokoyama**
Los Angeles County Representative



CONNECT SOCAL 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700 - Policy B Meeting Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
1:00 PM

The Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee 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 Jenny Crosswhite, Chair)

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval Items

1. Minutes of the Meeting – August 12, 2026 PG. 7

Receive and File

2. Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee Updated Outlook and Future Agenda Items PG. 16
3. Connect Socal 2050: Preliminary Draft Regional Planning Policies PG. 24

INFORMATION ITEM

4. The Future Demographics of the SCAG Region PG. 30
(Kevin Kane, Planning Supervisor, SCAG)
5. Connect SoCal 2050: Focus on Demographics and Economic Implications PG. 48
(Camille Guiriba, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG)

ADJOURNMENT



Southern California Association of Governments
October 14, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
CONNECT SOCAL 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE (CSC2050)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONNECT SOCAL SUBCOMMITTEE (CSC2050). AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Connect SoCal Subcommittee (CSC2050) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its meeting virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, Chair

Hon. Zeel Ahir
Hon. Joe Baca
Hon. Art Bishop
Prof. Evelyn Blumenberg
Hon. Martha Cardenas-Singh
Mr. Paul Granillo
Hon. Peggy Huang
Hon. Fred Jung
Hon. Frederico Molina
Hon. Daniel Ramos
Hon. Sheila Rossi
Hon. Wes Speake
Hon. Tamala Takahashi
Hon. Colleen Wallace
Hon. Dale Welty
Hon. Zhen Wu
Hon. Frank Yokoyama

Ventura County Representative

Los Angeles County Representative
San Bernardino County Representative
San Bernardino County Representative
UCLA, Ex-Officio
Imperial County Representative
Business Representative
Orange County Representative
Orange County Representative
Future Leaders Initiative Graduate, Ex-Officio
San Bernardino County Representative
Los Angeles County Representative
Riverside County Representative
Los Angeles County Representative
Riverside County Representative
Riverside County Representative
Orange County Representative
Los Angeles County Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Keith Eich
Hon. Laura Hernandez
Hon. Joseph Murphy
Prof. Dowell Myers

Los Angeles County Representative
Ventura County Representative
Tribal Representative
USC, Ex-Officio

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Jenny Crosswhite called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and asked Hon. Sheila Rossi, Los Angeles County Representative, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Crosswhite opened the Public Comment Period.

The Deputy Clerk acknowledged there were no written public comments received.

Seeing no public comment speakers, Chair Crosswhite closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee Overview & Charter

Chair Crosswhite provided brief opening remarks and shared staff would provide an overview of the subcommittee's purpose, charter, and how they would help guide policy development of the next regional plan.

Chief Planning Officer, Sarah Jepson gave an introduction to the subcommittee. She welcomed members, emphasizing the importance of updating regional policy elements as part of SCAG's responsibility to develop a regional plan every four years. She shared the subcommittee was created to provide a forum for broad, cross-cutting policy discussions that complement the work of SCAG's Policy Committees. She stated the subcommittee included 19 voting members representing all six Southern California counties, as well as tribal government and business interests, with balanced participation from SCAG's three Policy Committees. Chief Planning Officer Jepson also recognized ex officio members, including UCLA Professor Evelyn Blumenberg, Future Leaders Initiative graduate Frederico Molina, and USC Professor Emeritus Dowell Myers. She introduced several SCAG staff members, including legal counsel Jeffrey Elder and planning staff Philip Law, Sarah Dominguez, and Camille Guiriba. She noted that the kickoff meeting would establish a foundation for the subcommittee's work through discussion of the charter, policy development framework, and public survey findings. She concluded with thanks to the members and a transition to Sarah Dominguez, Department Manager for a presentation on the Subcommittee Overview and Charter.

Sarah Dominguez, SCAG's Manager of Planning Strategy, gave an overview of Connect SoCal and the newly formed Connect SoCal Subcommittee. She explained that Connect SoCal serves as SCAG's federally required Regional Transportation Plan and state-required Sustainable Communities

Strategy, updated every four years to maintain federal transportation funding eligibility and meet air quality and greenhouse gas reduction requirements. She noted that Connect SoCal is more than a compliance document. It provides a regional framework for collaboration among local governments, transportation agencies, tribal governments, stakeholders, and community partners. She shared that for the current update; SCAG would retain its existing vision and goals while updating policies and strategies to address emerging priorities. Ms. Dominguez shared that although SCAG did not directly build infrastructure, it supported implementation through funding, technical assistance, research, and policy leadership. She stated the subcommittee would help guide regional planning policies and implementation strategies that shaped SCAG's programs and priorities. She stated Connect SoCal has the following five key components 1. Regional Planning Policies, 2. Transportation Project List, 3. Regional Development Pattern, 4. Regional Strategic Investments and 5. Implementation Strategies. Ms. Dominguez emphasized SCAG had the most discretion over the Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies, making them the subcommittee's primary focus. She noted that the Regional Council created the subcommittee in May 2026 to provide policy oversight, review public outreach and performance measures, and develop recommendations on the policy framework and draft policies before review by SCAG's Policy Committees. She then provided Jeffery Elder, Legal Counsel, and opportunity to make a correction on the charter.

Jeffery Elder, SCAG Legal Counsel noted that on page 17 and 18 of the packet, there was language that stated a quorum of the subcommittee's body was 50% of voting-eligible members. He stated this was an error as the Regional Council Policy Manual specifically stated that for these types of subcommittees, a quorum is just 50% of the membership. He stated he was requesting that when the subcommittee approved the Charter, they approved it with an amendment to the language in there to read, instead of 50% of voting eligible, it would say, a meeting quorum shall be established when there is attendance of 50% of the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee members. He stated he was not requesting any other changes, and this change, again, was to be consistent with the requirements of the Regional Council Policy Manual.

Ms. Dominguez continued her presentation stating that over the coming meetings, the subcommittee would review key plan policies, strategies, performance measures, public outreach efforts, and SCAG's Connect SoCal Futures scenario planning project, while also addressing important policy issues affecting Southern California. She shared the subcommittee would receive an early preview of the draft plan in August and review public comments and proposed policy updates in early 2028. Additionally, she explained that while SB 1087 may affect Sustainable Communities Strategy requirements, no significant changes to the subcommittee's role were anticipated. She also shared a timeline showing how the Subcommittee contributes to plan development by providing policy guidance at key decision points. Lastly, she stated Connect SoCal was scheduled for Regional Council adoption in spring 2028, making the policy direction established over the next year critical to preparation of the draft plan.

There were no public comments on Item 1.

Member Zeel Ahir, Los Angeles County Representative asked who their point of contact would be for members for any follow up questions. Specifically, she was inquiring as to how SCAGs transportation plan was designed. Ms. Dominguez and Ms. Jepson both addressed member Ahir's question.

A MOTION was made (Baca) to review and adopt the attached Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee Charter with an amendment to the language in the charter to say, a meeting quorum shall be established when there is attendance of 50% of the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee members. Motion was SECONDED (Wallace) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ahir, Baca, Bishop, Cardenas-Singh, Crosswhite, Huang, Jung, Ramos, Rossi, Speake, Takahashi, Wallace, Welty, Wu and Yokoyama (15)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

2. Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework

There were no public comments on Item 2.

Camille Guiriba, SCAG Senior Regional Planner and Project Manager for Connect SoCal 2050 provided a report on Item 2. She shared this item presented the Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework, which outlined how key policy elements of the plan would be updated over the next year. The framework focuses on three areas: structure, focus, and leadership. Ms. Guiriba shared that for structure, staff recommended maintaining the vision and goals established in Connect SoCal 2024, following the extensive updates and engagement completed last cycle. These long-term guideposts remained relevant through 2050. She explained that the primary update effort would focus on regional planning policies and implementation strategies to reflect emerging issues, recent policy direction, outreach findings, research, and Connect SoCal Futures work. For leadership, she stated the framework clarified the roles of the Regional Council, Policy Committees, and the Subcommittee in shaping policy development. She stated new elements in this cycle included the Connect SoCal Futures process and a single subcommittee structure rather than the three used previously. She explained that staff identified three key focus areas based on stakeholder engagement, research, regional trends, and Futures work. One was Demographics and economic implications. She explained slower population growth was expected to affect tax revenues and the fiscal health of local jurisdictions and the region. The second was transportation technology and the future of transit. Ms. Guiriba stated automation, electrification, artificial intelligence, and new mobility tools presented opportunities while raising policy questions around safety, access, sustainability, and equitable benefits. Third was complete communities and housing. She shared this was about exploring how the region can better support housing needs, infrastructure investment, and local economic development. She stated policy committees would continue providing subject-matter expertise, while this Subcommittee would address cross-cutting and overarching policy issues. Policy development will occur across multiple SCAG forums, including committees, technical advisory

groups, stakeholder convenings, and public outreach in early 2027. She stated the goal was to complete draft updates to regional planning policies and implementation strategies by summer 2027 for inclusion in the draft Connect SoCal 2050 plan before its fall 2027 release. Following public review, staff will return in early 2028 with strategy updates ahead of final plan adoption in spring 2028. Ms. Guiriba shared that day's action was for the Subcommittee to recommend adoption of the Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework. She stated this would confirm carrying forward the Connect SoCal 2024 vision and goals and focus the Subcommittee's work on updating regional planning policies, implementation strategies, and performance measures to address the identified focus areas.

Sheila Rossi, Los Angeles County Representative, shared two key concerns. First, she shared how demographic forecasting should extend beyond this year and include projections through 2030, when significant aging population shifts were expected. She stated forecasts should also account for the impacts of SB 79, particularly in cities required to accommodate substantial new housing development. She stated cities were receiving mixed signals. Projections showed population decline, while SB 79 may require planning for significant housing growth, creating uncertainty about future needs. Second, she shared that while transportation and infrastructure gaps were discussed, she was also concerned about infrastructure strain, particularly aging water and sewer systems beneath transportation networks. She stated recent water main breaks in Los Angeles highlight how failures in underground infrastructure can disrupt transportation and should be considered in long-term planning.

Ms. Guiriba responded to member Rossi's comments stating demographic analysis was part of developing the forecasted regional development pattern. She stated that as noted at the April Joint Policy Committee, a panel of experts was being reconvened to help refine the process. She stated that considerations such as SB 79 and planned local development were addressed through the Local Data Exchange (LDX) process, where SCAG was meeting with jurisdictions to understand their plans and legislative impacts. She stated that while not the focus of the subcommittee, these factors were being incorporated into the broader regional plan through parallel technical planning efforts.

Zhen Wu, Orange County Representative, noted that the current focus areas include demographics and their economic implications, transportation, housing, and communities. However, he believes an important topic is missing: the environmental challenges facing the region. He cited several examples, including sea level rise affecting coastal communities, wildfire hazards, and SB 429's authorization of a statewide public catastrophe modeling program, all of which have implications for urban development at the wildland-urban interface. He also highlighted heat waves, flooding, drought, and water supply issues. Many of these challenges are linked to climate change, which, alongside demographic change, is a major underlying force shaping the region. He recommended including environmental challenges in the areas of focus, either as part of the demographics discussion or as a separate focus area, before moving further into transportation, housing, and community topics.

Sarah Dominguez appreciated the comment and agreed that it could be integrated within each of those areas of focus, because she thought that the issues member Wu brought up weighed into how

they built their communities, how their transportation was impacting transportation, and thanked him for the note. She stated they would look to integrate that within those discussions.

Ex-Officio Member Professor Evelyn Blumenberg asked why the focus area was the future of transit rather than the broader future of mobility, noting that mobility also includes infrastructure issues already being discussed.

Camille Guiriba (SCAG) responded that transportation technologies encompass all forms of mobility, but SCAG was particularly concerned about the future of transit due to its fiscal health challenges and the demographic changes affecting the region. The focus reflected both evolving mobility patterns and the need to sustain transit systems in support of regional goals.

Member Ahir thanked Ms. Guiriba for the presentation and echoed comments from Members Rossi and Wu. She noted that the plan appeared heavily focused on economics and suggested greater emphasis on environmental concerns and data. She highlighted infrastructure strains from housing growth, particularly impacts on water supply that may not be fully evaluated due to reduced CEQA review requirements for ADUs. She also called for research on heat-related impacts, urban tree canopy needs, and infrastructure capacity. Regarding mobility, she emphasized improving walkability, bicycle infrastructure, and traffic-calming measures such as roundabouts, and encouraged advocacy with state legislators on these issues.

Dale Welty, Riverside County Representative, referenced SCAG's demographic presentation from May, which projected relatively flat population growth through 2050, a significant shift from earlier forecasts. He requested that an abbreviated version of the analysis be presented to the subcommittee, noting both the lack of projected population growth and the significant increase in the elderly and retired population. He also emphasized the Inland Empire's role as a major labor provider to coastal counties and suggested that bringing jobs closer to where workers live could reduce commuting burdens and significantly influence transportation policy.

Seeing no other member comments or discussion, Chair Crosswhite called for a motion to approve Item 2.

Member Ramos made the motion, seconded by Hon. Art Bishop, San Bernardino County representative. Member Wu asked if they could make a friendly amendment that they have the climate resiliency and environmental constraints integrated in each area. Both Member Ramos and Bishop were agreeable to the amendment.

A MOTION was made (Ramos) to recommend that the Regional Council adopt the Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework as modified to include climate resiliency and environmental constraints integrated in each area. Motion was SECONDED (Bishop) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ahir, Baca, Bishop, Cardenas-Singh, Crosswhite, Huang, Jung, Ramos, Rossi, Takahashi, Wallace, Welty, Wu, and Yokoyama (14)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

INFORMATION ITEM

3. SCAG Regional Survey

There were no public comments on Item 3.

Ms. Guiriba, provided an overview of the Connect SoCal 2050 regional survey, one of several inputs informing policy development. She stated the survey offered a statistically valid, region-wide view of resident priorities related to housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and quality of life. She shared it had been conducted from April 20-June 22 and that the survey gathered 3,154 responses through online and targeted in-person outreach. It was offered in five languages and closely reflected 2020 Census demographics across SCAG's six counties. She stated the survey was intended to complement, not replace, other outreach efforts by capturing perspectives beyond those who typically participate. She stated residents were asked about key regional issues, changes in conditions over the past decade, priorities among Connect SoCal goals and strategies, and transportation challenges. She explained housing emerged as the top regional concern, with 55.7% identifying the shortage of affordable housing as one of the two most important issues facing Southern California. She shared housing was also viewed as having worsened most over the past decade, with 61.6% reporting declining conditions. Ms. Guiriba explained that among regional goals, residents placed the highest priority on creating walkable communities and maintaining existing transportation infrastructure, while building new transportation infrastructure ranked lowest. Overall, respondents favored maintaining existing assets, improving access, and supporting complete communities. She stated that for mobility strategies, maintaining and repairing roads was the top priority, followed by improving bus and train stops and increasing transit service. In housing and communities, respondents strongly supported additional housing funding, housing near transit, redevelopment of underutilized properties, and renter protections. For environmental strategies, conserving natural and agricultural lands ranked highest, followed by infrastructure resilience. In the economy category, targeted freight and truck infrastructure was the top priority, with transit and mobility subsidies also ranking highly. She shared the survey also examined transportation insecurity. More than half of respondents reported skipping trips because of transportation problems, nearly half were unable to leave home when desired, and about one-third experienced impacts on personal or professional relationships. These effects were especially pronounced among regular transit users, highlighting transportation as a quality-of-life issue as well as an infrastructure issue. Lastly, she stated staff would use these findings alongside other data sources, including the Local Data Exchange process and State of the Region analysis, to refine Connect SoCal 2050 policies and guide public

outreach next year. Overall, the survey identified clear resident priorities and areas where additional engagement can help inform future policy direction.

Wes Speake, Riverside County representative stated the survey results felt very different from conditions in western Riverside County, where residents were heavily affected by traffic and limited public transit options. He noted that housing continued to be built in areas with few jobs, increasing commuting challenges. He was encouraged to see economic issues included in the discussion and referenced SCAG's plan, which identified congestion as a major barrier to economic growth. Member Speake emphasized that regional differences matter, arguing that a one-size-fits-all approach does not reflect local realities. He asked whether county- or region-specific data was available and stressed the need to communicate that freeway expansion is unlikely, making local employment opportunities and public transit investment increasingly important.

Ms. Guiriba responded that county-level summaries were included in the attachments and that future outreach would focus on specific communities and counties to better understand local responses.

Peggy Huang, Orange County representative asked about differences between Los Angeles and Orange County respondents regarding housing and job prospects and whether SCAG had asked why those differences existed. She noted the importance of understanding regional distinctions for planning purposes.

Ms. Guiriba stated the survey did not ask respondents why they held certain views. She explained that the survey was designed to collect quantitative data, while planned qualitative outreach in the spring would explore the reasons behind responses and help identify key issues and strategies.

Member Bishop agreed with member Speake's comments, noting similar commuting challenges in the High Desert of San Bernardino County, where many residents travel to jobs elsewhere in the Inland Empire. He supported the need for a more regionalized approach to transportation planning.

Member Wu asked for clarification on the survey methodology, specifically whether age and education were included in demographic matching. He also cautioned against overinterpreting the survey findings that affordable housing is a top concern. While housing affordability is a major issue, he noted that regional population growth is expected to stabilize, suggesting housing demand may not rise significantly. He argued that current affordability challenges may be partly driven by market conditions, including low homeowner mobility caused by historically low mortgage rates, and warned against assuming that large-scale affordable housing construction was the sole solution.

Ms. Guiriba confirmed that age was included as a demographic target in the sampling process.

Chief Planning Officer Jepson noted that the survey reflected public opinion and said the concerns raised highlight the need to compare public perceptions with SCAG's demographic and economic forecasts. She stated staff would return with additional data to support future discussions.



Chair Crosswhite suggested exploring what respondents meant by affordable housing, including whether they were referring to income-restricted affordable housing or housing that was affordable to their household income level.

Chief Planning Officer Jepson said future outreach efforts would allow SCAG to investigate these issues in greater detail.

Tamala Takahashi, Los Angeles County representative emphasized the value of public opinion surveys while cautioning that broad surveys may not capture local needs and experiences. She stressed the importance of combining public opinion with quantitative data and suggested examining factors such as job type, commuting patterns, and access to services. She noted that housing affordability should be considered alongside transportation, childcare, healthcare, and commute times, since a cheaper home may not be truly affordable if it requires a long commute.

Member Wu agreed and noted that housing affordability is often measured using a combined housing and transportation cost metric.

Chair Crosswhite concluded by thanking member for their participation and noting that the discussion raised important issues that would inform future work and more detailed conversations over the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Crosswhite adjourned the Meeting of the Connect SoCal Subcommittee at 2:19 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CSC2050]

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AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
October 14, 2026

To: CSC – Connect SoCal Subcommittee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Camille Guiriba, Senior Regional Planner (PS)
213-236-1809, guiriba@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee Updated Outlook and Future Agenda
Items

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File.

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In May 2026, the Regional Council took action to establish a special subcommittee to provide overarching policy leadership for development of Connect SoCal 2050, the next Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The purpose of this staff report is to provide an update to the outlook and future agenda items of the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee. It also includes a brief update on the final Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework, which was adopted by the Regional Council on October 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

At the first Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee in August 2026, staff provided an overview of the Subcommittee's role in providing policy leadership in the development process for the next long-range regional plan. That overview item also included a preliminary agenda outlook for the Subcommittee. Staff has since updated the future agenda items to ensure that the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee is appropriately phased with public outreach periods and overall plan development milestones. The schedule changes include one additional meeting and shifting items on the schedule to allow for more robust discussions on the three Areas of Focus included in the Policy Development Framework:

- Demographics and Economic Implications
 - Transportation Technology & Future of Transit
 - Complete Communities & Housing the Region
-

The updated outlook is included in the attached PowerPoint presentation. The topics covered may change based on progress on policy and/or plan development items, speaker availability, and other requests from the Subcommittee Chair as well as members.

Final Policy Development Framework

The Regional Council adopted the Final Policy Development Framework on October 1, 2026 (see attachment).

At its August 2026 meeting, the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee directed staff to include in the Policy Development Framework the consideration of the ways resilience impacts all three areas of focus. Staff added a section describing how resilience issues will be used as a lens for consideration of the policy discussions regarding all areas of focus.

When staff presented the Policy Development Framework to the Policy Committees in September 2026, members of the CEHD Committee recommended adoption of the framework with the inclusion of specific reference to the issue of safety and comfort of transit riders.

The added resilience lens and transit safety issue are detailed in the Areas of Focus section in the final Policy Development Framework.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation – Agenda Outlook
2. Final Policy Development Framework (as adopted by Regional Council, October 2026)

Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee Agenda Outlook

Meeting	Agenda Items
Aug 2026 <i>(past)</i>	- Subcommittee Overview + Charter Policy Development Framework - Report on Regional Survey Results
Oct 2026	- Updated Subcommittee agenda outlook - Preliminary Draft Regional Planning Policies - Demographic Forecast - Focus Issue Discussion: Demographics and Economic Implications
Dec 2026	- Focus Issue Discussion: Transportation Technology & Future of Transit - Draft Performance Measures - Public Outreach Preview

BOLD represents planned action items

Schedule subject to change

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

1

Agenda Outlook (continued)

Meeting	Agenda Items
Feb 2027	- Focus Issues Discussion: Complete Communities & Housing the Region - Report on Connect SoCal Futures
June 2027	- Draft Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies - Futures Final Report Final Performance Measures and approach to Economic Impact Analysis
Aug 2027	Final Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies - Public Outreach Results Summary
Sept 2027	Draft Plan Preview and Release
Feb 2028	- Public Comment Period Report - Proposed Revisions to Regional Planning Policies/Implementation Strategies

BOLD represents planned action items

Schedule subject to change

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

2

Connect SoCal 2050: Policy Development Framework

October 2026

Connect SoCal 2050, the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), will be prepared by SCAG in anticipation of a spring 2028 adoption. This Policy Development Framework presents the Policy Structure and the Areas of Focus to be expanded and refined through the planning process to advance the Vision and Goals. It also provides a Policy Development Leadership structure and outlook to foster policy education, engagement, consensus building, and decision-making among Regional Council members.

POLICY STRUCTURE

Connect SoCal 2050 will continue the policy structure as updated in Connect SoCal 2024.

VISION AND GOALS

The Vision captures what we want the region to be by 2050 and is supported by four Goals, each centered around a key theme. In the last plan cycle, staff conducted a major effort to engage stakeholders and the general public and consider them to remain evergreen pillars to the plan. For that reason, staff will not focus Connect SoCal 2050 policy update efforts on these elements but will consider changes if feedback is received through engagement with stakeholders and Regional Council members.

Vision

A healthy, prosperous, accessible and connected region for a more resilient and equitable future.

Goals

Mobility: Build and maintain a robust transportation network.

Communities: Develop, connect, and sustain livable and thriving communities.

Environment: Create a healthy region for the people of today and tomorrow.

Economy: Support a sustainable, efficient and productive regional environment that provides opportunities for all.

REGIONAL PLANNING POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Regional Planning Policies provide guidance for integrating land use and transportation planning to realize the vision of Connect SoCal. They serve as a compass for SCAG's planning and funding programs and help to set priorities for SCAG's work. They can also serve as a resource for County Transportation Commissions, local jurisdictions, and others as specific references to demonstrate alignment with Connect SoCal when seeking resources from state or federal programs.

Underneath each Regional Planning Policy are Implementations Strategies which articulate near-term priorities for SCAG efforts in fulfilling the Regional Planning Policies. These are areas where SCAG can lead, such as through the administration of funding programs.

Policy and Strategy Updates

The policy development process for Connect SoCal 2050 will focus on revising the Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies to reflect emerging issues and challenges the region is expected to face in the near and long term. Draft updates to these policy elements are to be completed in summer 2027 in advance of releasing the draft plan in fall 2027. Following the public comment period on the draft plan, Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies will then be finalized in winter 2028 in preparation for adoption of Connect SoCal 2050.

AREAS OF FOCUS

The areas of focus are key issues to guide the update of policies and strategies in Connect SoCal 2050.

Staff gathered multiple inputs to help identify the emerging issues to focus on for this planning cycle. This includes recent analysis like the State of the Region Report and other studies currently underway.

Staff also conducted early public outreach and engaged policy stakeholders in spring 2026 to understand which issues are most pressing to them. This included conducting a statistical survey of residents and discussions with the inaugural cohort of SCAG's Future Leaders Initiative.

Finally, staff is leading a project called Connect SoCal Futures. Connect SoCal Futures is engaging a diverse and representative group of key stakeholders across the SCAG region in identifying major trends and exploring a range of plausible futures beyond the expectations of standard planning analysis. These stakeholder perspectives are a new input to inform emerging issues and identify which policies are resilient in advancing the goals of the region in the face of plausible alternative futures.

There are three salient and interconnected challenges facing our region that will be areas of focus for policy development in Connect SoCal 2050:

Demographics and Economic Implications

As presented to the April 2026 Joint Policy Committee, SCAG staff developed a preliminary projection of population, household, and employment growth for Connect SoCal 2050's 2024-2050 time horizon for the region and its six counties. The latest information, modeling approaches, and top expert insights currently yield a long-range growth projection that is very different from prior RTP/SCS cycles in Southern California. Region-wide population change is expected to be minimal over the next twenty-five years, the combined effect of lower fertility rates, higher total mortality due to an older population, and changes to federal immigration policy. This flat population outlook will have implications on anticipated future tax revenues and the fiscal health of local jurisdictions and the region. In addition, the level of future job growth will also be constrained by a lower future population. However, in the long-run, the further integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and continued workplace automation suggest that the number of new jobs will bear a weaker relationship to economic growth and development.

Transportation Technology and the Future of Transit

Personal vehicles and commercial fleets continue to move toward automation, electrification, and AI. These technologies may offer new mobility options, improved connectivity, and increased accessibility for individuals, potentially transforming the way people move within and between communities. Policy questions remain regarding SCAG's role in ensuring that investments in emerging technologies advance safety, sustainability, and regional mobility outcomes while also preventing the exacerbation of

disparities. As these technologies reshape travel behavior and transportation systems, they also raise important questions about how transit can remain competitive, accessible, and responsive to rider needs. Policy discussions will also examine how transit safety, cleanliness, and behavioral health and homelessness-related challenges may influence rider confidence and, in turn, current and future transit utilization.

Complete Communities and Housing the Region

Complete Communities are neighborhoods and places that combine different types of land uses—such as housing, jobs, shops, services, and recreation—with convenient transportation options. Complete communities exist across the SCAG region and are an essential element of economic vitality, access to opportunity, and quality of life.

One essential element of complete communities is the availability of housing that meets the needs of the region. Housing affordability and supply remain critical regional issues, even as Southern California's overall population growth is expected to plateau through 2050. SCAG's role includes funding, data, technical assistance, policy dialogue, and consensus building to help cities and counties increase housing supply and affordability, support housing equity, expand housing diversity and choice, align housing with transportation, infrastructure planning and investments, and sustainability, and advance financial tools.

Building on these efforts, Connect SoCal 2050 can identify further policies that foster complete communities across the region, including those that lay the foundation for meeting the region's housing needs. Areas of exploration include how complete communities foster economic vitality at the local level and the importance of infrastructure investments in setting the table for the necessary planning and investments.

Lens Across Areas of Focus: Resilience

Resilience requires comprehensive consideration in planning efforts. Resilience refers to the capacity of the region's built, social, economic and natural systems to anticipate and effectively respond to changing conditions, acute shocks and chronic stressors by creating multiple opportunities for a sustainable, thriving and equitable future. Shocks are sudden and acute events that threaten immediate safety and well-being, such as earthquakes and wildfires. Stressors are ongoing challenges, often known or foreseen, that weaken built, social, economic and natural systems, such as persistent air quality issues or transportation system disrepair. One major known challenge that contributes to the occurrence of acute shocks and chronic stressors is climate change. Staff used a lens of resilience in the development of Connect SoCal 2024 to consider and address the shocks and stressors facing the region. For Connect SoCal 2050, staff will build upon the policy work in Connect SoCal 2024 to continue to consider resilience within intersectional policy discussions and identify additional ways to reduce the impacts of shocks and stressors on the region's systems.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP

Policy discussions that occur during SCAG's Policy Committee meetings provide valuable direction to staff on areas for further research, potential strategies to address regional challenges, and priorities for what to include in the proposed plan.

MAIN POLICY COMMITTEES

Staff will bring forward informational and discussion items related to the relevant Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies to each Policy Committee: highlighting context and data from staff research; perspectives from academics, researchers or policy experts; insights from local practitioners; and best practices to address Connect SoCal implementation. The plan topics to be discussed during development of Connect SoCal 2050 by each Policy Committee are outlined in the table below. These topics may change as part of the Connect SoCal 2050 Regional Planning Policies update process but illustrate the types of subject-specific topics that may be discussed at each Policy Committee this cycle.

Policy Committee Topic Areas for Connect SoCal 2050

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
<i>Regional Planning Policies</i>		
Mobility • System Preservation and Resilience • Complete Streets • Transit and Multimodal Integration • Transportation Demand Management • Transportation System Management • Technology Integration • Transportation Safety • Funding the System/User Fees Economy • Goods Movement • Tourism	Communities • Housing the Region • Complete Communities • Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making Economy • Tourism • Economic Development	Environment • Air Quality • Clean Transportation • Natural and Agricultural Lands Preservation • Climate Resilience
		<i>Environmental Compliance</i>
		• PEIR • Transportation Conformity • SB 375 Technical Methodology

JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

The issues facing the region are intersectional and often do not neatly fit within one committee. For that reason, it is occasionally necessary to hold a Joint Policy Committee meeting of members from all three Policy Committees (Transportation; Community, Economic and Human Development; and Energy and Environment) to share pertinent information, discuss key plan development issues or seek coordinated actions or recommendations.

SPECIAL CONNECT SOCIAL 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE

To provide additional leadership on overarching policy development for Connect SoCal, the President of the Regional Council appointed members to the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee at the June 2026 Executive Administrative Committee retreat.

The subcommittee is comprised of at least two members from each of the three Policy Committees with representation across the region and includes four ex-officio members to provide additional policy perspective. The main responsibility of the subcommittee are to advance recommendations to SCAG Policy Committees on the following items:

- Final Policy Development Framework
- Draft Plan Policies: proposed updates to the Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies prior to release of draft Connect SoCal 2050.
- Final Plan Policies: last updates to Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies given feedback from public comment period of the draft plan.

In addition to the above responsibilities, the Subcommittee will also engage in discussions regarding the plan Performance Measures and updates on public outreach to inform the policy considerations. The Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee will convene between August 2026 and early 2028 and shall be dissolved when Connect SoCal 2050 is adopted by the Regional Council in spring 2028.



AGENDA ITEM 3

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
October 14, 2026

To: CSC – Connect SoCal Subcommittee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

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

Kome Ajise

Subject: Connect SoCal 2050: Preliminary Draft Regional Planning Policies

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following Strategic Priority 1: Establish and implement a regional vision for a sustainable future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A primary responsibility of the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee is to provide direction to staff on the update of Regional Planning Policies that guide the strategies, actions, and investments in Connect SoCal. The most recent Connect SoCal Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (Connect SoCal 2024) was adopted in April 2024 and includes 88 Regional Planning Policies to guide integrated land use and transportation planning. Given the breadth of policies and to build upon the progress of previous plans, the work of the committee per the adopted Connect SoCal 2050: Policy Development Framework is to use the areas of focus to guide the update of policies and strategies for the plan. The areas of focus includes: Demographics and Economic Implications, Transportation Technology and the Future of Transit, and Complete Communities and Housing the Region. This staff report includes preliminary draft policies that streamline and simplify the Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Planning Policies and is intended as a reference point before incorporating further policy direction. These policies will be updated as part of Connect SoCal 2050 development to reflect recent analysis, trends and direction from SCAG Policy Committees as informed by the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND:

Connect SoCal 2024, adopted in April 2024, included Regional Planning Policies¹ to provide guidance for integrating land use and transportation planning to realize the vision of Connect SoCal. They serve as a compass for SCAG's planning and funding programs and help to set priorities for the agency's

¹ Connect SoCal 2024: Chapter 3.3 Regional Planning Policies: <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/23-2987-connect-socal-2024-final-complete-040424.pdf#page=115>

work. Regional Planning Policies help to inform and align local planning with federal, state and regional goals. They are also a resource for County Transportation Commissions and local jurisdictions, who can refer to specific policies to demonstrate alignment with Connect SoCal when seeking resources from state or federal programs. However, there are no one-size-fits-all solutions in such a diverse region, so it is up to local agencies to identify which are the most applicable Regional Planning Policies. In total, Connect SoCal 2024 included 88 Regional Planning Policies across the plan pillars of Mobility, Community, Environment and Economy.

For Connect SoCal 2050, SCAG needs to update policies and strategies considering recent trends analyses, changes in the policy landscape, emerging technology and other new information about transportation and land use issues. In October 2026, the Regional Council approved the Policy Development Framework for Connect SoCal 2050 which identified 18 distinct policy topic areas.

The attached preliminary draft regional planning policies reflect an initial review by SCAG staff to simplify and streamline the policies by topical area for easier adherence and reference by local partners. The changes do not represent a deviation in the general policy direction set in the adopted Connect SoCal 2024. Through the Connect SoCal 2050 development process, changes and additions to the specific policies can be made based on direction from the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee and SCAG Policy Committees. Next year, these policies will be paired with implementation strategies that articulate priorities for SCAG's effort in realizing the vision for Connect SoCal.

The Regional Planning Policy areas are:

Mobility

- Complete Streets
- Transportation Safety
- System Preservation and Resilience
- Technology Integration
- Multimodal Integration
- Transportation Demand Management
- Transportation System Management
- Funding the System/User-Fees

Communities

- Complete Communities
- Equitable Engagement and Decision-Making
- Housing the Region

Environment

- Air Quality
- Clean Transportation
- Climate Resilience
- Natural and Agricultural Lands Preservation

Economy

- Economic Development
- Goods Movement
- Tourism

The major revisions from Connect SoCal 2024 include:

- Removal of *Sustainable Development* as a standalone: integrated into other policies
- Consolidation of *Priority Development Areas* and *15-Minute Communities* into *Complete Communities*
- Proposal for an *Economic Development* policy: details to follow further policy discussion
- Removal of *Broadband* as a standalone: integrated into other policies
- Removal of *Workforce Development* as a standalone: will be integrated into *Economic Development* as appropriate

NEXT STEPS

For the October, December, and February 2027 Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee meetings, members will discuss the areas of focus as identified in the Policy Development Framework: Demographics and Economic Implications, Transportation Technology and the Future of Transit, and Complete Communities and Housing the Region. Following those discussions and concurrent subject matter specific staff reports to each Policy Committee, members will receive a formal presentation of draft Regional Planning Policies at a March Joint Policy Committee meeting to be followed by additional discussion and stakeholder outreach before finalizing policies in advance of the release of the draft Connect SoCal 2050 in fall 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Connect SoCal 2050: Preliminary Draft Regional Planning Policies

Connect SoCal 2050: Preliminary Draft Regional Planning Policies

October 2026

Connect SoCal 2024, adopted in April 2024 included Regional Planning Policies to provide guidance for integrating land use and transportation planning to realize the vision of Connect SoCal. They serve as a compass for SCAG's planning and funding programs and help to set priorities for the agency's work. The Regional Planning Policies are a resource for County Transportation Commissions and local jurisdictions, who can refer to specific policies to demonstrate alignment with Connect SoCal when seeking resources from state or federal programs. The below preliminary draft regional planning policies reflect an initial review by SCAG staff to simplify and streamline the policies by topical area for easier adherence and reference by local partners. The changes do not represent a deviation in the policy direction set in the adopted Connect SoCal 2024.

MOBILITY

COMPLETE STREETS

Support Complete Streets strategies that integrate new mobility options and first/last mile connections for both people and goods. Develop Complete Streets that reflect local contexts and prioritize safety.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries by prioritizing protection of vulnerable road users, integrating equity into safety and security planning, supporting approaches that protect transit riders and operators, and using data-driven methods to guide investment decisions.

SYSTEM PRESERVATION AND RESILIENCE

Prioritize the repair, maintenance, and preservation of existing transportation systems, including fixing roads, bridges, transit/rail vehicles, and other key infrastructure before considering new construction. Help the region meet asset management targets and keep the transportation system safe, dependable, and in good condition.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Promote smart cities approaches, including emerging mobility technologies, clean transportation solutions, digital infrastructure, and data-informed planning to support efficient, scalable, resilient, and sustainable transportation systems.

MULTIMODAL INTEGRATION

Support multimodal physical and digital projects that improve regional connectivity, prioritize transit and shared mobility, and enhance mobility, accessibility, and safety.

TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Support transportation policies, plans, and projects that expand safe, affordable, and convenient alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel for residents, workers, and visitors.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Advance efficient use of the transportation system by using operational improvements that maintain performance and, where possible, avoid adding roadway capacity while prioritizing investments that improve travel time reliability.

FUNDING THE SYSTEM/USER-FEES

Promote stable transportation funding by advancing user-fee systems, protecting transportation funds, and leveraging local and private capital to improve equity, mobility, sustainability, and economic development.

COMMUNITIES

COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

Develop complete communities where people can walk, bike, roll, or take transit to most of the places they need each day. Support growth in places with existing or planned roads, transit, and utilities, making it easier for people to walk, bike, or take transit and reduce reliance on single-occupancy driving.

EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

Advance community-centered programs and resources that improve outcomes for disadvantaged communities. Promote racial equity that is grounded in the recognition of the past and current harms of systemic racism and advance restorative justice. Increase equitable, inclusive, and meaningful representation and participation of people of color and disadvantaged communities in planning processes.

HOUSING THE REGION

Promote fair and equitable housing opportunities by increasing access to housing, including in high-opportunity areas, reducing housing cost burdens, and expanding homeownership opportunities for historically marginalized communities. Promote policies that prevent displacement, support affordable housing production and preservation and increase housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.

ENVIRONMENT

AIR QUALITY

Support regional and local air planning, implementation efforts, and investments that improve air quality and reduce impacts of air pollution emissions throughout the region, including but not limited to the AB 617 Communities.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Support a regional clean transportation transition that is broadly accessible, technology-neutral, and sustainability-focused. Prioritize zero-emission transportation solutions where feasible, allow near-zero-emission technologies where zero-emission options are not yet practical, and consider the full lifecycle impacts of clean transportation technologies across the region, including production, deployment, operations, and end-of-life management.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Support planning, funding, and implementing practices and infrastructure that increase regional and local resilience, including nature-based solutions. Prioritize adaptation and resilience for communities, populations, and infrastructure that are most vulnerable to climate hazards.

NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION

Prioritize the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of natural and agricultural lands to ensure their resilience, economic, natural, and climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.

ECONOMY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[This is a new policy category, with specific language to be developed following discussion at the Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee and Policy Committees meetings between October 2026 and March 2027]

GOODS MOVEMENT

Support a safe, efficient, and sustainable goods movement system that strengthens the regional economy, benefits communities, advances clean freight technologies, and improves coordination across all freight transportation modes.

TOURISM

Support efficient visitor travel. Encourage visitors to use non-auto travel options by promoting access to transit, passenger rail, and active transportation.



AGENDA ITEM 4

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments

October 14, 2026

To: CSC – Connect SoCal Subcommittee

From: Kevin Kane, Planning Supervisor (M and F)
213-236-1828, kane@scag.ca.gov

Subject: The Future Demographics of the SCAG Region

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

Kevin Kane

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. 3: Spur innovation and action through leadership in research, analysis and information sharing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this staff report is to build upon the review of regional trends and growth projections initially presented to the April 9, 2026 Joint Policy Committee meeting, providing context for considering policy and strategy updates for Connect SoCal 2050.

BACKGROUND:

In its role as the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Southern California, SCAG must project housing and transportation for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) using the latest planning assumptions and most recent population and employment estimates (42 U.S.C. Section 7401 et seq.). For state planning purposes, SCAG must coordinate RTP development with a statutorily required Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Flowing from these requirements, the Preliminary Growth Forecast for Connect SoCal 2050 becomes the technical underpinning of much of Connect SoCal's subsequent policy development.

Under the guidance of an expert panel and expert consultants from the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the California Economic Forecast (CEF), staff developed a preliminary projection of population, household, and employment growth for Connect SoCal 2050's 2024-2050 time horizon for the region and its six counties.

In contrast with a conventional population projection, this growth forecast offers a balanced, long-term view for future population, household, and employment growth. Put simply, there must be a plausible number of people for the jobs, and sufficient housing for the people. The required time

horizon is far longer than economic and business cycles, longer than the eight-year Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycle for housing planning, and longer than the time horizon envisioned by many local land use plans, requiring a broader approach than most short-run economic forecasts.

SCAG held a Demographic Panel of Experts meeting on September 9, 2025 to consider plausible and likely levels of seven key inputs to SCAG's long-range forecast. Panelists included economists and demographers representing industry, academia, and government. Two outside experts, Beth Jarosz of the Population Reference Bureau and Mark Schniepp of the California Economic Forecast, moderated along with SCAG staff. Input assumptions included **jobs, births, deaths, immigration, domestic migration, labor force participation, and household formation.**

Prior to their meeting, panelists were surveyed on their opinions of future trends. Overall, panelists acknowledged broad unknowns in some areas (e.g. the future of immigration policy) and showed greater consensus in others (e.g. a rebound in birth rates is highly unlikely). Generally, they expect conditions that would result in substantially lower population and job growth than projected in past plan development cycles, and moderately lower household growth.

The latest information, modeling approaches, and top expert insights currently yield a long-range growth projection that is very different from prior RTP/SCS cycles in Southern California. Region-wide population change is expected to be minimal over the next two and one-half decades, the combined effect of lower fertility rates, higher total mortality due to an older population, and changes to federal immigration policy. While projections for the state and nation have also been revised downward in recent years, the magnitude of the decrease is higher in Southern California due to the region's traditional reliance on foreign immigration to maintain its working age population. As such, the level of future job growth will also be constrained by a lower future population. However, in the long-run, the further integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and continued workplace automation suggest that the number of new jobs will bear a weaker relationship to economic growth and development. While the preliminary household projection is also lower than in past plan cycles, the region is still expected to add 850,000 households by 2050 owing to a combination of strong latent demand and the confidence provided by continued state policy supporting a wider range of housing types.

A direct implication of the population projection is accelerated aging – the SCAG region median age was 30.5 in 1990, was 38.8 in 2024, and is now expected to rise to 46.4 by 2050. The changing relationship between population and housing is also apparent – while the region's average household size has long been slightly above 3.0, in 2024 it was 2.84 and by 2050 it is now projected to drop to 2.49. As with any forecast, there are many factors and events that could change key input

assumptions; however, it reflects the most likely future outcome given data trends and expert insights currently available.¹

Total Population

	2024	2050	Change	Pct Change
Imperial	184,000	201,000	17,000	9.5%
Los Angeles	9,823,000	9,485,000	(338,000)	-3.4%
Orange	3,151,000	3,150,000	(1,000)	0.0%
Riverside	2,456,000	2,647,000	191,000	7.8%
San Bernardino	2,184,000	2,159,000	(25,000)	-1.2%
Ventura	824,000	805,000	(19,000)	-2.3%
SCAG	18,621,000	18,448,000	(173,000)	-0.9%

Total Households

	2024	2050	Change	Pct Change
Imperial	54,000	70,000	16,000	30.1%
Los Angeles	3,518,000	3,931,000	413,000	11.7%
Orange	1,095,000	1,209,000	114,000	10.4%
Riverside	787,000	954,000	167,000	21.3%
San Bernardino	682,000	797,000	115,000	16.8%
Ventura	284,000	310,000	26,000	9.2%
SCAG	6,420,000	7,270,000	850,000	13.2%

Total Employment

	2024	2050	Change	Pct Change
Imperial	72,000	74,000	2,000	3.3%
Los Angeles	4,997,000	4,982,000	(15,000)	-0.3%
Orange	1,828,000	1,784,000	(44,000)	-2.4%
Riverside	914,000	1,047,000	133,000	14.6%
San Bernardino	920,000	977,000	57,000	6.2%
Ventura	368,000	354,000	(14,000)	-3.8%
SCAG	9,099,000	9,218,000	119,000	1.3%

Note: Population, household, and employment levels are rounded to the nearest 1000.

Subsequent to developing preliminary county projections, SCAG disaggregates these figures to the county and Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) levels. Between April and November 2026, staff seek to meet one-on-one with all 197 local jurisdictions in the region to review preliminary projections at these spatial scales in addition to several other Connect SoCal-supportive data layers. Jurisdictions have until November 20, 2026 to provide input and comment – more details are available at

¹ More detail on the preliminary forecast is available in the March 5, 2026 Community, Economic and Human Development agenda packet:

<https://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2599&Inline=True#page=51>

www.scag.ca.gov/local-data-exchange. At the time of this writing, staff have met with 166 jurisdictions individually. Following receipt of data and review through the Technical Working Group (www.scag.ca.gov/technical-working-group) pursuant to a set of Regional Council-approved guiding principles, county and regional projection totals will be reviewed and integrated into the draft Connect SoCal 2050, scheduled for release in fall 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation – Connect SoCal 2050: Preliminary Regional Growth Projections and Context



Connect SoCal 2050: Preliminary Regional Growth Projections & Context

Kevin Kane, PhD

Supervisor, Demographics and Growth Vision Program

Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee, October 2026

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV



CONNECT SOCAL 2050 PRELIMINARY PROJECTION & MOTIVATIONS



Envisioning 2050

- 7 Main Forecast Assumptions:
 - Births and deaths
 - Migration and immigration
 - Household formation
 - Job growth
 - Labor force participation



CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC FORECAST

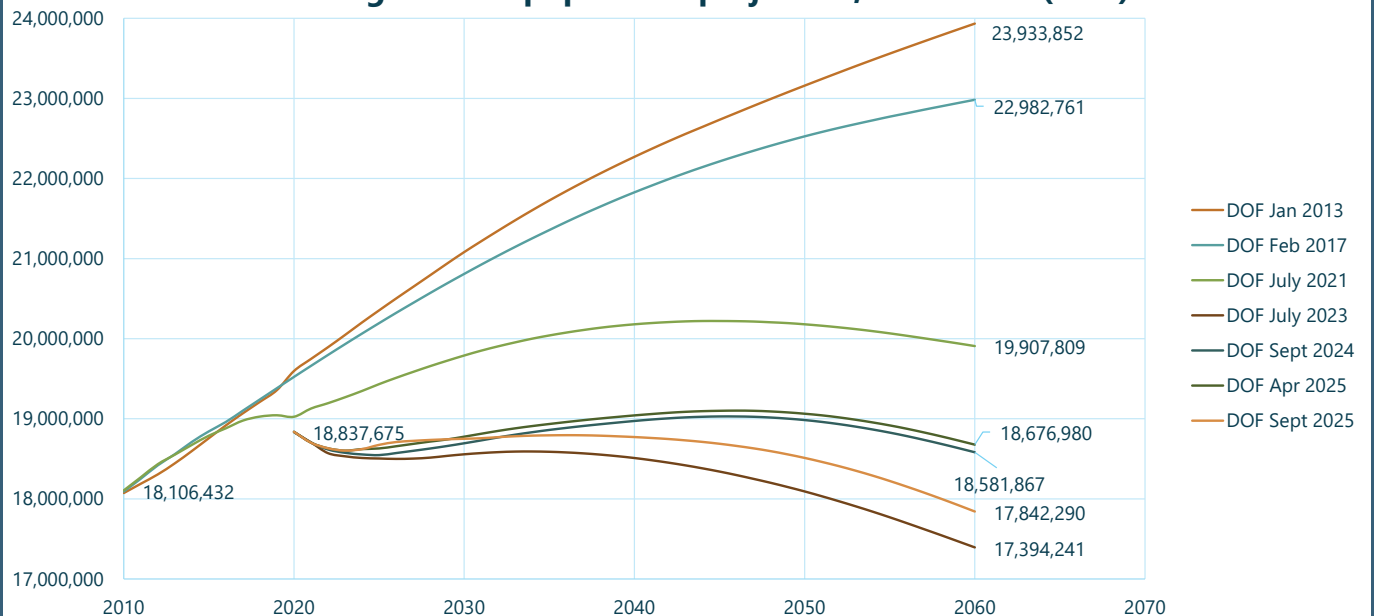


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

3

Expectation for population growth has consistently slowed

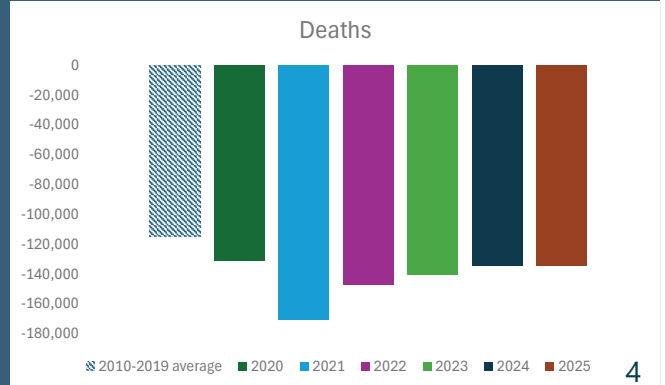
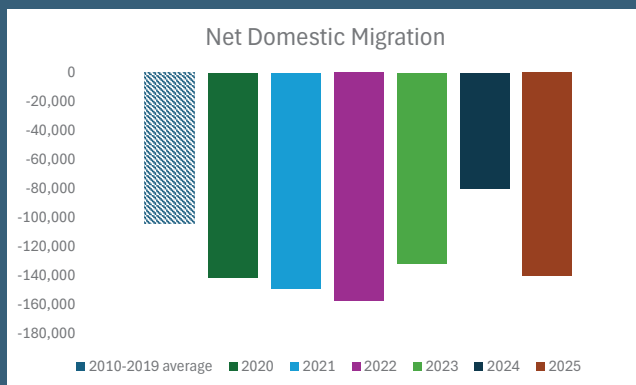
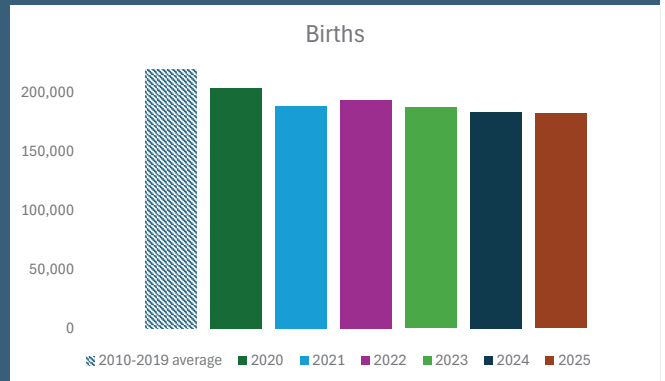
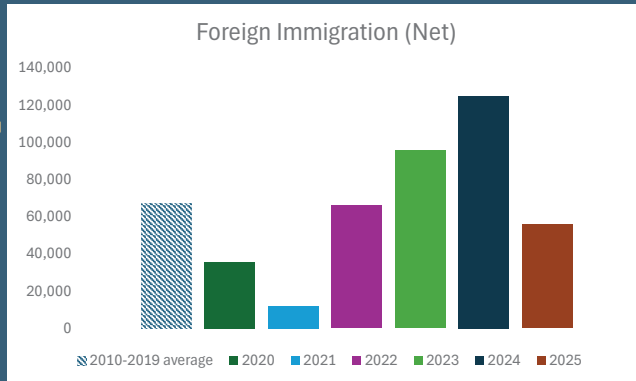
SCAG region total population projection, 2013-2025 (DOF)



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, P-3 Projections, collected by SCAG from 2013 through Vintage 2024 (2025.9.30)

3

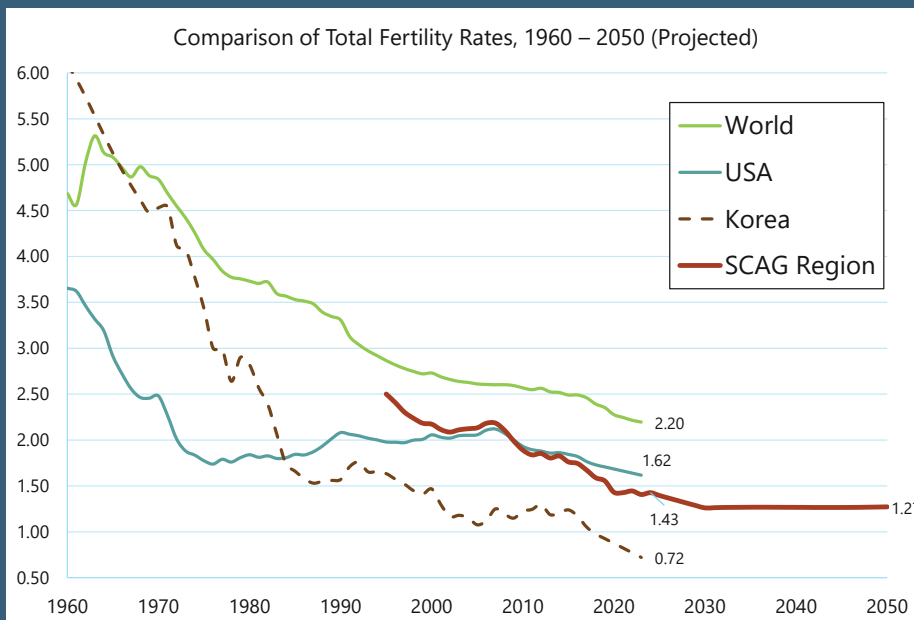
Components of Population Change, SCAG Region



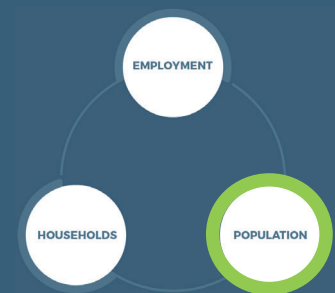
Source: CA DOFE-2

4

Global Growth and Planning Context



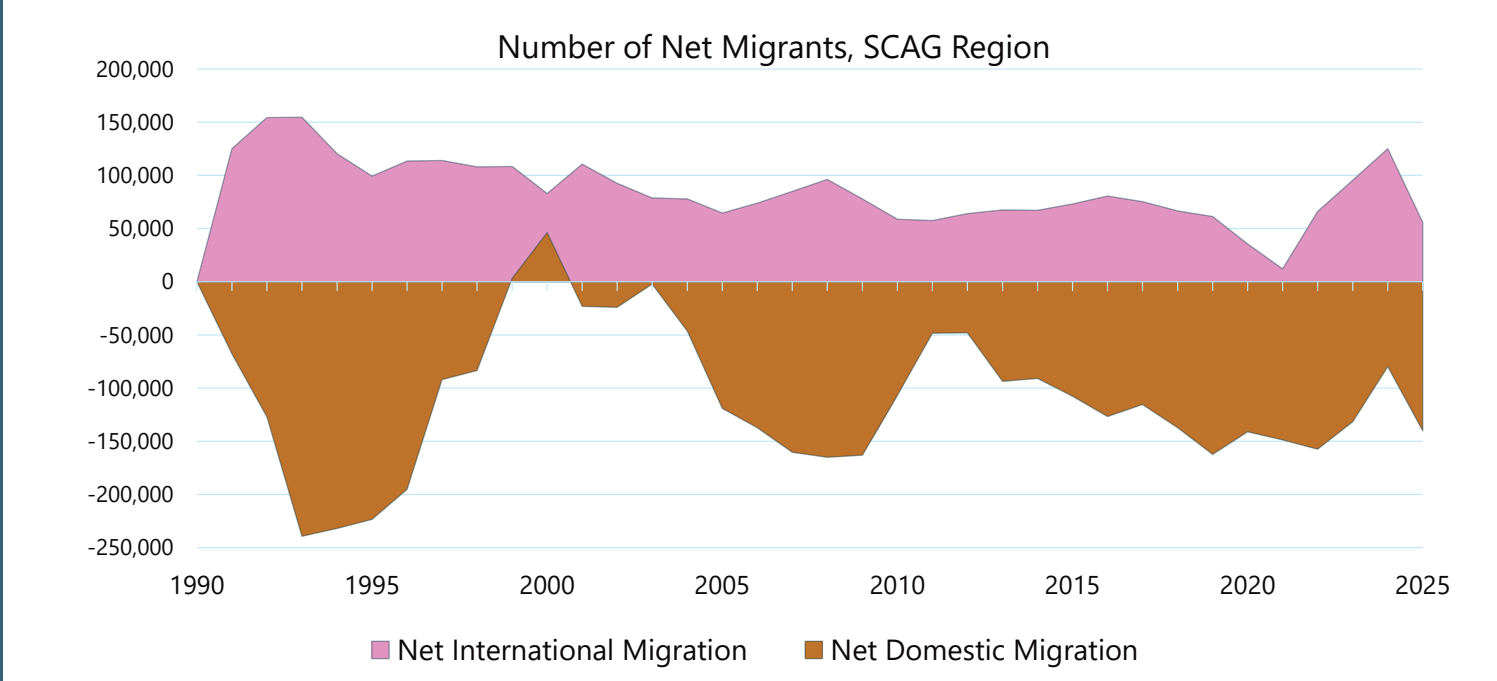
Fertility data sources: World Bank (Global and Korea), Population Reference Bureau (USA), SCAG past (RAND state statistics), SCAG projection (Connect SOCal 2050 Preliminary Projection). 2023 and 2050 values labeled.



Slower growth is becoming universal.

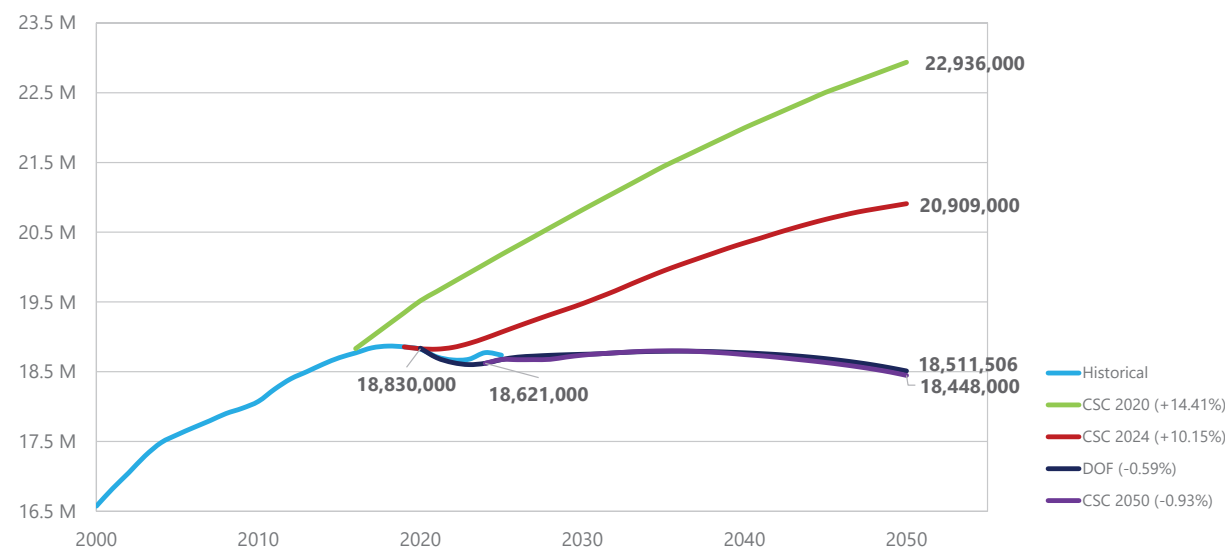
A new future to adapt to for **Regional Planning... and Global Economies.**

SCAG Region Migration – Long Term



Source: California Department of Finance E-2 Estimates

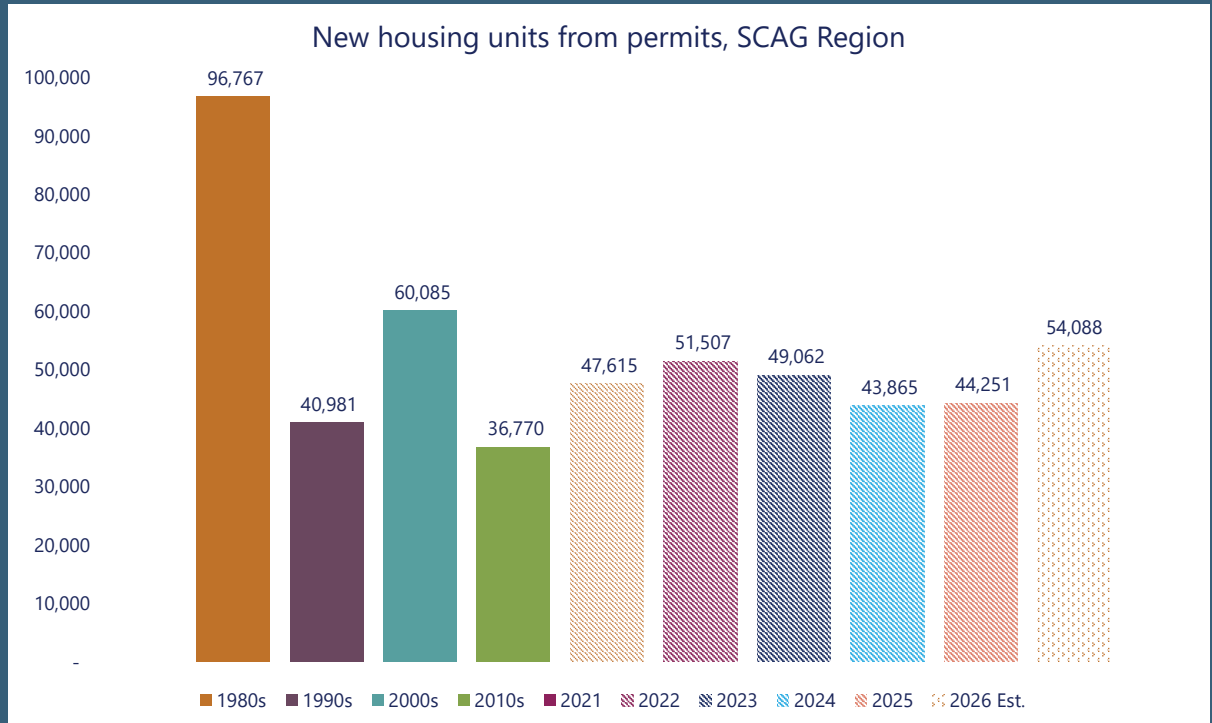
Preliminary Connect SoCal 2050 Population Projection



Notes: Percentage increases reflect 2024-2050. Historical data is CA DOF E-2 estimates, reflecting July 1, 2020 RTP/SCS plan horizon was 2016-2045, though preliminary projections were conducted through 2050. 2024 RTP/SCS plan horizon was 2019-2050.

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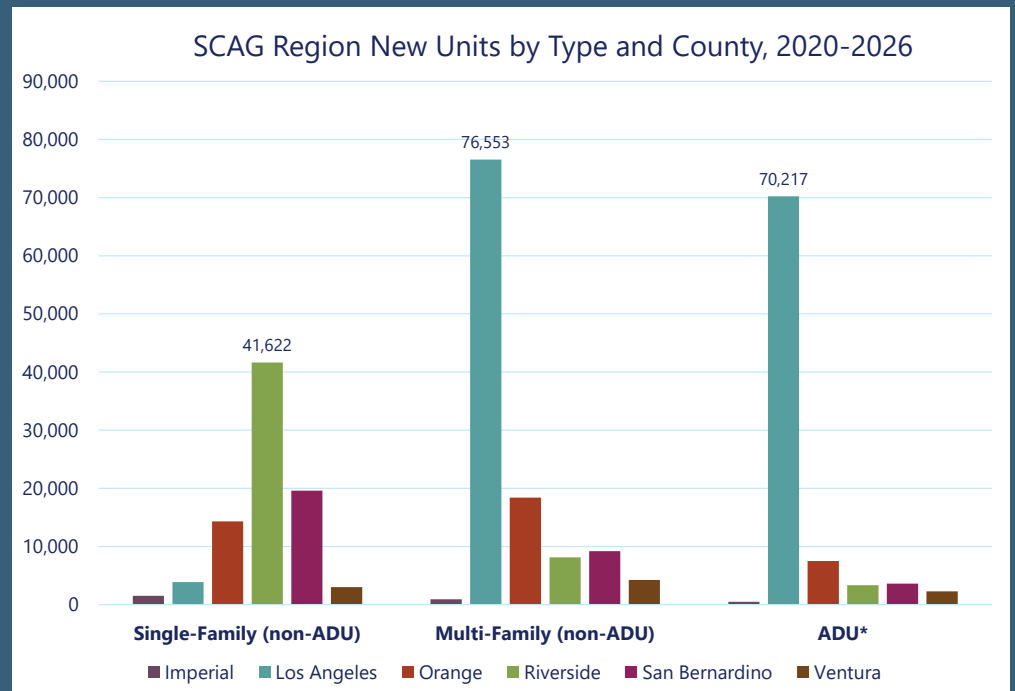
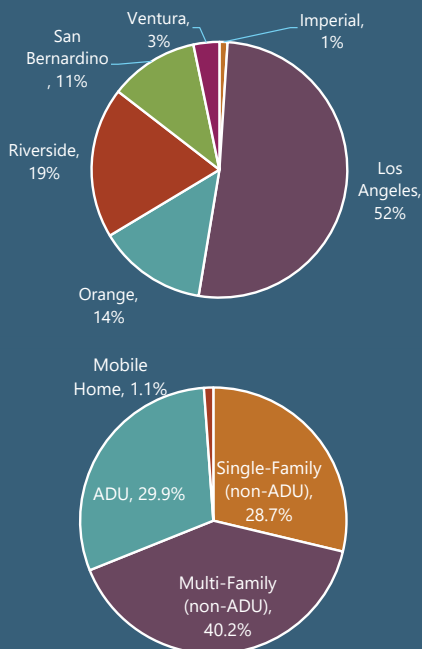
Comparing recent housing production to prior decades



Source: CIRB New Units from permits to 2020; Census Building Permit Survey (BPS) 2021-Present. 2026 Estimate based on 1st half 2026 actuals plus 2025 first half rate.

6

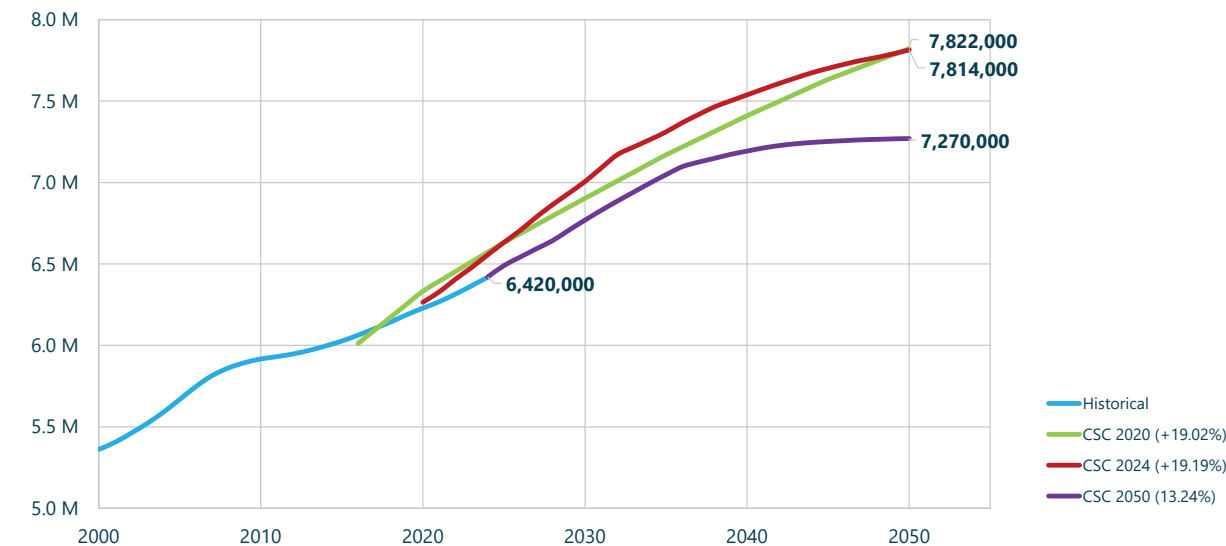
Total housing production by type, 2020-2026



Sources: State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State — April 1, 2021- January 1, 2026. ADU counts are retrieved from DOF Demographic Research Unit Data Hub. 3/4 of ADUs are assumed to be detached (single-family) and 1/4 attached (multi-family).

9

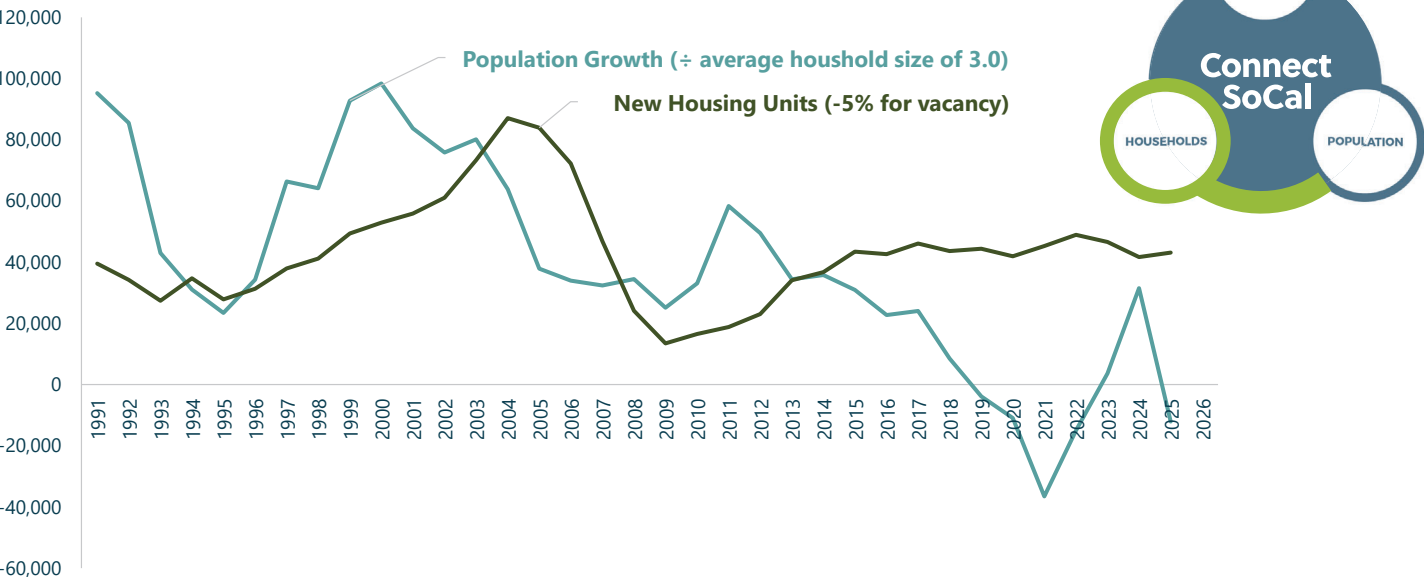
Preliminary Connect SoCal 2050 Household Projection



Sources: Percentage increases reflect 2024-2050. Historical series averages CA DOF E5 series to approximate July 1 totals. Connect SoCal 2020 (CSC 2020) plan horizon was 2016-2045, though preliminary projections were conducted through 2050. Connect SoCal 2024 (CSC 2024) plan horizon was 2019-2050. Plan horizon of under-development Connect SoCal 2050 (CSC 2050) is 2024 – 2050.

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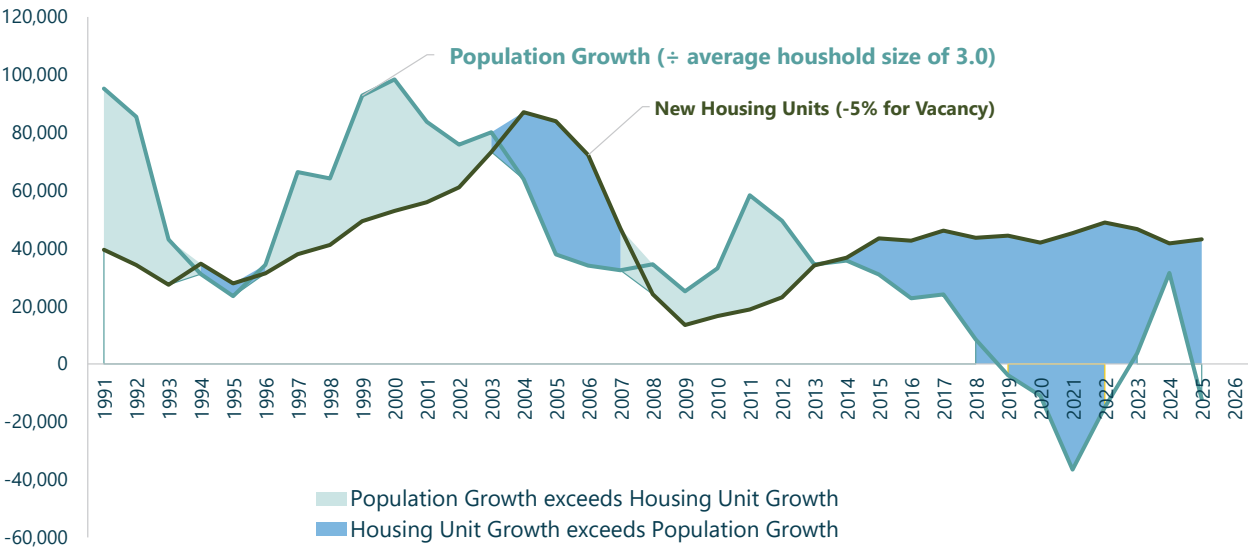
Comparison of Population vs. Housing Growth SCAG Region, 1991-2025



Source: CA DOF DRU E-2 July 2023 population estimates and U.S. Census Building Permit Survey, "New Residential Units from Building Permits Issued"

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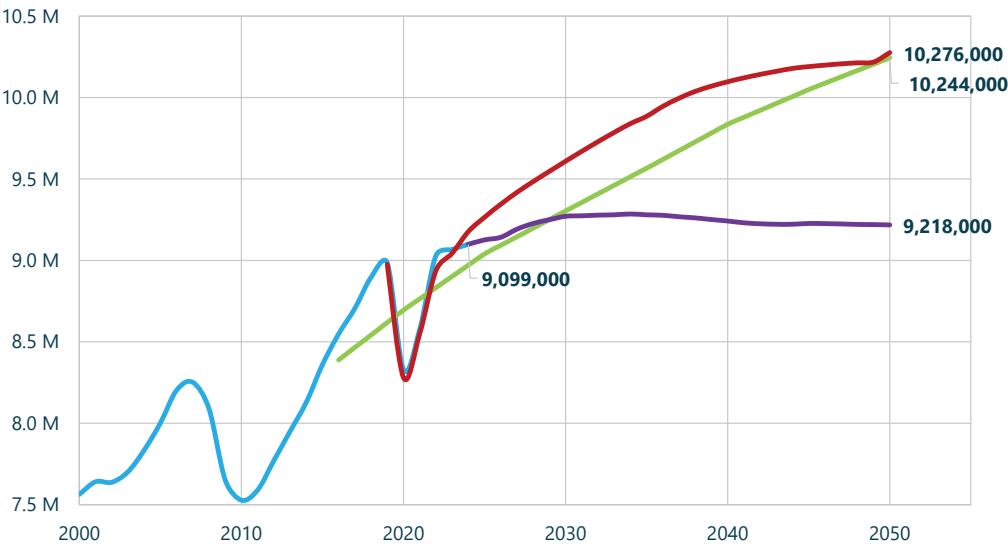
Comparison of Population vs. Housing Growth SCAG Region, 1991-2025



Source: CA DOF DRU E-2 July 2023 population estimates and U.S. Census Building Permit Survey, "New Residential Units from Building Permits Issued"

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Preliminary Connect SoCal 2050 Employment Projection



Sources: Percentage increases reflect 2024-2050. 2020 RTP/SCS plan horizon was 2016-2045, though preliminary projections were conducted through 2050. 2024 RTP/SCS plan horizon was 2019-2050.

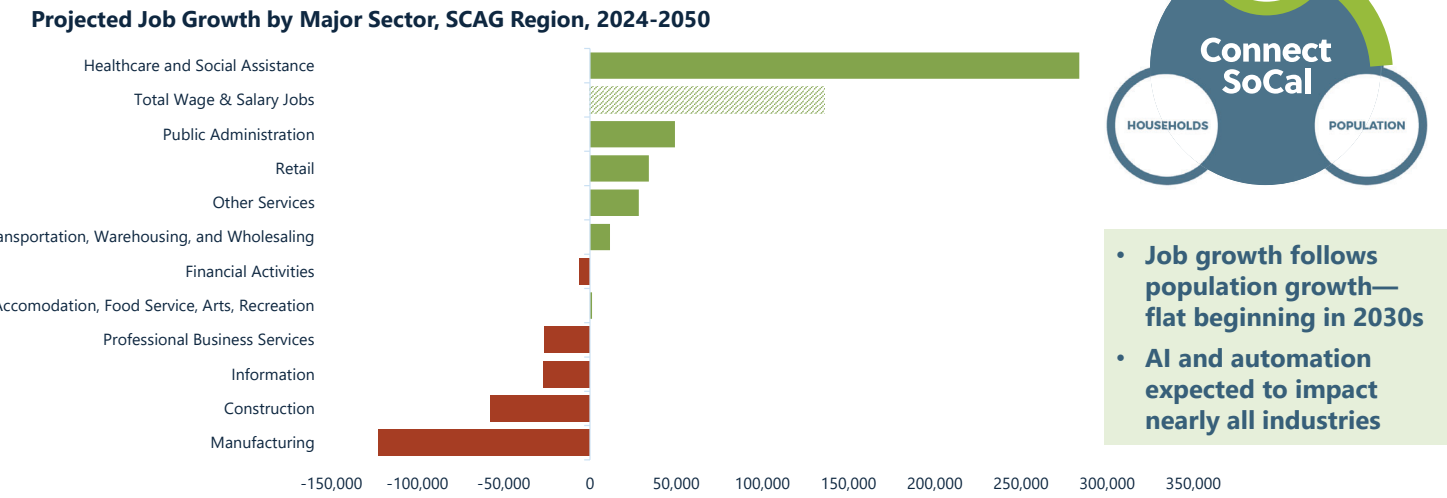
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- Job growth follows population growth—flat beginning in 2030s
- AI and automation expected to impact nearly all industries

—Historical
—CSC 2020 (+14.19%)
—CSC 2024 (+12.98%)
—CSC 2050 (1.31%)

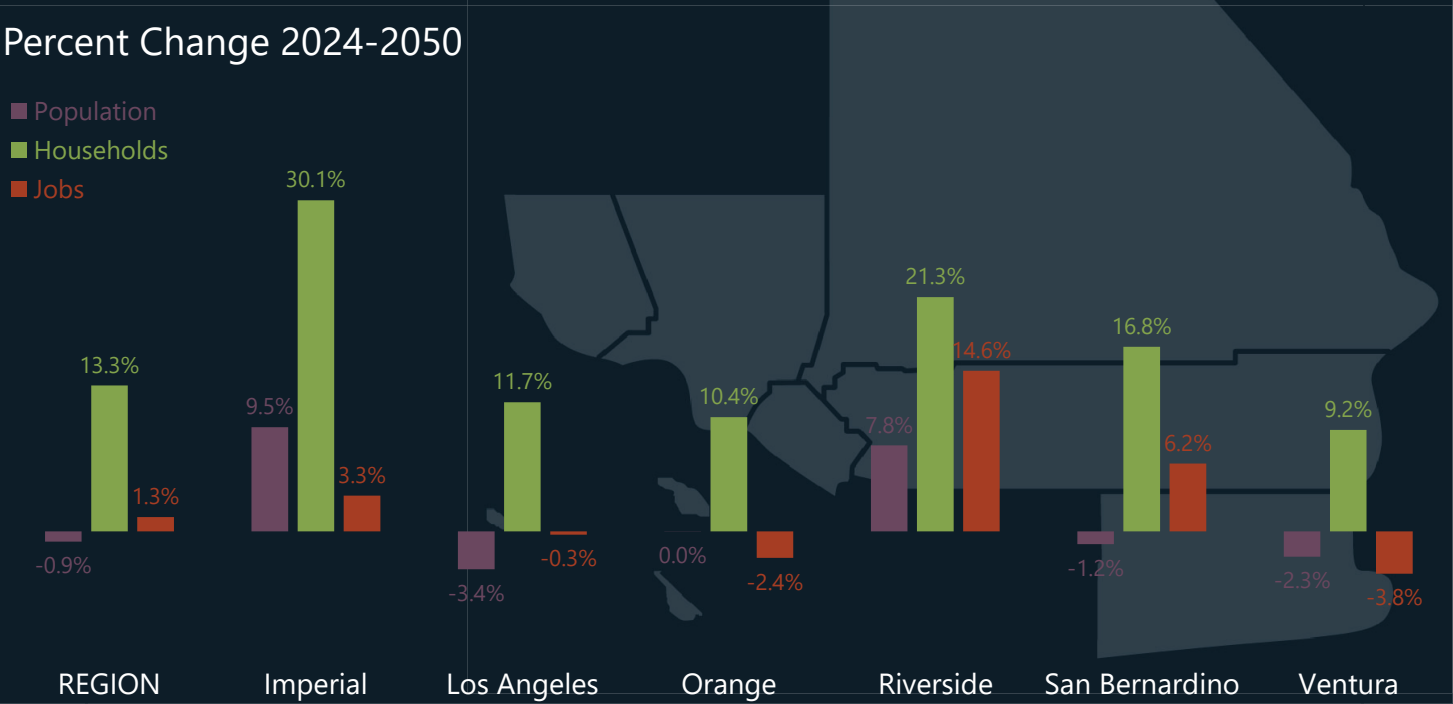
Healthcare and Social Assistance Dominate Future Job Growth



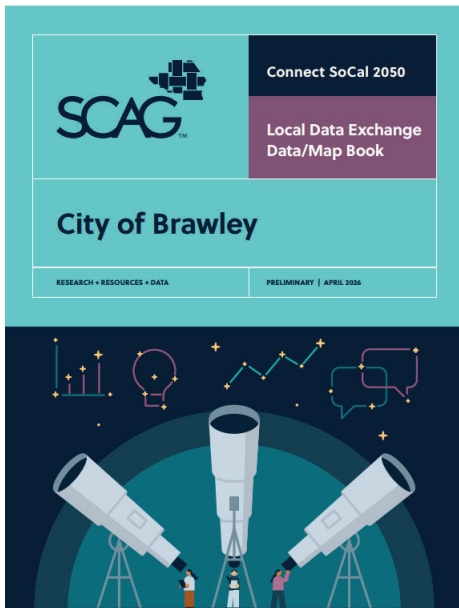
Source: Preliminary Connect SoCal 2050 projections. Aggregates of 2-digit NAICS sectors of wage & salary jobs shown.

16

Preliminary Connect SoCal 2050 County Projections



Local Data Exchange



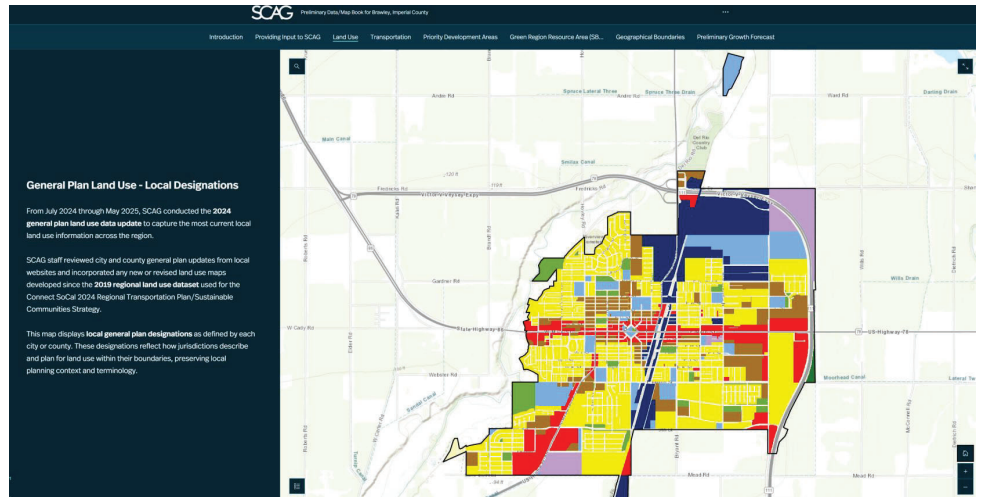
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Imperial County

CITY OF BRAWLEY

[City of Brawley Data/Map Book StoryMap](#)

[City of Brawley Data/Map Book PDF](#)



17

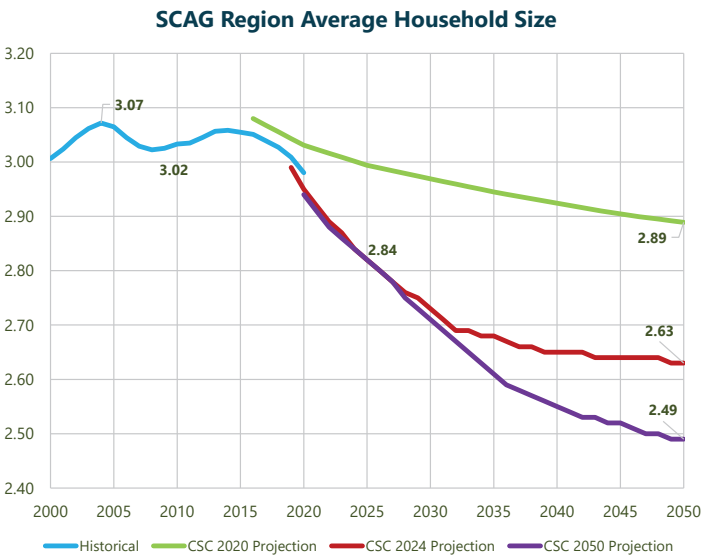
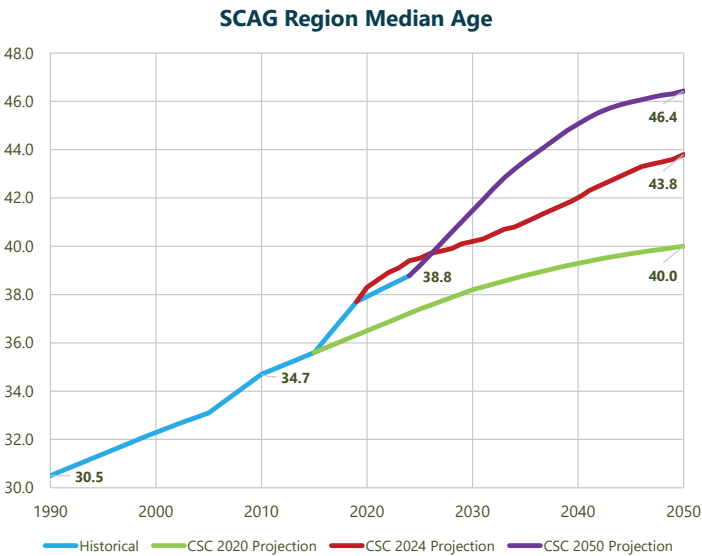


SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR LONG-RANGE PLANNING



18

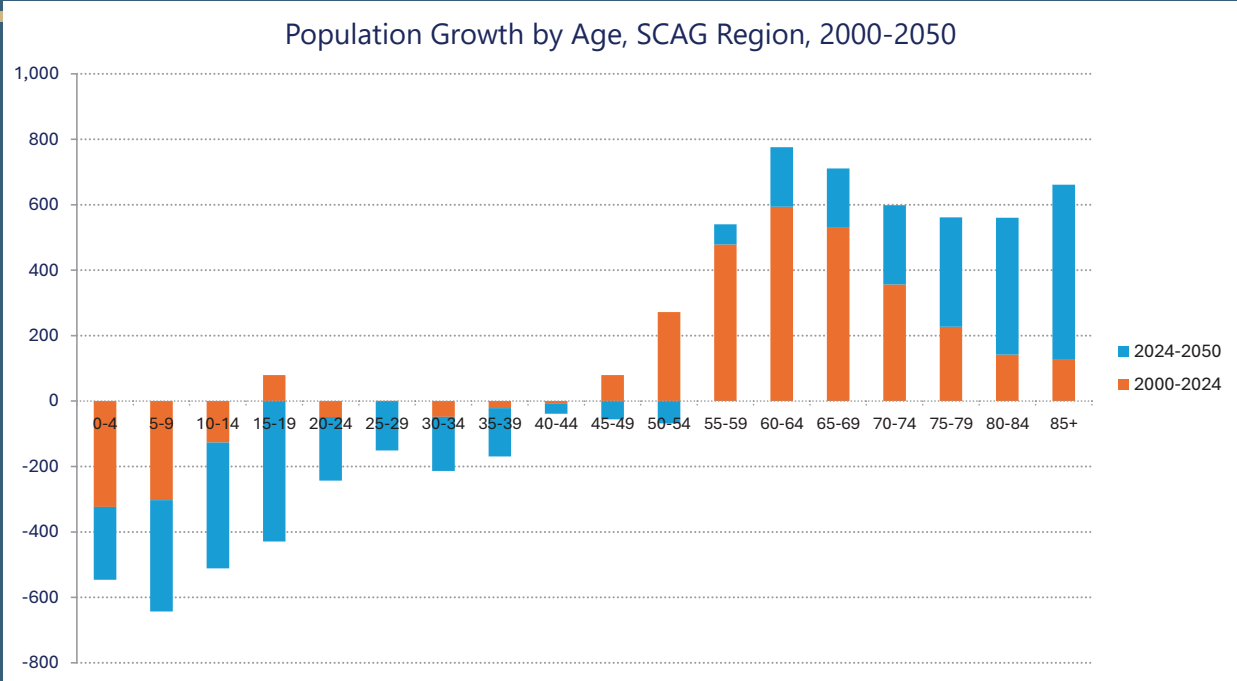
Key Implications of Forecast Updates



Note: Historical values interpolated from 5-year intervals.

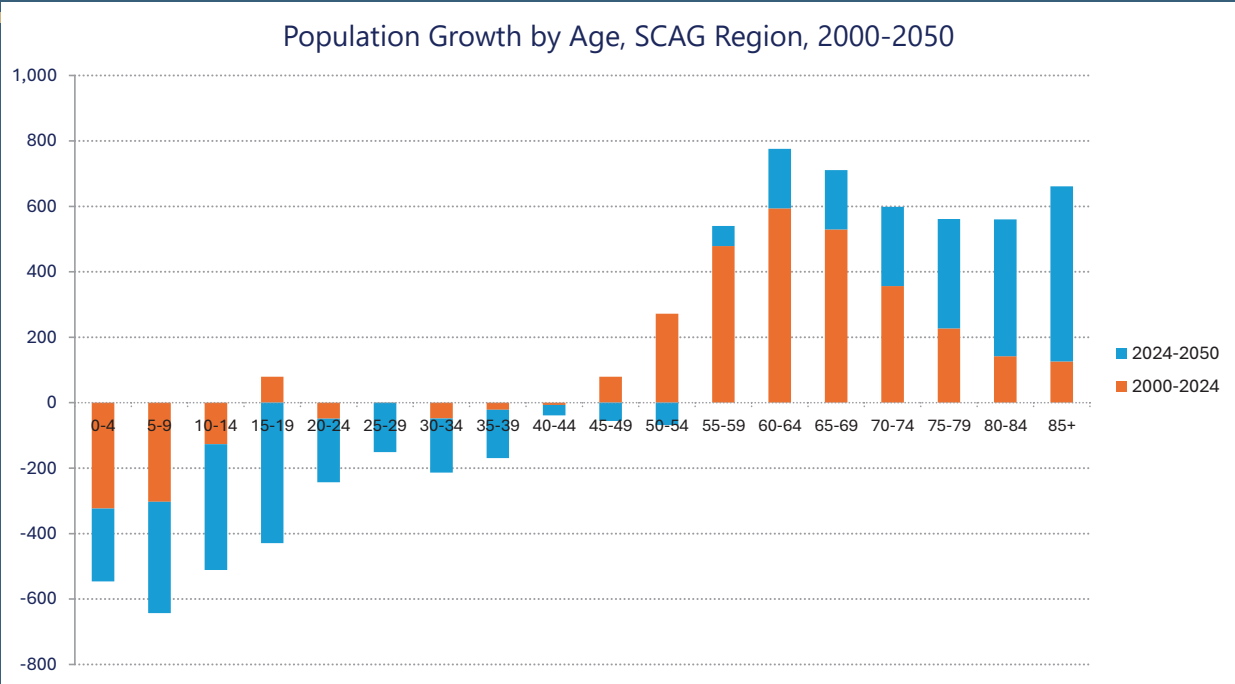
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SCAG Region Population Age Structure



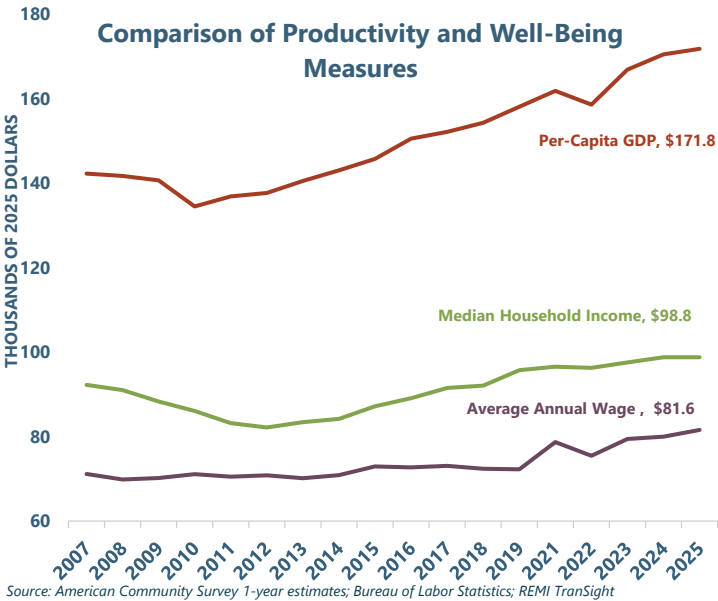
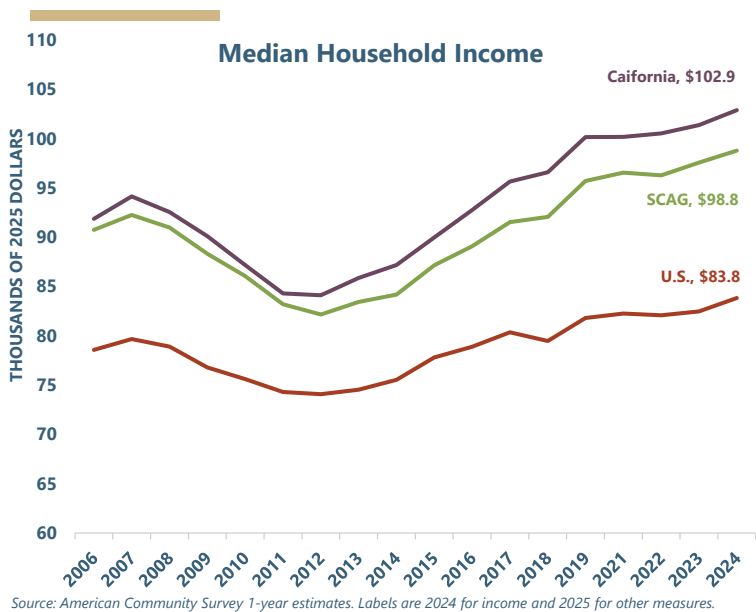
Source: CA DOF and Connect SoCal 2050 preliminary projection.

SCAG Region Population Age Structure



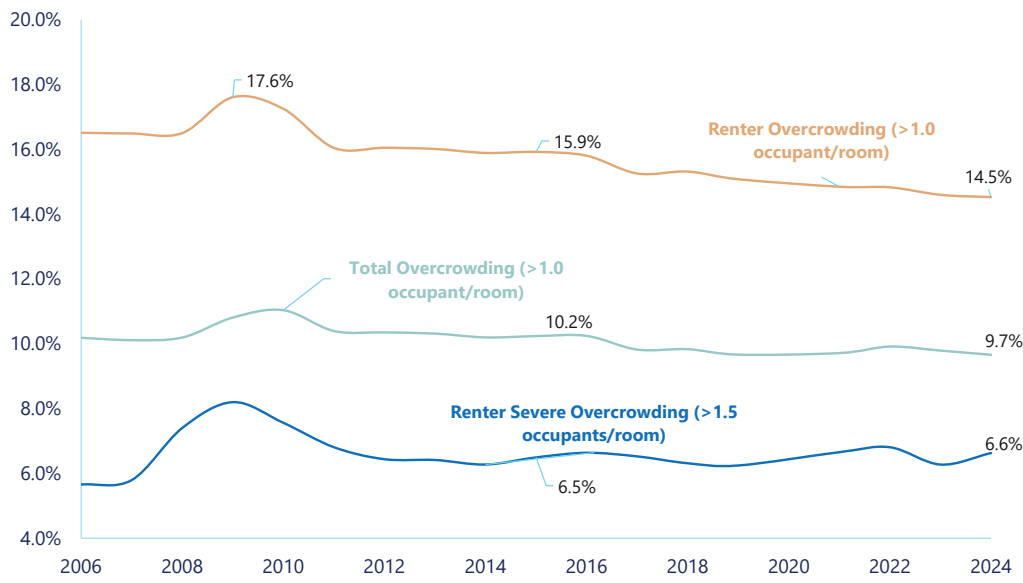
Source: CA DOF and Connect SoCal 2050 preliminary projection.

Long-Run Conditions



More housing, but are we housing more people?

SCAG Region household overcrowding rates

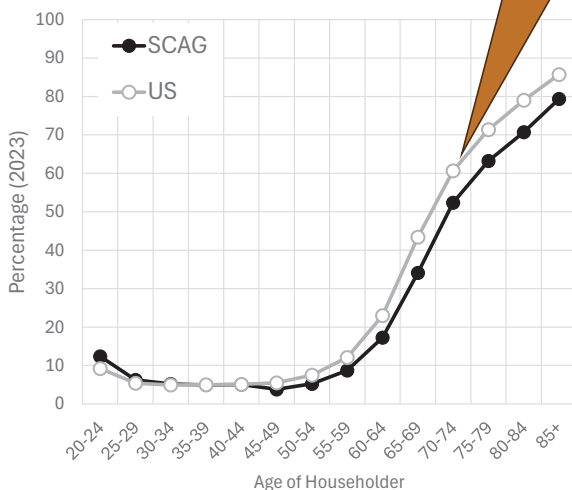


Overcrowding source: American Community Survey 1-year Estimates.



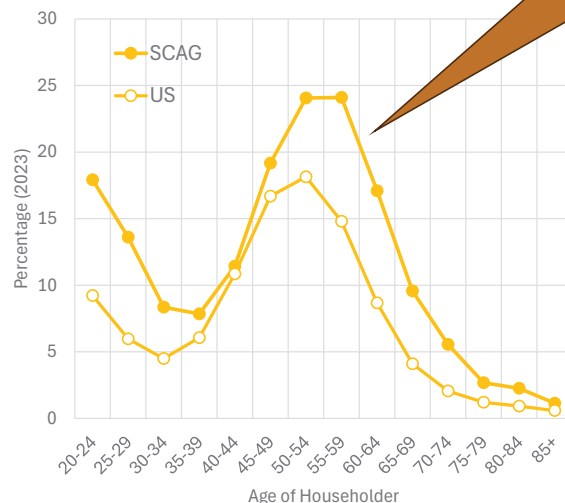
How will workers be distributed across the available housing?

Households with **no workers**, by age



Most older householders do not house a worker.

Households with **3 or more workers**, by age

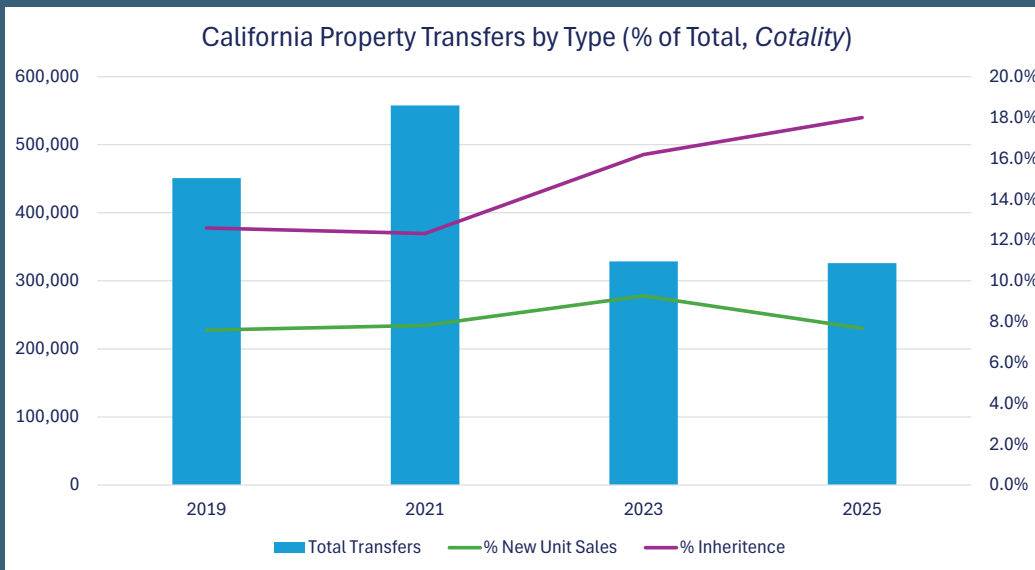


Many householders aged 45-65 provide housing for **3 or more** workers in SoCal.



Source: USC Population Dynamics Research Center analysis of ACS 5-year PUMS data.

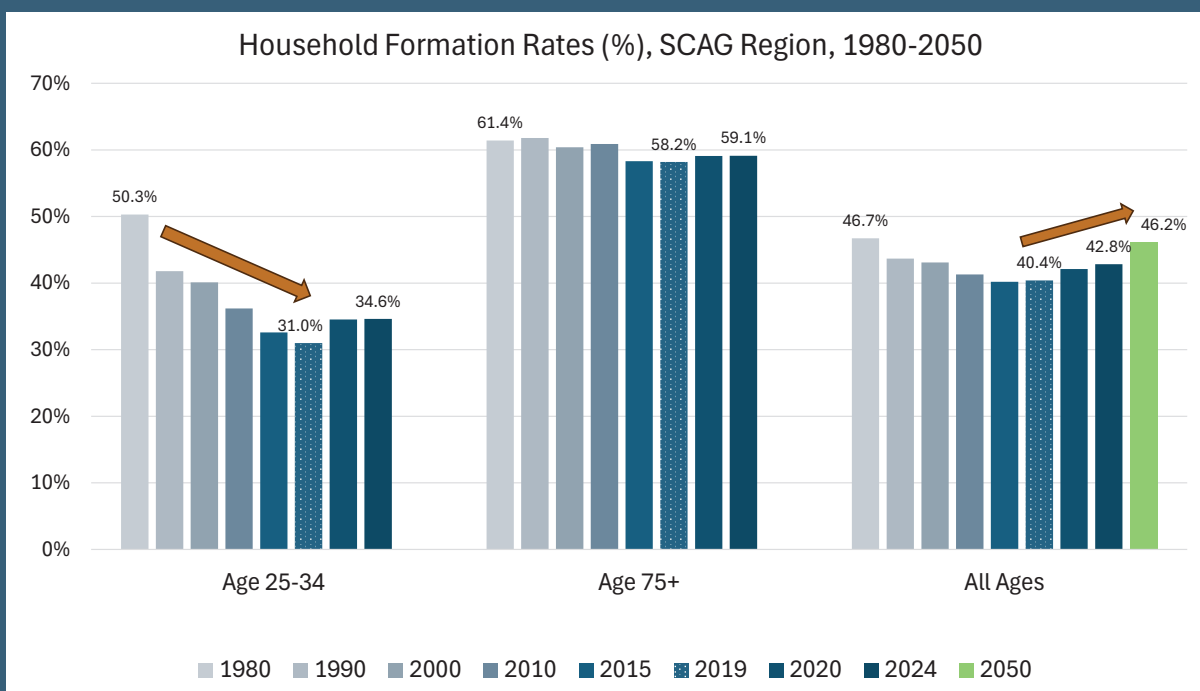
But, are we housing more people? And are we creating more homeownership opportunities?



- California home sales dropped; more property transfers now due to inheritance

Inheritance transfers analysis by Cotality analysis of property deed transfers, see Deventhal, M. 2026. A frozen tsunami: why inherited homes won't solve the housing crisis. <https://www.cotality.com/insights/articles/why-inherited-homes-wont-solve-the-housing-crisis>

Through the lens of a forecaster: What percent of the population is a "head of household?"



Older people consume more housing.

Historical trend appears to be reversing gradually.

New housing can house more people and alleviate existing need.

Sources: US Decennial Census, American Community Survey 1-year PUMS Estimates, and preliminary Connect SoCal 2050 projection.

Projections Recap

- Population will remain stable or decline slightly, and age substantially
- Housing growth will be slower than previously expected, but will continue to exceed population growth
 - Assumption: new units and supportive policy will help address existing housing need
- Job outlook flat, following low population growth and AI dispersion, and will be concentrated in Healthcare and Social Assistance
- Average household sizes will be much smaller
 - Assumption: new units and supportive policy will help house workers, too



For more information, please visit:

<https://scag.ca.gov/economic-insights-data-resources>

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Demographics and Growth Vision Program
kane@scag.ca.gov



AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments

October 14, 2026

To: CSC – Connect SoCal Subcommittee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Camille Guiriba, Senior Regional Planner (PS)
213-236-1809, guiriba@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: Connect SoCal 2050: Focus on Demographics and Economic Implications

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Connect SoCal 2050 Policy Development Framework adopted by the Regional Council on October 1, 2026 includes three Areas of Focus that will be primary considerations in the policy development of the next Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee will have opportunities through spring 2027 to dive into these issues. The purpose of this staff report is to set the stage for the first focused discussion on expected demographic changes and their economic implications to the region.

BACKGROUND:

The next three Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee meetings are structured to have deeper discussions on the three Areas of Focus included in the adopted Policy Development Framework:

- Demographics and Economic Implications (October 2026)
- Transportation Technology & Future of Transit (December 2026)
- Complete Communities & Housing the Region (February 2027)

With the October 2026 focus topic being Demographics and Economic Implications, this Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee meeting item will feature a panel to discuss the issue with framing remarks by Dowell Myers, Professor Emeritus of Demography and Urban Planning of the University of Southern California and Ex-Officio Connect SoCal 2050 Subcommittee member.

As described in the Final Policy Development Framework regarding the Demographics and Economic Implications Area of Focus:

Region-wide population change is expected to be minimal over the next twenty-five years, the combined effect of lower fertility rates, higher total mortality due to an older population, and changes to federal immigration policy. This flat population outlook will have implications on anticipated future tax revenues and the fiscal health of local jurisdictions and the region. In addition, the level of future job growth will also be constrained by a lower future population. However, in the long-run, the further integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and continued workplace automation suggest that the number of new jobs will bear a weaker relationship to economic growth and development.

The Policy Development Framework also highlights the need to consider resilience throughout Connect SoCal 2050 policy development discussions. This policy discussion can consider if there are regional planning policy opportunities that can help reduce the impacts of acute shocks and chronic stressors in relation to these demographic and fiscal trends.

A full copy of the Policy Development Framework is attached to Agenda Item #2 of this meeting packet.

FISCAL IMPACT:

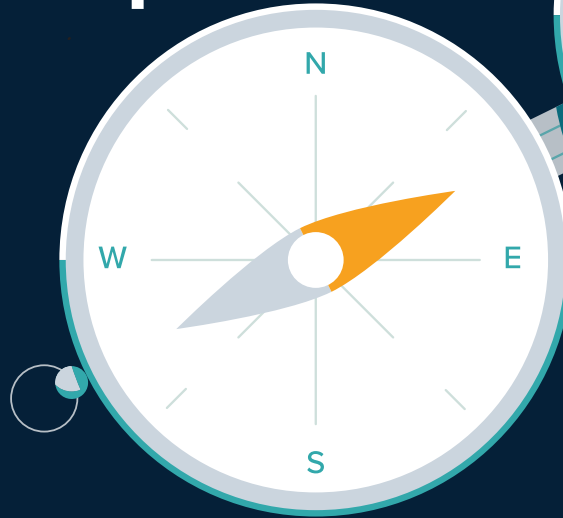
None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. PowerPoint Presentation – Demographic and Economic Implications Discussion

Connect SoCal 2050: Demographics and Economic Implications

October 14, 2026
Connect SoCal 2050
Subcommittee



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1

Areas of Focus

**Demographics
and Economic
Implications**

October 2026

**Transportation
Technology
and the Future
of Transit**

December 2026

**Complete
Communities
and Housing
the Region**

February 2026

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2

Policy Discussion



MOBILITY: Build and maintain a robust transportation network



COMMUNITIES: Develop, connect and sustain **livable and thriving** communities



ENVIRONMENT: Create a **healthy** region for the people of today and tomorrow



ECONOMY: Support a sustainable, efficient and productive regional environment that provides **opportunities for all**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which impacts most concern your community?
2. What policy is needed to keep us on track for our goals?
3. What regional leadership or collaboration is needed to face this policy issue?
4. How will this impact regional resilience?

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3



THANK YOU

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

4