



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Monday, January 13, 2025 — 10:00 a.m.

Old Town Newhall Library
Community Room
24500 Main Street
Santa Clarita, CA 91321

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando
Vice-Chair: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi (Alternate), City of Burbank
Mayor Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale
Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles
SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office
John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG
Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** — Mary Mendoza, Chair
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Board, any public comments on any of the Consent Calendar items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Board request specific items to be removed from the Consent Calendar.

5. MINUTES

October 21, 2024 Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes ([Page 4](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve Minutes.*

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Review FY 2023-24 Financials October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 ([Page 15](#))

Recommended Action: *Receive and File Financial Report*

REGULAR CALENDAR

At the discretion of the SFVCOG, all items appearing on this Agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the SFVCOG.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Mayor Mary Mendoza, Chair of the Board

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

9. HOMELESS NOTICE OF FUNDING SOLICITATION ([Page 16](#))

Recommended Action: *Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad-hoc Committee to oversee the competitive grant solicitation process in accordance with the funding agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the SFVCOG for Homeless Services (Contract No. HI-23-007).*

10. OLYMPIC AD HOC COMMITTEE ([PAGE 18](#))

Recommended Action: *Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad-hoc Committee to determine effective ways to coordinate its members and engagement of locals and visitors in those cities.*

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES

Recommended Action: *Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad-hoc Committee to proceed with the recruitment for the SFVCOG's Executive Director for 2026 through the request for proposal process.*

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

13. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2025 10AM in City of Santa Clarita

15. ADJOURNMENT

Notices:

Meetings of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments are recorded. Minutes of each meeting are available at <http://sfvcog.org/> after the Board approves them. A person with a disability may contact the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments before the scheduled meeting to request receipt of an agenda in an alternative format or to request disability-related accommodations, in order to participate in the public meeting, requests will be met to the extent feasible. Email info@sfvcog.org for accommodation. The entire agenda package and any meeting related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda package, unless exempt from disclosure pursuant to California Law, are also available.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
A Joint Powers Authority

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING AGENDA **DRAFT**

Monday, October 21, 2024 — 10:00 a.m.

San Fernando City Hall - Council Chambers
117 Macneil Street, San Fernando, CA 91340

Members of the public may also Join by Zoom Webinar
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81722862497>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando
Vice-Chair: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Mayor Nick Schultz, City of Burbank
Mayor Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale
Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles
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San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

Board of Directors Special Meeting
Agenda - Monday, October 21, 2024

Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

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Board of Directors Special Meeting
Agenda - Monday, October 21, 2024

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

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Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda - Monday, January 13, 2025

OPEN SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER** — Mary Mendoza, Chair
Chair Mary Mendoza called the Meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.
2. **ROLL CALL**
Roll call was conducted by Staff.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (11 Members):

Present 11: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Councilmember Marsha McLean (Teleconferencing)
Natalie Vartanian for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Barri Girvanfor Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Tamala Takahashi for Mayor Nick Schultz
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 2: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield,
Mayor Elen Asatryan

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Mehmet Berker.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Mullen, LA Metro representative, addressed the SFVCOG and mentioned that there would be an East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Virtual meeting on October 29 and an in-person meeting on November 7.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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5. MINUTES

- a. July 8, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ([Page 5](#))
- b. August 26, 2024 Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ([Page 15](#))

Recommended Action: Approve Minutes.

This item was taken up jointly with Agenda Item No. 6.

On motion of Mayor Nick Shultz, seconded by Josh Yeager for Councilmember John Lee, the SFVCOG jointly approved this item including Agenda Item No. 7 with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 9: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Natalie Vartanian for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Barri Girvan for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Tamala Takahashi for Mayor Nick Schultz
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

Absent 3: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan
Councilmember Marsha McLean

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Review FY 2023-24 Financials July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 ([Page 19](#))

Recommended Action: Receive and File Financial Report

This item was taken up jointly with Agenda Item No. 5.

REGULAR CALENDAR

At the discretion of the SFVCOG, all items appearing on this Agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the SFVCOG.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, Chair of the Board

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

There were none.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

There were none.

9. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PRESENTATION

Incoming L.A. Division President, Arcadia Mayor Pro Tem, Michael Cao

Michael Cao, Arcadia's Mayor, did a presentation and was ready to answer questions posed by the Board.

Chair Mary Mendoza thanked Michael Cao for his presentation. She also added that it has been a great opportunity to be a part of the Board and encouraged anyone to be a part of the Board.

10. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW (PAGE 20)

Recommended Action: *Consider the plan as presented and adopt for implementation through 2028.*

John Bwarie stated that this plan came from the discussions had from the special meeting of August 26, 2024. From those discussions, he summarized it to five main goals: deliver on Regional M Projects, regional connectivity, coordinate the Olympic experience for the SFVCOG region, develop economic initiatives to support small businesses, and refining practices for better regional advocacy.

Alternate Member Tamala Takahashi suggested that there needs to be a distinction between small businesses and micro businesses.

Alternate Member Doug Mensman suggested two changes to the Strategic Plan.

Page 21 Paragraph 2

“The work now is to ensure those key projects are realized and the promises made to the region through this process are kept and funds allocated are protected for these projects” changed to “The work now is to ensure those key projects are realized and the promises made to the region through this process are kept and funds allocated **and timelines specified** are protected for these projects”.

Page 21 Paragraph 4

“As a region, the SFVCOG is served by Metro, Metrolink, and member’s own transportation network” changed to “As a region, the SFVCOG is served by Metro, Metrolink, and member’s own transportation network **and services**”

Board Member wanted to add “AMTRAK” after Metrolink in the quote from Page 21 Paragraph 4.

Board Member Marsha McLean joined the meeting virtually pursuant to AB 2449 “Just Cause”. Chair Mary Mendoza confirmed because a quorum of the Board was present in-person, AB 2449 could be used.

Opportunity was given for Members of the Public to address the SFVCOG. There was no public comment on this item.

On motion of Alternate Member Natalie Vartanian for Board Member Kathryn

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

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Barger, seconded by Alternate Member Tamala Takahashi for Board Member Nick Schultz, the SFVCOG jointly approved this item with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 10: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Natalie Vartanian for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Barri Girvan for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Tamala Takahashi for Mayor Nick Schultz
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Marsha McLean

Absent 2: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan

11. DISCUSS WHETHER TO AMEND THE FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE SFVCOG FOR HOMELESS SERVICES (Contract No. HI-23-007), SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ([PAGE 28](#)):

- a. Find the proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and,
- b. Delegate authority to the Executive Director to work with the County of Los Angeles to amend and implement that certain Funding Agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the SFVCOG for Homeless Services (Contract No. HI-23-007), including the Statement of Work (Exhibit A-1) and Price Schedule (Exhibit B-1) in substantially similar form to authorize SFVCOG to use County funds to initiate a competitive grant solicitation process and award grant funding to 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations and/or educational institutions for projects that identify and support regional homeless and housing solutions, educational outreach or training and/or identify and support efforts to develop a regional approach to homelessness strategic planning, substantially in the form and content of the attached, subject to review as to form by SFVCOG counsel. (Page XX)

John Bwarie stated the funds were allocated based on homeless population that excludes Glendale and the City of Los Angeles. Finding a non-profit to be efficient 'with the limited funds was crucial. The funds will be considered as a grant and not an RFP, Request for Proposal. The proposal includes monthly meetings to still occur

and to execute innovative ideas to the SFVCOG region.

John Bwarie added that if this item were to get approved, LA County Council and Homeless Initiative would work together to create a draft with the Chair signing the amendment. The draft would be created during the monthly meetings. With the final draft being brought back to the SFVCOG January 2024 meeting.

Opportunity was given for Members of the Public to address the SFVCOG. There was no public comment on this item.

On motion of Chair Mary Mendoza, seconded by Board Member Marsha McLean, the SFVCOG jointly approved this item with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 10: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Natalie Vartanian for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Barri Girvan for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Tamala Takahashi for Mayor Nick Schultz
Doug Mensman for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Marsha McLean

Absent 2: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan

Adjourn to Closed Session

Closed Session started at 11:03 a.m.

12. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

(Government Code Section 54957 (b)(1))

Performance Evaluation of the Existing Executive Director of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

In accordance with Chair Mary Mendoza discussions were had but no action was taken

13. APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

(Government Code Section 54957 (b)(1))

Consider the Appointment of an Independent Contractor to serve as Executive Director for a Fixed Term to manage the business affairs of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

In accordance with Chair Mary Mendoza, in a unanimous vote Item 13 was approved.

Return to Open Session

Close session was adjourned on 11:37 a.m.

14. DISCUSS WHETHER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- a. Find the proposed actions are not projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- b. Amend, or approve and to delegate authority to the SFVCOG Chair to execute and implement a contract for Executive Director services, subject to review as to form by SFVCOG counsel.

Chair Mary Mendoza introduced the item.

Opportunity was given for Members of the Public to address the SFVCOG. There was no public comment on this item.

On motion of Alternate Member Doug Mensman for Board Member Paul Krekorian, seconded by Alternate Member Tamala Takahashi for Board Member Nick Schultz, the SFVCOG jointly approved this item with the following roll call vote:

Ayes 10: Chair Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
Natalie Vartanian for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Barri Girvan for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Alexandra Leard for Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Mehmet Berker for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Tamala Takahashi for Mayor Nick Schultz
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Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Marsha McLean

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Absent 2: Vice Chair Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Mayor Elen Asatryan

15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

There were none.

16. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alternate Member Natalie Vartanian announced she won't be attending the next meeting as well as the following several months. Alternate Doug Mensman announced that Councilmember Paul Krekorian will be ending his term before the next meeting.

17. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2025, 10AM in City of Santa Clarita

18. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44pm

Notices:

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SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FUND V54
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

Fund V54/Org 55665

Cash Balance, October 1, 2024 338,717.94 \$

Receipts:

Interest Earnings 10/1/2024 1,098.43 Interest Earnings 11/1/2024 1,244.03 Interest Earnings 12/1/2024 843.09

Total Beginning Cash Balance and Receipts 341,903.49 \$

Disbursements:

AD AU A2500472867 Stratiscope - September 2024 10/1/2024 8,333.33 AD AU A2500482784 Stratiscope -
Transportation Committee Meeting 10/1/2024 10/3/2024 146.41 EFT AU A2500224309 - Moss, Levy & Hartzheim FY
2022-23 10/15/2024 4,084.77 AD AU A2500600785 Stratiscope - Hostway Annual Renewal Fee 10/14/2024
10/28/2024 239.40 AD AU A2500629378 Stratiscope - October 2024 11/3/2024 8,333.33 AD AU A2500776766
Stratiscope - November 2024 12/4/2024 8,333.33 AD AU A2500802001 Stratiscope - Corner Bakery for Meeting
12/2/2024 12/10/2024 186.88

Total Disbursements 29,657.45 \$ Cash Balance, December 31, 2024 \$ 312,246.04

Prepared by
Los Angeles County
Department of Auditor-Controller
Accounting Division
ML 1/6/2025

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San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: January 9, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director

RE: **Homeless Grant Solicitation**

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and take appropriate action to create an Ad Hoc Committee to oversee the competitive grant solicitation process in accordance with the funding agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the SFVCOG for Homeless Services (Contract No. HI-23-007).

BACKGROUND

On October 17, 2024, at a special meeting of the SFVCOG Board of Directors, the Board directed staff to enter into a new Funding Agreement for Homeless Services (HI-23-007) with the County, to focus on a competitive grant solicitation for nonprofits and academic institutions. Since then, work has been done during the monthly SFVCOG Homeless Coordination meeting to refine the needs that can be replicable, innovative approaches to address regional needs in the SFVCOG region. The Board is asked to empower the Ad Hoc Committee to refine the solicitation to be released by staff before the next Board meeting, in the hopes that responses can be reviewed, scored, and presented back to the Board. The committee will focus on creating a grant solicitation to encourage innovative solutions for addressing homelessness in the region. This initiative will provide funding for educational institutions, non-profits, and other organizations to develop scalable solutions that can be replicated across SFVCOG member jurisdictions. The following three areas are recommended for the Ad Hoc Committee to incorporate in the solicitation:

1. Hospital Coordination & Discharge

This will explore challenges related to hospital discharge and address difficulties in funding staff for housing navigation programs designed to assist people leaving hospitals. It will assess the need for better coordination between cities and outreach programs to streamline the discharge and housing process countywide, considering existing County initiatives to improve housing navigation, including short-term hospitalization services and rent support through Medi-Cal.

2. Access Center Innovation & Efficiency

This will identify opportunities for cost savings and increased efficiency within current homelessness programs and explore best practices for managing Access Centers and improving their operations. The goal of this work is to strengthen coordination across Access Centers by streamlining services, enhancing outcomes, and better serving the unhoused population.

3. Research Funds to Centralize SFVCOG Data

This will investigate the root causes of homelessness and identify systemic issues contributing to its rise, including looking at an racial equity analysis to assess disparities in homelessness and prevention efforts. Further, it will seek to collect and centralize data across SFVCOG cities to inform decision-making, policy development, and resource allocation.

Overall, the goal of this solicitation is to support programs that offer sustainable, creative approaches to homelessness, with capital that can drive long-term impact. These solutions will be designed to address the root causes of homelessness and improve outcomes for those affected.

CURRENT POSITIONS

The SFVCOG has a contract (Contract No. HI-23-007) with the County of Los Angeles to do this work.



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: January 9, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director

RE: **Ad hoc 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games Committee**

RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to convene a 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games ad hoc Committee to report back with recommendations to the full board

BACKGROUND

When the SFVCOG Board adopted its 2025-2028 Strategic Plan in October 2024, it called for the creation of an ad hoc committee to evaluate the role of the SFVCOG with regard to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. While LA28 is responsible for planning and executing the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, SFVCOG and its members can play a key role in maximizing the benefits of the event for the region, its residents, and its long-term future.

The San Fernando Valley is currently scheduled to host Olympic events in the Sepulveda Basin, as well as at least two planned Mobility Hubs, and the entire region will feel the effects of this global event. This is a unique opportunity to showcase SFVCOG communities, create a lasting legacy through strategic investments, and demonstrate the power of regional collaboration. Achieving the shared vision for the 2028 Games will require united efforts across the SFVCOG region.

The ad hoc committee's scope will include the areas where the SFVCOG seeks to coordinate its members and engagement of locals and visitors in those cities for the Games. While much of this is presented in the adopted strategic plan, the ad hoc committee will clarify and refine the recommended role of the SFVCOG in preparing for the 2028 Games.

The committee will meet as needed and report to the Board at the July meeting with recommendations for consideration as a path forward for the organization as regional coordinator to leverage the 2028 Olympics for lasting community benefits. The committee will focus on public safety, transportation, legacy planning, and engagement, and after the recommendations of the ad Hoc Committee are considered and advanced, a working group of staff from member jurisdictions will coordinate best practices for event planning, communications, and joint opportunities.

CURRENT POSITIONS

The adopted 2024-28 SFVCOG Strategic Plan calls for the formation of this committee.