



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, January 20, 2022 — 1:30 p.m.

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF CITY BUILDINGS,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL IN TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84523028647?pwd=M3l3bSt5Ri9yV2prakY0YXRmaXBmdz09>

Passcode: 892881

Or call by telephone:

Dial (669)900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 845 2302 8647#

For those wishing to speak on an agenda item, please email john@sfdcog.org no later than **11:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting** with the item number you wish to speak on and the phone number you will use when calling or the name you will use when logging into the meeting. You should then call or log into the meeting at least 10 minutes prior to its start time. Additionally, if you would like to speak on an item during the meeting, please use the "Raise your Hand" function on the Zoom webinar and staff will unmute you and announce you when it is your time to speak. You will have two (2) minutes to speak, unless that time is adjusted by the Chair.

As an alternative to speaking during the meeting, you can email your comments to the COG Executive Director at john@sfdcog.org no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting to ensure that Staff has time to organize the emails prior to the beginning of the meeting. Comments will then be provided to the members when the item is presented. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

You may also submit public comment by mail to:

SFVCOG
10945 Burbank Blvd
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Written public comment or requests to speak must be received no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

All correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles

Vice-Chair: Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Mayor Jess Talamantes, City of Burbank

Councilmember Ara Najarian, City of Glendale

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nury Martinez, 6th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of Santa Clarita

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles

SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office

SFVCOG Executive Director: John Bwarie

Counsel: Shan Thever, Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** — Monica Rodriguez, 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 ([Page 5](#))

Review and Approve Minutes from Board Meetings on November 19, 2021, December 3, 2021, and December 21, 2021.

Recommended Action: *Approve Minutes.*

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Review FY 2020-21 Financials from November 1 through December 31, 2022

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

Chair's Report - Monica Rodriguez, 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. METRO UPDATE

- a. Metro Presentation of Alternatives for Sepulveda Pass Corridor

Recommended Action: *Consideration and possible action by the Board*

- b. Consideration of State Budget Surplus Golden Opportunity Package ([Page 20](#))

Recommended Action: *Support Metro's request to sign on to their "Golden Opportunity" letter.*

10. MAKING NECESSARY FINDINGS FOR CONTINUED TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS

Recommended Action: *Find, in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code section 54953(e)(3), that the Board of Directors has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the State of Emergency remains active; and find in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code section 54953(e)(3), that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing*

11. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Caltrans Stormwater Funding Program ([Page 26](#))

Recommended Action: *Receive and file ad hoc committee report*

b. LA County Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness ([Page 36](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve letter as presented by the ad hoc committee to be sent to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness*

12. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. NEXT MEETINGS:

Next Regular Meeting: April 21, 2022 at 1:30pm

Recommended Action: *Set a meeting within 30 days to consider teleconference circumstances*

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 MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 10, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

Please click the link below to watch or listen to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84614056429?pwd=bIN0bkhYUHZMSVRHWUhCSVUyYUQ0QT09>

Or call by telephone:

Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 846 1405 6429

Or call by telephone:

Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 846 1405 6429

For those wishing to speak on an agenda item, please email john@sfvcog.org no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting with the item number you wish to speak on and the phone number you will use when calling or the name you will use when logging into the meeting. You should then call or log into the meeting at least 10 minutes prior to its start time. Staff will unmute you and announce you when it is your time to speak. You will have two (2) minutes to speak unless that time is adjusted by the Chair. If you do not have access to a computer, please call 818-570-3408 to request public comment.

As an alternative to speaking during the meeting, you can email your comments to the COG executive director at john@sfvcog.org no later than 11am on January March 18, 2021 to ensure that staff has time to organize the emails prior to the beginning of the meeting. Comments will then be provided to the members when the item is presented. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

You may also submit public comment by mail to:

SFVCOG

**10945 Burbank Blvd
North Hollywood, CA 91601**

Written public comment or requests to speak must be received no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

All correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles

Vice-Chair: Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes, City of Burbank

Councilmember Ara Najarian, City of Glendale

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nury Martinez, 6th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando

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

Shan Thever, Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER - Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

The meeting was called to order by Lexie Obrei representing Chair Monica Rodriguez at 2:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (12 Members):

Present: Lex Olbrie for Chair Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes
Councilmember Ara Najarian (arrived after roll call)
Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
John Popoch for Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield
Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Jay Greenstein for Councilmember Paul Koretz
Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez
Josh Yeager for Councilmember John Lee
Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza

Absent: Vice-Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Josh Yeager.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

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.

6. CHAIR REPORT

There was no Chair Report presented.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

Executive Director Bwarie informed the Board of the following:

- **There is currently an ad-hoc committee in relation to the Blue Ribbon Commission on homelessness and LAHSA, and members are being sought for participation for the purpose of forming a recommendation to the Board. Vice Mayor Talamantes and Vice Mayor Mendoza voiced their interest in participating.**
- **SCAG Metropolitan Planning Organization is hosting its Economic Summit for elected officials. Executive Director Bwarie will forward the information to the Board.**
- **A Special Meeting will be held on December 3, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of strategic planning. All members were encouraged to attend and to consider input regarding the direction of the SFVCOG.**

9. MAKING NECESSARY FINDINGS FOR CONTINUED TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS

Recommended Action: Find, in accordance with AB 361 Section 3e(3), California Government Code Section 54953e(3), that the Board of Directors has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency due to the CoVID-19 pandemic and that the State of Emergency remains active; and find in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.

On motion of Lex Olbrie for Chair Monica Rodriguez, seconded by Madeleine Moore for Sheila Kuehl, unanimously carried, (Vice-Chair Marsha McLean being absent), the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments approved the continuance of teleconference meetings.

10. FUNDS FOR STORMWATER MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

Recommended Action: Create an ad-hoc committee to explore funds available for stormwater mitigation and management.

Executive Director Bwarie informed the Board that funds have been identified from the state for stormwater mitigation and management and recommended the forming of an ad-hoc committee to review the proposal from the state and report back to the full Board with additional information and recommendations in January 2022.

On motion of John Popoch for Councilmember Blumenfield, seconded by Sahag Yedelian for Councilmember Krekorian, unanimously carried (Vice-Chair Marsha McLean being absent), the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to review the states proposal on stormwater mitigation and management, and to return to the full Board with additional information and recommendations.

The following members volunteered to participate in the ad-hoc committee:

**John Popoch
Sahag Yedelian
Max Podemski
Meg Healy
Josh Yeager
Mary Mendoza**

Madeleine Moore indicated that the Third Supervisorial District will participate, and she will provide the name of the participant to Executive Director Bwarie.

11. BOARDMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Josh Yeager, representing Councilmember John Lee, introduced himself to the Boardmembers.

Madeleine Moore reported that the Metro Board is anticipating putting \$60 million of Measure M funds into the San Fernando Portion of the LA River.

12. NEXT SPECIAL MEETING:

Executive Director Bwarie reminded the Board that there will be a Special Meeting held on December 3, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of strategic planning.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Acting Chair Lex Olbrie adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

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 MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, December 3, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL IN TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING**

Please click the link below to watch or listen to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89312494415?pwd=UDB6eXhWNXpNUINsak5wdHpxZ2xPQT09>

Or call by telephone:

Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 846 1405 6429

For those wishing to speak on an agenda item, please email john@sfdcog.org no later than **11:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting** with the item number you wish to speak on and the phone number you will use when calling or the name you will use when logging into the meeting. You should then call or log into the meeting at least 10 minutes prior to its start time. Staff will unmute you and announce you when it is your time to speak. You will have two (2) minutes to speak unless that time is adjusted by the Chair. If you do not have access to a computer, please call 818-570-3408 to request public comment.

As an alternative to speaking during the meeting, you can email your comments to the COG executive director at john@sfdcog.org no later than 11am on January March 18, 2021 to ensure that staff has time to organize the emails prior to the beginning of the meeting. Comments will then be provided to the members when the item is presented. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

You may submit public comment by email to john@sfvcog.org or by mail to:

**SFVCOG
10945 Burbank Blvd
North Hollywood, CA 91601**

Written public comment or requests to speak must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting and will be provided to all members. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

All correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles

Vice-Chair: Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes, City of Burbank

Councilmember Ara Najarian, City of Glendale

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Nury Martinez, 6th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles

SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office

SFVCOG Executive Director: John Bwarie

Counsel: Shan Thever, Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

The meeting was called to order by Lex Olbrie, representing Chair Monica Rodriguez, At 1:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commission Staff conducted roll call.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (9 Members):

Present: Lex Olbrie for Chair Monica Rodriguez
Vice-Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes
Councilmember Ara Najarian
Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
John Popoch for Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield
Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Jay Greenstein for Councilmember Paul Koretz
Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez
Josh Yeager for Councilmember John Lee
Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza

Absent: Councilmember Ara Najarian
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Jess Talamantes

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments.

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.

5. CHAIR REPORT

Chair's Report – Monica Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Board.
Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

No report was provided.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director.

Executive Director John Bwarie informed the Councilmembers that there will be an upcoming requirement for submission of Form 700.

7. MAKING NECESSARY FINDINGS FOR CONTINUED TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS

Recommended Action: *Find, in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that the Board of Directors has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the State of Emergency remains active; and find in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.*

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Councilmembers Koretz, Martinez, and Najarian being absent), the SFVCOG, made a finding in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that the Board of Directors has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the State of Emergency remains active; and found in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Recommended Action: *Provide input to Staff on the Development of the SFVCOG 2022-24 Strategic Plan.*

Executive Director John Bwarie facilitated the planning session, presented background on the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG), and posed various questions to the Councilmembers whereby the future direction and vision of the COG was discussed.

9. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director Bwarie informed the SFVCOG that there will be a special meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in order to make a finding for future teleconferencing meetings for the next thirty days.

Dave Perry provided an update to the Metro Board meeting of December 2, 2021, as well as informing the members regarding a motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis regarding high-speed rail inter-city projects.

Madeleine Moore informed that the Metro Board approved \$60 million for the LA River Project along the San Fernando Valley Portion.

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

January 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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 MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 21, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL IN TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING**

Please click the link below to watch or listen to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83936589226?pwd=Z2dhTy95ZlVRVXNYL0RWa3E2T0wwUT09>

Or call by telephone:

Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 839-3658-9226#

1) **Pre-register to speak:** For those wishing to speak on an agenda item, please email john@sfdcog.org no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting with the item number you wish to speak on and the phone number you will use when calling or the name you will use when logging into the meeting. You should then call or log into the meeting at least 10 minutes prior to its start time. Staff will unmute you and announce you when it is your time to speak. You will have two (2) minutes to speak unless that time is adjusted by the Chair. If you do not have access to a computer, please call 818-570-3408 to request public comment.

2) **“Raise your hand”:** For those members of the public that wish to speak but did not make a request via email as described above, such members of the public may speak by using the “Raise Hand” function during the public comments portion, if on Zoom. Staff will unmute you and announce you when it is your time to speak. If participating via telephone, the Mayor will ask anyone participating by telephone if they would like to speak after asking those on Zoom. Staff will unmute telephone callers and you may state you wish to speak.

3) **Emailed comments to be read into the record:** You can email your comments to the COG Executive Director at john@sfdcog.org no later than 11:00 on the day of the meeting to ensure

that Staff has time to organize the emails prior to the beginning of the meeting. Comments will then be provided to the members when the item is presented. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

You may also submit public comments by mail to:

SFVCOG
10945 Burbank Blvd
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Written public comment or requests to speak must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting and will be provided to all members. Please include the Agenda Item in your correspondence.

All correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles
Vice-Chair: Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles
Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes, City of Burbank
Councilmember Ara Najarian, City of Glendale
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember Nury Martinez, 6th District, City of Los Angeles
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles
Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando

STAFF

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles
SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office
SFVCOG Executive Director: John Bwarie
Counsel: Shan Thever, Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair: Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Marsha McLean at 1:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commission Staff conducted roll call.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (7 Members):

Present: Lex Olbrei for Chair Monica Rodriguez
Vice-Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Josh Yeager for Councilmember John Lee
Mayor Mary Mendoza

Absent: Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Mayor Jess Talamantes
Councilmember Ara Najarian
Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Mary Mendoza

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public addressed the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments.

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.

6. CHAIR REPORT

Chair's Report – Monica Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Board.
Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

No report was provided.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director.

No report was provided.

9. MAKING NECESSARY FINDINGS FOR CONTINUED TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS

Recommended Action: *Find, in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that the Board of Directors has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the State of Emergency remains active; and find in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.*

On motion of Sahag Yedelian on behalf of Councilmember Paul Krekorian, seconded by Madeleine Moore on behalf of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, duly carried by the following vote, the SFVCOG, made a finding in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that the Board of Directors has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the State of Emergency remains active; and found in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), California Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing:

Ayes: Lex Olbrei for Chair Monica Rodriguez
Vice-Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Josh Yeager for Councilmember John Lee
Mayor Mary Mendoza

Noes: None

Abstain: None

**Absent: Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Mayor Jess Talamantes
Councilmember Ara Najarian
Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez**

10. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madeleine Moore informed the COG that Karen Swift, Senior Manager, Metro, accepted a new position at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and will no longer attend the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments meetings. The members wished her well in her new endeavor.

The COG congratulated newly appointed Mayors, Jess Talamantes and Mary Mendoza for the Cities of Burbank and San Fernando, respectfully.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

January 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

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

DATE: January 12, 2022
TO: SFVCOG Board
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: **State Surplus “Golden Opportunity” Package Los Angeles Metro**

RECOMMENDATION:

Support Metro's request to sign on to their “Golden Opportunity” letter.

BACKGROUND

Metro is urging the State government to allocate at least \$16.5 billion dollars of this year's budget surplus to transportation infrastructure in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Metro has outlined the following project priorities, titled “Golden Opportunity Package”:

1. \$10 billion dollars for public transit, which includes capital for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor and the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor.
2. \$2.5 billion dollars for projects that support the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
3. \$500 million dollars for the Active Transportation Program, including First Mile/Last Mile connectivity projects and modernizing bikeways to enhance safety.
4. \$1 billion dollars for the development of the High-Speed Rail in Southern California, including projects that enhance capacity and safety on Metrolink's entire system, and double tracking on key corridors such as the Antelope Valley Line.
5. \$1 billion dollars for transit customer service, resilience and fare reduction programs.
6. \$1 billion dollars for deploying zero emission buses, including the fleet serving the Orange Line.
7. \$500 million dollars for the Trade Corridors Enhancement Program.

If Metro's request is granted, cities in the San Fernando Valley COG region will experience an acceleration in transportation improvements. The Golden Opportunity Package would fast-track several of the COG's largest 2021 mobility priorities. Additionally, part of the funds requested would go towards deploying zero emission buses in the Orange Line, which would reduce pollution in the Valley region and improve community health. Overall, this proposal would accelerate job creation and economic growth by making funds for public transit projects available earlier.

CURRENT POSITIONS

Metro's request is consistent with part of the SFVCOG Board's 2021 Transportation Priorities. These include (A) the development of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor and (B) the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor; (C) Improving First Mile/Last Mile connectivity and (D) enhancing bikeways safety; and (E) Increasing capacity on Metrolink's service with added priority to the Antelope Valley Line. The Board has not taken positions on the other items requested by Metro.

Attachment: Metro Golden Opportunity Package letter



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

December 8, 2021

Dear LA County Delegation,

As we close out another year of historic challenges, we are grateful for your work in ensuring that California continues to deliver on critical priorities, especially regarding transportation, climate change, and equity. We look forward to continuing our work with you on the FY 2022-2023 budget, as we believe the current budget surplus presents what we consider a **golden opportunity** to improve mobility and quality of life for California residents. We would like to thank the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation and Governor Newsom for enacting key environmental reform measures, including SB 288 (Weiner) and SB 44 (Allen), as well as AB 917 (Bloom) which will support enforcement of bus only lanes.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors and our partner organizations urge you to continue your momentum by investing existing State budget surplus funds in LA County mobility projects. Coupled with the investment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), these funds will allow Los Angeles to significantly advance the nation's most comprehensive transit system expansion, while addressing long-standing inequities by bringing transit to disadvantaged communities.

We are executing a long-term strategy to transform Los Angeles County, creating a true regional transportation system supporting the mobility of the future. In the coming years, we will host some of the largest, most complex events held anywhere in the world, including Super Bowl LVI, the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in 2022, and the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Los Angeles County's infrastructure will need to accommodate tens of thousands of visitors from around the world for these events, while ensuring Angelenos can continue to navigate the region without significant disruption. Each of these events represents an opportunity to create legacy benefits for the residents of LA County: climate, equity, and workforce development. Our infrastructure also will need to position local businesses to meet the demand for commerce and tourism, realizing an important boost for our region's continued economic recovery.

At this historic moment, the future is now. We have the opportunity not just to complete individual projects, but to connect communities across our region, especially those who have been historically marginalized. Our coalition has worked to put a system in place that is greater than the sum of any of its parts. Metro's 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan estimates that our 30-year capital investment program, in combination with equity-focused

policies, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 19%, increase transit trips by 81% and create more than 1.8 million high-road construction and indirect jobs. The transit investment alone will dramatically expand regional access to high-quality travel options. After implementation, the number of county residents and jobs located within a 10-minute walk to high-quality bus and rail more than doubles.

While Metro may build a project in one area and expand a rail line in another, all of these projects combine to create benefits not just in one sub-region but throughout the county. For example, the completion of the Metro Eastside Extension and the Metro Exposition Line created an opportunity for people who live on the Eastside to take transit to the beach. Completing the Metro Orange Line across the San Fernando Valley allowed people to take transit from the western end of the San Fernando Valley to Downtown Los Angeles.

Our coalition is focused on mutual priorities and urges the State to allocate at least \$16.5 billion to transportation infrastructure in the upcoming budget. We believe an appropriate investment strategy is the following **Golden Opportunity Package**:

1. \$10 billion for Public Transit capital projects. Funding could be matched with local resources, as well as resources from IIJA. Leveraging State funds with local and federal dollars would multiply the positive impact of the State's investment and create tens of thousands of jobs.

Projects that could be funded from this allocation include the following key Metro priorities:

- Bus Rapid Transit/Bus-Only Lanes Countywide Expansion
 - East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor
 - Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2
 - Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line
 - Green Line Extension to Torrance
 - Inglewood Transit Connector Project
 - Sepulveda Transit Corridor
 - Strategic State of Good Repair Investments such as Metro Green Line Rehabilitation
 - West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor to Downtown LA
2. \$2.5 billion for projects that support the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. These funds could be allocated through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). However, these funds should be subject to controlling criteria separate from the regular TIRCP. With the world watching us, Southern California has an audacious goal for the Olympic and Paralympic Games: we want to enable all ticketed spectators to access competition venues by public transit, walking, or cycling. To ensure we provide a world-class user experience for these visitors and their

tourism revenue, we must improve and expand our core system to enhance speed, reliability, and connectivity. Projects that would achieve this goal include, but are not limited to:

- Adding capacity at key transit stations and transit system bottlenecks
 - Expanding bus-only lanes on major arterial streets countywide
 - Investments in zero emissions charging infrastructure
 - Optimizing access to major venues and activity centers
 - Planning and design activities for these projects
3. Increased allocation of up to \$500 million for the Active Transportation Program. These funds would help address the backlog of planned projects and link housing and transit in underserved communities. These linkages ensure that people who use transit can walk on safe sidewalks, ride bicycles on streets with proper bike facilities, and find their way around the county safely without using a car. Projects that could be funded out of this category include, but are not limited to:
- First Mile/Last Mile connectivity
 - Modernizing bikeways to provide enhanced safety features
 - Rail to River
4. \$1 billion for a new California Next Generation High Speed Rail Program. This funding would support Metrolink's SCORE program – helping to achieve the California State Rail Plan, Antelope Valley Rail Line improvements, and CA HSR Phase 1A projects in Los Angeles County. This category could fund projects such as:
- Capacity and safety enhancements on Metrolink's entire system
 - Double tracking on key corridors such as the Antelope Valley Line
 - Palmdale to Burbank Tunnel
5. At least \$1 billion for Transit Customer Service, Resiliency and Fare Reduction programs. Over the past year, Metro's ridership has steadily recovered. We must maintain our momentum by investing in initiatives that will provide a safe, clean, and affordable system. Los Angeles County is also served by a network of municipal bus operators. This funding would also help to address similar needs on those systems. This program could fund key customer improvements such as:
- Improved bus stop lighting
 - Providing shade at exposed bus stops
 - Supporting reduced and free fare programs, such as the Fareless System Initiative
6. \$1 billion for the deployment of zero emission buses. Metro is leading the State in this effort, as we aim to convert the State's largest bus fleet to zero emission 10 years ahead of the State's requirement of 2040. We have already completed the conversion

of the Metro G/Orange Line to zero emission, and we are currently converting the Metro J/Silver Line. Zero emission buses continue to be significantly more expensive to procure than traditional CNG buses. The high cost of the charging infrastructure is also a significant challenge. This funding should be made available to purchase vehicles, install the necessary charging infrastructure, including support for the conversion of the municipal transit fleet to zero emission buses, as well as workforce development training. We also look forward to an ongoing commitment to funding both zero emission buses and trucks.

7. \$500 million for the Trade Corridors Enhancement Program and critical projects such as the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' Montebello and Turnbull Canyon Grade Separation Projects to address the supply-chain infrastructure. Los Angeles County is the epicenter of goods movement in California, with 40% of the nation's container shipments coming through its ports and ending up on trucks that use the Southern California freeway system and on trains that traverse our region. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have outlined significant investments that would help to relieve this backlog. This crisis also points out the need to maintain a strong State commitment to investing in goods movement-related infrastructure.

We appreciate your consideration of our proposal. We have a once-in-a-generation, **golden opportunity** to make these truly impactful and equitable changes in transportation for the Southern California Region. We look forward to achieving these goals together, working cooperatively with the legislature and the Newsom Administration throughout the budget process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Stephanie Wiggins, Chief Executive Officer, at 213-922-7555.

Sincerely,


Hilda L. Solis,
Metro Board Chair

Ara Najarian
Metro Board 1st Vice Chair

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker,
Metro Board 2nd Vice Chair

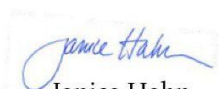
Kathryn Barger
Metro Board Member


Mike Bonin
Metro Board Member

James Butts
Metro Board Member

Fernando Dutra
Metro Board Member

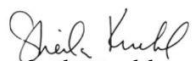
Eric Garcetti
Metro Board Member



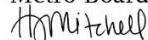
Janice Hahn
Metro Board Member



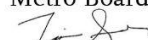
Paul Krekorian
Metro Board Member



Sheila Kuehl
Metro Board Member



Holly Mitchell
Metro Board Member



Tim Sandoval
Metro Board Member

cc:

Governor Gavin Newsom

Senator Toni G. Atkins, President pro Tempore,

Assembly Member Phil Ting, Chair Assembly Budget Committee

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair Senate Budget Committee



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: January 14, 2022
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: **ad hoc Committee on Caltrans Stormwater Funding**

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File this report.

BACKGROUND

At its November Special Meeting, the SFVCOG created an ad hoc committee to study the availability and feasibility of using Caltrans funds to fund stormwater projects in the region. The ad hoc Committee met on December 14, 2021 and again on January 10, 2022. In the latter meeting, Anand Maganti (Supervising Transportation Engineer at Caltrans) presented on the funding options available to local governments. The presentation is attached.

Mr. Maganti clarified that cities must apply to these funds individually either through their Sanitation or Public Works departments. Projects that qualify must be related to stormwater management alongside roads and highways and implemented in cooperation with Caltrans. The speaker also informed the committee that there is substantial funding available, and cities are encouraged to apply, especially if they have approved projects in the pipeline that have not been executed solely due to lack of capital. Applicants need to submit their proposed projects for a Caltrans feasibility study and approval only once. If awarded, cities are responsible for the long-term watershed management. If they are not selected, their application remains valid for following rounds of awards.

Though the COG region has many potential projects, the SFVCOG itself is not eligible to apply. The ad hoc Committee recommended that staff share the information with member jurisdiction, but the SFVCOG itself would not have a formal role in accessing or securing these funds in the current program format.

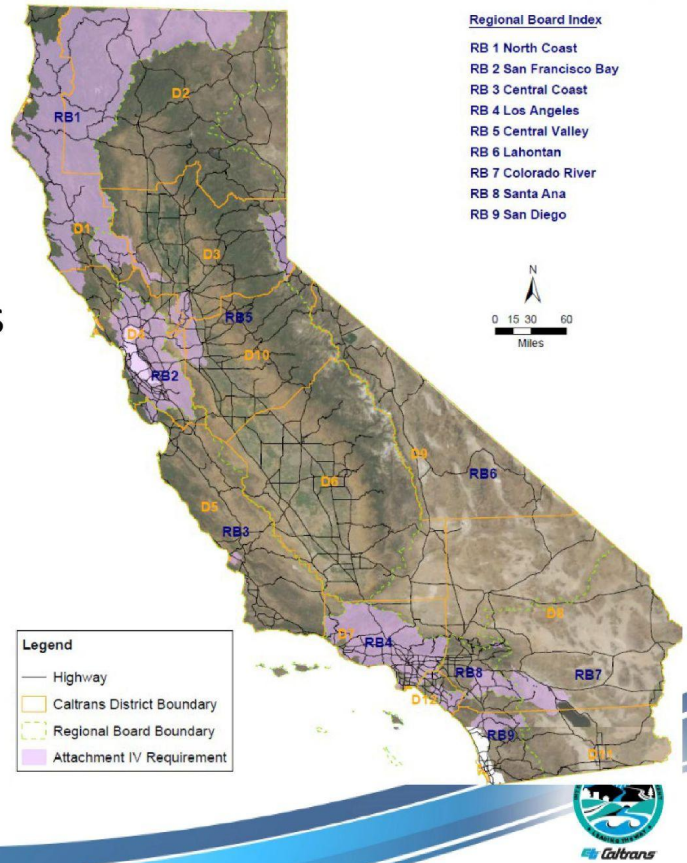
ATTACHMENT: Caltrans Presentation from January 10, 2022



Stormwater Treatment Partnerships

Caltrans Challenges

- Stakeholder in 87 TMDLs covering 8 Pollutant Categories
- Linear facility: 4,100 miles roadway in TMDLs
- Narrow right of way
- Expensive or impossible to place BMPs at each outfall



Caltrans NPDES Permit

The next Caltrans NPDES Permit will require Caltrans to:

- Meet Waste Load Allocations of TMDLs
- Reduce trash in Significant Trash Generating Areas (STGAs)

Partnership Programs

Cooperative Implementation Agreements (CIA)

- Fund available for planning through construction
- Limited amount of funds available each year
- Projects prioritized
- Funding decisions made by June of each year
- Funds available immediately



Partnership Programs

Financial Contribution Only (FCO)

- Funds capital construction costs
- Caltrans prepares the Project Initiation Document
- Dedicated funds
- Funding decisions made by June of odd years
- Funds typically become available after 2 years

Partnership Programs

For each program:

- Maintenance is responsibility of local agency
- Projects remain eligible if not selected



Questions?



LOCAL MS4s & CALTRANS — PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECTS

The Caltrans NPDES Permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) encourages Caltrans to partner with local municipalities by providing funding for regional water quality treatment facilities in TMDL watersheds in which Caltrans is identified as a responsible party, or in high trash generating areas (as defined in Attachment V of the Caltrans NPDES Permit for the San Francisco Bay Area), or in significant trash generating areas (STGA) (as identified in the Caltrans Statewide Trash Implementation Plan). Caltrans receives Waste Load Allocation reduction or trash reduction treatment credits for contributions to regional projects. Caltrans will receive Waste Load Allocation reduction credits commensurate with the amount of funding contributed to the project. For trash reduction projects, Caltrans will receive credit for each acre of Caltrans STGA treated by the project.

Caltrans has two partnership programs:

Cooperative Implementation Agreement (CIA) – CIAs provide capital and support funding for planning, design, environmental studies, right of way (ROW) acquisition (easement only) and construction of stormwater treatment facilities. For TMDLs, treatment of runoff from Caltrans ROW is not required but is desirable. For STGAs, treatment of runoff from Caltrans ROW is required. The amount of funds in this program varies from year to year. Project details (Items 1 through 5 as described below) must be submitted to the appropriate Stormwater Coordinator prior to February 1. Projects under consideration are prioritized and tentative funding determinations are made by April with final determinations by June.

Financial Contribution Only (FCO) – FCOs provide funding for capital construction costs (labor and materials) only of stormwater treatment facilities. Treatment of runoff from Caltrans ROW is required. Basic project details (brief project scope, location, tentative schedule and estimate) must be submitted to the District NPDES Coordinator by May 1 of even years to reserve funds. Additional details of the project (as described below) must be submitted by March 1 or earlier of odd years for Caltrans to develop a Project Initiation Report (PIR). Projects will be prioritized and if approved, funds are typically available two years after PIR approval. Exceptions to the dates noted may be granted for high priority projects. Project plans and specifications, environmental document and permits, ROW acquisition, contract advertisement, award, and administration (with Caltrans oversight) is the responsibility of the local municipality.

Projects in either program not selected remain eligible for funding in following years.

For projects with multiple components (e.g., Green Streets, flood control, etc.), only components directly related to construction of the BMPs or restoration of areas disturbed by construction of the BMPs are eligible.

Maintenance and operation costs under each program must be solely borne by the local MS4.

Information required to be submitted for project consideration:

1. For projects treating TMDLs, waterbody reach the project discharges to and Reach Prioritization Inventory List ranking.

The list is available on the Caltrans Stormwater Program website under “Tools”:

www.dot.ca.gov/env/stormwater.

LOCAL MS4s & CALTRANS — PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECTS

2. For projects treating TMDLs, type of BMP(s) to be built, pollutant categories treated and the waste load reduction for each pollutant, if known. Provide tributary drainage area calculations and mapping for dry and wet weather flows treated showing drainage systems and connection to the BMP for Caltrans and each MS4's right of way.
3. For projects treating Trash, type of State Water Board or Caltrans-approved Full Capture System (FCS) BMP(s), acres of Caltrans STGAs treated and total acres treated for Caltrans and each MS4. Priority is given to projects that address STGAs or multiple TMDLs.
4. Phase the project is in (i.e., conceptual, environmental studies, design), tentative schedule and funding requested.
Provide a tentative schedule to determine how much funds to encumber this fiscal year (by June 15) and tentatively over future fiscal years (these amounts can be changed prior to May 1 of the year that they are schedule to be encumbered). Funds encumbered this FY must be spent and invoiced to Caltrans within two years. Funds can be encumbered over multiple years and they must be spent and invoiced within two years of the fiscal year they are encumbered.
5. Number of Stakeholders benefitting from the project and Lead Agency (individual MS4, JPA, or stakeholder group).

If a project is selected to be funded as a CIA, the local agency will be notified and a CIA contract will be developed. The following will be required for the contract:

1. Regional Water Board approval of project (e.g., WQIP, WMP, EWMP, Exec. Officer or email from Regional Water Board).
2. Authority to enter into a CIA/FCO (e.g., Resolution, Certification of Approval, order, motion, ordinance or other similar document from the local governing body authorizing execution of the CIA) (Attachment I of the CIA). Provide official documentation stating the individual signing the agreement has been granted permission to enter into the agreement on behalf of the Agency.
3. Scope of Work. Provide finalized information from Items 1 through 5 above (Attachment II of CIA) including mapping showing the tributary area for Caltrans (STGA and total ROW) and each MS4 and Caltrans' drainage system and connection to the project.

For questions regarding either of these programs, contact the Caltrans NPDES Coordinator for the Caltrans District in which the project is located by reaching out to Anand Maganti at (916) 210-9849 or anand.maganti@dot.ca.gov or Jag Grewal, at (916) 956-3829 or jaggiwan.grewal@dot.ca.gov.



San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

DATE: January 14, 2022
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director
RE: **ad hoc Committee on Blue Ribbon Homeless Commission**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve and send a letter to the Blue Ribbon Homeless Commission.

BACKGROUND

At its October Meeting, the SFVCOG created an ad hoc committee to review and offer a position to be transmitted to the LA County Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH). It was formed by the County Supervisors to review the way the county approaches homeless in partnership with its cities as well as the operation, structure, and effectiveness of LAHSA. The eight COGs in the County were offered two seats on the Commission, and those were filled by representatives of the San Gabriel Valley COG and South Bay COG. The BRCH meets two-three times per month through March 2022, and the SFVCOG has the ability to formally share its position.

The ad hoc committee met twice in December to review the issues and positions presented by other cogs in the County, and determined that the letter drafted by other COGs accurately represented the position of the members of the ad hoc. The ad hoc committee recommended that the SFVCOG Board approve and transmit the letter to align with the other COGs in the region and make sure the SFVCOG took a position on this issue.

ATTACHMENT: *Draft letter to the BRCH*

[DATE]

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to share our input on concerns with the current homelessness services system and recommendations to improve this system. We commend the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for establishing the Blue-Ribbon Commission (BRCH) on Homelessness to identify and analyze the challenges inherent to the existing system and to provide recommendations to change and improve its efficiency. We appreciate the thoughtful and comprehensive approach that the BRCH is taking to hear diverse perspectives and expertise from cities and governments besides the City and County of Los Angeles. Collectively, cities besides the City of Los Angeles represent 60% of the County's population, nearly 40% of the population of those experiencing homelessness, and are the source for the majority of the tax revenue for Measure H.

The gravity and urgency of the homelessness crisis requires a comprehensive, coordinated, Countywide structure and strategy to help the tens of thousands of people living on our streets. We commend the BRCH and its staff team in its efforts to ensure that our voices are a part of this conversation. While each jurisdiction has unique needs and resources, our communities also face many of the same challenges and common threads that pervade all of our experiences with LAHSA and the homeless services system. We share these concerns below:

- **Lack of Collaborative Relationship:** Before funding decisions are made, there must be an effort to understand the specific needs of our communities and collaborate with our jurisdictions to implement these more targeted approaches. These collaborative relationships would make programs more effective and would maximize the close relationships that city governments have with their residents. There must be greater political and internal integration that ensures collaboration and idea-sharing across all parties. This includes integrating more closely with cities to implement processes and procedures that appropriately address the situation on the ground.
- **Insufficient Funding for Locally-based and Supported Initiatives and Programs:** Under the current system, the County and LAHSA manage funding in such a way that it's difficult for locally-based programs to receive funding. When cities propose an innovative solution, it does not appear to be taken seriously unless it can be applied County-wide. These locally-based ideas and programs are fundamental to the homeless services system, and there must be sufficient integration to ensure that these local ideas are communicated and acted-upon.
- **Insufficient Locally-based Planning and Inflexible Program Design:** Neither LAHSA nor the County engage in locally-based, bottoms-up processes to plan to reduce homelessness. While some services are organized and administered by service planning area (SPA), the primary function of the SPA appears to be to provide a more manageable geographic region through which County-wide programs can be administered. There are inflexible program designs and program requirements that limit the success and viability of programs. For example, the funding caps for safe parking programs make it extremely difficult for operators to effectively manage these sites. With the strict requirements for

winter shelter locations, it is difficult, if not impossible, to identify eligible locations. This makes it extremely challenging to ensure that these sites are available in time in the winter to support PEH, and this challenge is exacerbated by the fact that there is not sufficient time built into the timeline to meet launch deadlines. Program designs must be reevaluated based on the reality on the ground, in collaboration with partners, and must incorporate locally-based planning and recommendations.

- **Poor Communication:** The roles, missions, and responsibilities of the County government, the County's Homeless Initiative, and LAHSA and individual cities overlap or leave gaps. Currently, cities struggle to access information about programs and do not have direct access to appropriate contacts that can answer questions and respond to concerns. For example, our cities can spend weeks trying to identify a contact to answer a specific question and, in many instances, are never able to find the appropriate contact or even an answer to their question. There must be significant efforts to increase communication by ensuring that up-to-date stakeholders and contact information are freely shared and available.
- **Lack of Access to Quality Data:** Very few cities in the County have access to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). They must rely on contracts with service providers to receive critical information about the resources and support that people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in their cities are receiving. This makes it extremely difficult for City outreach teams to effectively serve PEH within their communities and creates a potential duplication of efforts. Data available to individuals providing services on-the-ground would help improve services for PEH on a daily basis and, on a broader level, inform what does and does not work. Even macro-level data - providing information on the number of persons served and geographies - is difficult to access and, in some cases, complete data is unavailable. The only data available to most cities is point-in-time (PIT) data and, as formulas are applied to individual jurisdictions - and the sample size gets smaller - to fully "calculate" the PIT, it becomes less accurate. Cities want accurate data about their people experiencing homelessness (PEH) to help identify the best solutions, but, with inaccurate PIT data, they must rely on locally-funded local census counts to do this. Data is the foundation for a proactive, effective homeless services system, but, without high quality data, it is difficult to appropriately target services that truly meet the needs of PEH.
- **Lack of Accountability:** There are not widely-communicated metrics to measure outcomes and define success and, conversely, no visible consequences for not meeting these metrics. With no metrics, there is no accountability. This includes accountability for meeting numeric metrics, meeting timelines, and true follow-through to implement programs effectively. For example, after a faith-based organization working group was formed and met, it was never integrated into LAHSA's broader structure, and there were no consequences for not doing so. There must be accountability in ensuring that the best staff are hired at LAHSA and that it is not competing with service providers who are trying to hire for the same roles.

Overall, the systems as currently administered communicate a lack of trust in cities' competency and intentions and do not constitute a partnership. LAHSA and the County have created an overarching system and established best practices but have not actively involved

the cities in this process. Our cities are willing partners in the fight against homelessness and having more communication with and trust in cities to develop and implement programs that are responsive to the local communities will lead to a stronger system. We want to establish strong collaborative relationships that are built around a basic core commitment to assisting those experiencing homelessness. We want to build the trust networks necessary to accomplish this.

To address the concerns and experiences of our cities, we strongly believe that there must be a new approach to providing homeless services in Los Angeles County, including but not limited to the following:

- Expanding the LAHSA Commission to include representatives from cities beyond the City or County of Los Angeles.
- Provide funding to establish subregional-level command centers to build actionable shared authority for the council of governments
- Improve collaboration and communication by increasing face-to-face interaction and relationship building with local city partners
- Improve the quality of data provided to subregions and release it monthly.
- Require evidence-based interventions with all County funds.
- Incentivize targeted homeless housing development strategies in response to actual data.
- Streamlining program design parameters to allow for programs that holistically address the needs of PEH and allowing for more flexibility in funding caps to allow for this.

We believe that these efforts would not only improve services for PEH in Los Angeles County but also improve programs and create more local accountability for our subregions.

Los Angeles County subregions vary in form but share in the sincere desire to address homelessness. We look forward to continuing to work with the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness to identify solutions to improve the homeless services system for the entire County.

Sincerely,