



Southern California Association of Governments
April 8, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (EAC). AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>.

The Executive/Administration Committee (EAC) of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) held its regular meeting both in person and virtually (telephonically and electronically). A quorum was present.

Members Present

Hon. Cindy Allen, 1st Vice President	<i>Long Beach</i>	District 30
Hon. Ray Marquez, 1st Vice President	<i>Chino Hills</i>	District 10
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 2nd Vice President	<i>Santa Paula</i>	District 47
Sup. Curt Hagman, Imm. Past President		San Bernardino County
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair CEHD	<i>Calabasas</i>	District 44
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair CEHD	<i>Simi Valley</i>	District 46
Hon. Rick Denison, Chair EED	<i>Yucca Valley</i>	District 11
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair EEC	<i>Adelanto</i>	District 65
Hon. Mike Judge, Chair, TC	<i>VCTC</i>	Ventura County
Hon. Thomas Wong, Vice Chair, TC	<i>Monterey Park</i>	District 34
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	<i>Riverside</i>	District 68
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President’s Appt.	<i>Mission Viejo</i>	District 13
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President’s Appt.	<i>ICTC</i>	Holtville
Hon. Jan Harnik, President’s Appt.	<i>RCTC</i>	Riverside
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	<i>Pechanga Dev. Corp.</i>	TGRP Representative
Hon. Lucy Dunn		Business Representative

Members Not Present

Hon. Margaret Finlay, Vice Chair LCMC	<i>Duarte</i>	District 35
Hon. Karen Bass, President’s Appt.	<i>Los Angeles</i>	Member-At-Large

Staff Present

- Kome Ajise, Executive Director
- Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer
- Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer
- Sarah Jepson, Chief Planning Officer
- Javiera Cartagena, Chief Government and Public Affairs Officer

Carmen Flores, Chief Human Resources Officer
Ruben Duran, Board Counsel
Jeffery Elder, Chief Counsel/Director of Legal Services
Maggie Aguilar, Clerk of the Board
Cecilia Pulido, Deputy Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Cindy Allen called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and asked Regional Council Member Daniel Ramos, Adelanto, District 65 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Allen opened the Public Comment Period.

Board Counsel Ruben Duran acknowledged there were no written public comments received.

Seeing no public comment speakers, President Allen closed the Public Comment Period.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no prioritization of agenda items.

ACTION ITEM

1. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Draft Comprehensive Budget

There were no public comments on Item 1.

Cindy Geraldo, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY 2026–27 Draft Comprehensive Budget totaling approximately \$269 million, reflecting a \$200 million (43%) decrease due to the natural spend-down of major one-time grant programs, including REAP 2021, the Last Mile Freight Program, and several federal programs. She noted that approximately \$263.5 million (98%) supports the Overall Work Program, with significant pass-through and technical assistance funding, including \$50 million for the INVEST CLEAN Rebate Program, \$40 million for REAP initiatives, and \$11 million for Sustainable Communities and Safe Streets for All efforts. She reported that the Consultants category totaled \$61 million for regional planning activities, and the Salaries and Benefits budget totaled \$50.3 million, reflecting a net reduction of four positions. She requested approval of updated salary ranges following a total rewards study. She reported that the Indirect Cost Budget totaled \$40.3 million, including \$5.7 million for SCAG’s new ERP system, with year-over-year indirect costs decreasing after excluding this one-time expense. She noted that the General Fund Budget totaled \$3.3 million, funded primarily by a CPI-adjusted (3.01%) Membership Assessment. She recommended that the Regional Council approve the FY 2026–27 Draft Comprehensive Budget, authorize release of the Draft Overall Work Program for a 30-day public

comment period, and approve the General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment for transmittal.

Prior to taking a vote, Board Counsel Ruben Duran stated the Brown Act required that they orally report a summary of any recommendations for final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or fringe benefits of agency executives. He stated this item included SCAG's updated salary schedule, as discussed in detail by Chief Financial Officer Ms. Giraldo which increased the salary range for 8 executive classifications. He clarified this action updated the ranges only, it did not set or change any individual executive's current salary, and it included no changes to fringe benefits. He stated the specific ranges were shown in the staff report for this item, as referenced by Ms. Giraldo. He stated this oral report was being provided as part of their draft budget, and they would provide the required oral summary again immediately before the Regional Council takes final action at its meeting at the General Assembly.

A MOTION was made (Marquez) to recommend the Executive/Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Council: 1) Approve the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Draft Comprehensive Budget in the amount of \$269,189,485; 2) Authorize the release of the FY 2026-27 Draft Overall Work Program (OWP) to initiate the 30-day public comment period; and 3) Approve the FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget and Membership Assessment and transmit to the General Assembly. Motion was SECONDED (Judge) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Denison, Goodsell, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Lock Dawson, Marquez, Ramos, Rhodes, Shapiro, and Wong (15)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Approval Items

2. Minutes of the Meeting – February 4, 2026
3. SCAG Participation in the 2026 CA Assembly Select Committee on Asia/California Trade and Investment Trade Delegation to Japan
4. Contracts \$500,000 or Greater: 26-043-C01, Go Human Safety Strategies
5. AB 2002 (Solache) – REAP 1.0 Codification Bill & Budget Request

Receive and File

6. REAP 2.0 Program Update
7. Purchase Orders, Contracts and Contract Amendments below Regional Council Approval Threshold
8. CFO Monthly Report

Daniel Ramos, Adelanto, District 65, had questions related to Item 3 on the agenda. He asked if [staff] was prepared to address questions regarding the budget and the purpose for the travel. President Allen asked Executive Director Ajise if he could address member Ramos concerns.

Executive Director Ajise explained that the upcoming trip was a high-level trade delegation from California to Japan, composed primarily of elected officials, including state legislators. He noted that given the region's role as the largest regional economy engaged in Asian trade, they felt the agency's involvement would be appropriate and beneficial. He stated two SCAG leadership members would be joining the delegation; no staff would attend. He stated the trip would also include representatives from key industries such as healthcare, agriculture, entertainment, and cultural sectors, totaling approximately two dozen participants. He further noted that all international travel required approval from the Executive Administration Committee and the Regional Council, consistent with agency policy.

A MOTION was made (Ramos) to approve Consent Calendar Items 2 and 5 and Receive and File Items 6 and 8. Motion was SECONDED (Shapiro) and passed by the following votes:

AYES: Allen, Bucknum, Crosswhite, Denison, Goodsell, Hagman, Harnik, Judge, Lock Dawson, Marquez, Masiel, Ramos, Rhodes, Shapiro, and Wong (15)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: None (0)

CFO REPORT

Cindy Giraldo, Chief Financial Officer, thanked the EAC for their support of the fiscal year 26-27 budget. She stated that in addition to working on SCAG's fiscal year 27 budget, they had also completed the training for their new procurement manual that was completed agency-wide. She stated that as they might be aware from their own agencies, the federal government was late in issuing its guidelines for the single audit this year therefore they were just completing their single audit work. She stated that it would be presented to the Audit Committee. She stated the meeting had not yet been scheduled, but it would likely be scheduled, in April. Lastly, she stated next month they had Budget Amendment 3, going before them and the very next month the final budget adoption at the General Assembly.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Allen reported she had joined Executive Director Ajise and Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey in Sacramento for Mobility 21's annual legislative advocacy trip. She reported they met with legislators and state agency staff to advance the region's transportation priorities. She stated they also met with California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin. She explained that during these meetings, they advocated for updates to SB 375 to strengthen implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and better support state and local policy goals. Furthermore, President Allen invited EAC members to the California Association of Councils of Governments' (CALCOG) 2026 Regional Leadership Forum, taking place March 9–11 at the Marriott Long Beach Downtown. She stated CALCOG's annual forum brought together regional agencies to discuss policy, share ideas, test new approaches, and learn from one another. Lastly, she reported that SCAGs April meetings had been moved to the second Thursday of the month in observance of Passover. She reminded members that the next EAC meeting would be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, reported on regional and legislative initiatives, noting SCAG's collaboration with MTC, SACOG, and SANDAG on an advocacy framework that led to the introduction of SB 1087 to modernize the SB 375 housing-transportation-climate planning framework. He thanked the Committee for supporting AB 2002, which would codify the REAP program to ensure ongoing state funding for RHNA-related planning. He highlighted continued progress under REAP 2.0, including delivery of the \$231.5 million program and upcoming consideration of a \$20 million allocation for the Lasting Affordability Program. Mr. Ajise also provided an update on the federal GHG rule change eliminating national GHG standards for new motor vehicles, noting SCAG was assessing regional impacts and that California's climate statutes continue to guide Connect SoCal 2050. He reported the SoCal Greenprint was entering its final development phase, with a beta version under review and a planned June release. Finally, he discussed ongoing regional resilience efforts, including the forthcoming Regional Resilience Toolkit and a Water Resolution White Paper, both of which would be presented to the Energy and Environment Committee before updates to the Regional Council.

There were no public comments for the CFO report, President's report, or the Executive Director's report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Business Representative Lucy Dunn, shared with members she had recently viewed a 40-minute film titled *Bright Harvest*, which highlighted Caltech's successful demonstration of space-based solar power, including the beaming of solar energy from a satellite to Earth. She shared several countries—approximately eight to ten - were actively exploring this technology for national defense applications. She stated the United States, however, was lagging behind, underscoring the need for

stronger federal engagement in this area. She shared Caltech’s work showed promising potential for delivering sustainable, low-cost energy without the environmental impacts associated with traditional power sources, particularly as energy demand grows with the expansion of data and AI infrastructure. She explained that given Southern California’s leadership in clean energy and alignment with SCAG’s strategic priorities, she wanted to raise the possibility of arranging a screening for interested EAC members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the Meeting of the Executive/Administration Committee at 3:38p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE EAC]

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Executive / Administration Committee Attendance Report

2025-26																	Total Mtgs Attended To Date
MEMBERS	CITY	Representing	5-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	
Hon. Cindy Allen, President, Chair	Long Beach	District 30	1	1	1	1		1	0	1	1		1	1			9
Hon. Ray Marquez, 1st Vice Chair	Chino Hills	District 10	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Jenny Crosswhite, 2nd Vice Chair	Santa Paula	District 47	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Curt Hagman, Imm. Past President		San Bernardino County	1	0	0	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			8
Hon. David J. Shapiro, Chair, CEHD	Calabasas	District 44	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Rocky Rhodes, Vice Chair, CEHD	Simi Valley	District 46	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Rick Denison, Chair, EEC	Yucca Valley	District 11	1	1	0	0		0	1	1	0		1	1			6
Hon. Daniel Ramos, Vice Chair, EEC	Adelanto	District 65	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Mike T. Judge, Chair, TC		VCTC	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Thomas Wong, Vice Chair, TC	Monterey Park	District 34	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Patricia Lock Dawson, Chair, LCMC	Riverside	District 68	1	0	0	1		1	1	0	1		0	1			6
Hon. Margaret Finlay, Vice Chair, LCMC	Duarte	District 35	0	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	0			8
Hon. Karen Bass, President's Appt.	Los Angeles	Member-At-Large	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0			0
Hon. Wendy Bucknum, President's Appt.	Mission Viejo	District 13	1	1	0	1		1	1	0	1		1	1			8
Hon. Mike Goodsell, President's Appt.		ICTC	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			10
Hon. Jan Harnik, President's Appt.		RCTC	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	0		1	1			9
Hon. Andrew Masiel, Sr.	Pechanga Dev. Corporation	Tribal Government Regional Planning Board	1	0	0	0		0	1	1	0		1	1			5
Ms. Lucy Dunn, Ex-Officio Member	Lucy Dunn Strategic Issues Mar	Business Representative	1	1	1	0		0	1	0	1		1	1			7
			16	14	12	14	0	14	16	14	14	0	16	16	0	0	146