



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Joint Powers Authority

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, July 15, 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/86739747431?pwd=R3REbjJJNEJNRDVnMU1KYXdtcGxzQT09>

Or call by telephone:

Dial 669-900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 86739747431#

****The meeting will open at 1:15pm to allow testing of the system.****

For those wishing to speak on an agenda item, please email john@sfcog.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@sfcog.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 Chair Monica Rodriguez at 1:40 p.m.

- 2. ROLL CALL**

QUORUM ESTABLISHED (9 Members):

Present: Chair Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Vice-Chair Councilmember Marsha McLean
Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (joined the meeting after roll call)
Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes
Councilmember Ara Najarian (joined the meeting after roll call)
Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian (joined the meeting after roll call)
John Popoch for Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield
Debbie Dynere Harris for Councilmember Paul Koretz
Max Podemski for Councilmember Nury Martinez
Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza

Absent: Meg Healy for Councilmember Nithya Raman
Eric Moody for Councilmember John Lee

- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Popoch for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sonya Blake and Martha Diaz Aszkenazy addressed the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG)

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

Review and Approve April 15, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Recommended Action: *Approve Minutes.*

On motion of Vice Chair Marsha McLean, seconded by Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, (Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Councilmember Ara Najarian and Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian being absent) and duly carried, the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG) approved the April 15, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Review FY 2020-21 Financials from January 1 through March 30, 2021.
Recommended Action: *Receive and File Financial Report*

John Bwarie, Executive Director, clarified that the financial report included financial information through March 30, 2021 and that the end of (fiscal) year report will be submitted at the next regular meeting.

On motion of Vice Chair Marsha McLean, seconded by Vice-Mayor Mary Mendoza, (Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Councilmember Ara Najarian and Sahag Yedalian for Councilmember Paul Krekorian being absent) and duly carried, the 2020-21 Financial Report was received and filed.

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, Chairperson of the Board.
Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Board Chair.

Chair Monica Rodriguez thanked the Board for their collective advocacy concerning Cal Trans and reported that together they were able to restore and reduce the amount of funds that Cal Trans was seeking from Metro, preserving nearly \$60,000,000 in local funds.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director

John Bwarie, Executive Director of the SFVCOG, reported that the Strategic Plan (Plan) for Fiscal Years 2022-2024 is in development and staff will be reaching out to each Board Member's office for engagement in the process. The goal is to present the Plan at the January 2022 meeting for adoption.

Mr. Bwarie additionally reported that the Mobility Workshop is in its planning stages. The goal is to have the workshop in person, in late October, early November of this year, depending on meeting guidelines affected by COVID cases in the Los Angeles County.

As a preview to 2022, Mr. Bwarie mentioned that the Mobility Academy is due to re-launch in January of 2022, depending on meeting guidelines affected by COVID cases in the Los Angeles County.

9. HOMELESS COORDINATION REPORT

Updates, remarks and recommendations from Homelessness Coordinator

In the absence of the Homelessness Coordinator Representative from LeSar, Executive Director John Bwarie, provided a brief overview of LeSar's Quarterly Report.

Vice Chair Marsha McLean raised a concern that LeSar had not been in communication with her office and thought it might be due to the fact that she has a new contact person. In response to her concern, Mr. Bwarie assured that staff would follow up and ensure that the Board's contact list was up to date.

10. SFVCOG APPOINTEE UPDATE REVIEW

Recommended Action: *Reaffirm current Appointees to external bodies as presented.*

Executive Director John Bwarie reminded the SFVCOG Board that in July of each year (the first meeting of the fiscal year), the

Board must review and reaffirm (or replace) the appointment of members belonging to external boards and committees that represent the SFVCOG's interest. Mr. Bwarie provided the names of members who are currently sitting at the will of the Board:

- **Metro Technical Advisory Committee Member, Jason Smisko**
- **Metro Streets & Freeways Subcommittee Member, Edward Hitti**
- **Metro Policy Councilmember, John Bwarie**
- **Metro Policy Councilmember Alternate, David Kriske**
- **LA County Homelessness Task Force Member, Jerrid McKenna**
Vice Chair Marsha McLean respectfully interrupted and reported that the LA County Homelessness Task Force Member had been replaced by Michael Villegas. Mr. Bwarie responded that until action is taken, Jerrid McKenna is technically still the appointed member.
- **League of CA Cities Representative, Councilmember Marsha McLean**
- **SFVCOG's three appointees to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) policy committees:**
 - **SCAG Transportation Committee Member, Councilmember Ara Najarian,**
 - **SCAG Energy & Environment Committee Member, Councilmember Sharon Springer**
 - **SCAG Community, Economic & Human Development Committee Member, Councilmember Bill Miranda**

Executive Director John Bwarie recommended that the Board reaffirm the appointments of the members presented.

On motion of Vice Mayor Jess Talamantes, seconded by Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, (Councilmember Ara Najarian being absent) and duly carried, the appointments of the current members to the external bodies presented were reaffirmed.

11. APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR RECURRING PAYMENTS

Recommended Action: Delegate authority to LA County Auditor Controller to approve and pay monthly, recurring payments previously authorized by the board explicitly or by approval of the annual budget.

Executive Director John Bwarie provided a summary regarding the approval process for the SFVCOG's annual budget and expenditures.

Mr. Bwarie recommended that the Board delegate authority to the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller to approve and pay monthly, recurring payments previously authorized by the Board explicitly or by approval of the annual budget.

On motion of Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger, seconded by Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, (Councilmember Ara Najarian being absent) and duly carried, the SFVCOG delegated authority to the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller to approve and pay monthly, recurring payments previously authorized by the Board .

12. UPDATE FROM THE UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES REVITALIZATION PLAN (ULART) AD HOC COMMITTEE (Page 29)

Recommended Actions: Adopt the three recommendations of the ad Hoc Committee

Executive Director John Bwarie provided a brief background on the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (ULART) Ad hoc Committee and then presented the following three recommendations by the Ad hoc for adoption:

- 1. Assess projects included in the Design Areas for each tributary included within the ULART Plan, with jurisdictional and MRCA input, to identify the unique funding needs of each tributary based on the current status of project development (i.e. feasibility analysis, design, construction, etc.).**
- 2. Working with MCRA and based on the current status of project development, develop a project package inclusive of each tributary within the SFVCOG region included in the ULART Plan to match to various sources of funding.**
- 3. Advocate for funding for the package of ULART projects in the SFVCOG region.**

On motion of John Popoch for Councilmember for Bob Blumenfield, seconded by Vice-Mayor Jess Talamantes, and unanimously carried, the three recommendations of the Ad hoc Committee were adopted.

CLOSED SESSION

- 13. PERSONNEL MATTER.** *Performance Evaluation of Executive Director Services, provided by Stratiscope, LLC through John Bwarie (Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)).*

The SFVCOG recessed to closed session at 2:05 p.m.

Later in the meeting, at 2:14 p.m. the SFVCOG reconvened, Shan Thever, County Counsel, indicated that no reportable action was taken.

OPEN SESSION

- 14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES CONTRACT.**
Recommended Action: Exercise option to extend one year until Dec. 31, 2021 or take any other requested action thereto as directed by the SFVCOG.

On motion of Chair Monica Rodriguez, seconded by Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and unanimously carried, the Executive Director services contract was extended one year until December 31, 2021.

- 15. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING No. M-029-21 BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) AND THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SFVCOG) FOR SFVCOG REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING (REAP) GRANT PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH.**

Recommended Action: Approve the MOU M-029-21 between SFVCOG and SCAG for Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant partnerships and outreach.

Executive Director John Bwarie provided an updated version of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the SFVCOG. He added that the updated version would also be available on the SFVCOG website.

Mr. Bwarie provided a brief overview of the MOU and each party's role as outlined in the MOU, regarding the allocation of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding for the Subregional Partnership Program.

He explained that SCAG has an allocation of funds from the state that allows for them to support projects and activities that increase the capacity for local jurisdictions to build housing. He provided a summary of outcomes from meetings, projects and activities that had occurred between SCAG, himself, SFVCOG's technical committee, community development directors, planning directors and community leaders which were developed to determine how REAP funding could improve housing in Burbank, Glendale, Santa Clarita, and San Fernando.

Mr. Bwarie requested that the SFVCOG approve the MOU for REAP grant partnership and outreach.

On motion of Councilmember Ara Najarian, seconded by Madeleine Moore for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and unanimously carried, the MOU M-029-21 between SFVCOG and SCAG for Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant partnerships and outreach was approved.

16. **DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIR TO NEGOTIATE AN AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES CONTRACT TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF WORK TO INCLUDE RELEVANT DUTIES UNDER THE SCAG GRANT AND TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION AMOUNT BASED ON THE INCREASED DUTIES AND REPORT BACK TO THE SFVCOG AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION.**

Recommended Action: *Delegate authority to the Chair to negotiate an amendment to the Executive Director Services Contract based on the terms of the SCAG grant.*

Executive Director John Bwarie recommended that authority be delegated to the Chair, to negotiate an amended agreement to the Executive Director Services Contract, which will expand the scope of work and resources allocated through the MOU described in item #15. He requested the opportunity to report back to the SFVCOG at a subsequent meeting for their consideration of the amended agreement.

Vice Mayor Jess Talamantes asked if there is a specific timeline for the Subregional Partnership Program Project. Mr. Bwarie answered that the project is time specific and will run out of funding by October of 2021, or possibly by the end of 2021.

On motion of Vice Mayor Jess Talamantes, seconded by Vice Chair Marsha McLean, there being no objections, the SFVCOG delegated authority to the Chair to negotiate an amendment to the Executive Director Services Contract based on the terms of the SCAG grant.

17. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON SETTING A SPECIAL MEETING.

Recommended Action: *Discuss and set a special meeting to consider a negotiated amendment to the Executive Director Services Contract.*

Executive Director John Bwarie requested that SFVCOG members approve the setting of a special meeting to consider the negotiated amendment of his services contract. He reported that the meeting should take place in two weeks, as the project under the services contract might run out of funding by October of 2021.

After discussion, it was suggested that a special meeting be held on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

On motion of Vice Chair Marsha McLean, seconded by Vice Mayor Jess Talamantes, and unanimously carried, a special meeting of the SFVCOG was scheduled for Thursday July 29, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

18. BOARDMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

19. NEXT MEETING:

Chair Monica Rodriguez announced that the next regular meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021 at 1:30pm (in Van Nuys or via Zoom - TBD)

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Public Comments: At this time members of the public can address the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors (Board) regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency that are not separately listed on this agenda, subject to time restrictions, by filling out a Public Comment Card and submitting that card to the Secretary. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on

items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

Notices:

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DRAFT