



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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MEETING NO. 654

REGIONAL COUNCIL

***Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend
In-Person & Remotely***
Thursday, April 6, 2023
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

To Attend In-Person:
SCAG Main Office - Regional Council Room
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

SCAG Riverside Office – Suite 805
3403 10th Street
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<https://scag.zoom.us/j/249187052>

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PUBLIC ADVISORY

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Maggie Aguilar at (213) 630-1420 or via email at aguilarm@scag.ca.gov. Agendas & Minutes are also available at: <https://scag.ca.gov/meetings-leadership>.

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 630-1420. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



AGENDA ITEM 3 REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments
April 6, 2023

To: Transportation Committee (TC)
Regional Council (RC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

From: Warren Whiteaker, Department Manager
(213) 236-1810, whiteakerw@scag.ca.gov

Kome Ajise

Subject: Approval of Expedited Programming for FY22 Carbon Reduction Program
(CRP)

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR TC:

Recommend that the Regional Council: 1) approve expedited programming of Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY2022) Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds for selected projects; and 2) authorize Executive Director to make necessary adjustments to selected projects to meet eligibility criteria and other applicable requirements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR RC:

Approve expedited programming of FY22 Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds for selected projects. Authorize Executive Director to make necessary adjustments to selected projects to meet eligibility criteria and other applicable requirements.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 7: Secure funding to support agency priorities to effectively and efficiently deliver work products.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is a new program established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and provides funding for transportation projects that reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road transportation sources. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for the selection of CRP-funded projects in the SCAG region. SCAG staff is seeking RC approval for expedited project selection of Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY2022) CRP funds. SCAG staff will subsequently develop program guidelines for the selection of CRP-funded projects for FY2023 through FY2026.

BACKGROUND:

CRP is a new program established by IIJA that provides over \$6.4 billion nationally over a five-year period (FY2022 through FY2026) for projects designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-

road transportation sources. Under the program, each state is required to develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy by November 15, 2023, which identifies projects and strategies to reduce transportation emissions. The Carbon Reduction Strategy for California will be developed by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in consultation with SCAG and other designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) within the State. Caltrans has indicated that the California Carbon Reduction Strategy will incorporate the following three pillars: 1) Rail and Transit, 2) Bike and Pedestrian, and 3) Zero-Emission Vehicles.

For each fiscal year, 65 percent of CRP funding apportioned to each state is required to be obligated in proportion to the relative share of population in urban areas within the state. The remaining 35 percent of funds apportioned to each state for each fiscal year may be obligated in any area of the state. For FY2022, the SCAG region's share of CRP funds is approximately \$33.6 million, which needs to be obligated by September 30, 2025, and expended by September 30, 2030.

Expedited Selection of Projects to be Funded with FY2022 CRP Funds

Due to the limited time to obligate FY2022 CRP funds, SCAG staff is recommending expedited project selection based on actions taken by the County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) within the SCAG region to advance eligible projects for FY2022 only. Specifically, the region's CTCs have solicited projects for consideration of CRP funding and submitted to SCAG for approval. Based on available FY2022 CRP funding, and SCAG staff finding that the projects listed below further the State's pillars for the California Reduction Strategy and align with regional transportation goals and objectives, SCAG staff recommend that the following projects be approved for FY2022 CRP funding:

Project	Recommended FY2022 CRP (\$ millions)
Imperial County	
Installation of EV Charging Stations at Various Locations in Imperial County	0.4
Imperial County Total	0.4
Los Angeles County	
Procurement of Battery Electric Buses, Charging Equipment, and Supporting Infrastructure	17.9
Los Angeles County Total	17.9
Orange County	
Purchase of 40 Fuel Cell Electric Buses	5.7
Orange County Total	5.7
Riverside County	
Interstate 15 Express Lanes Project Southern Extension (Preliminary Engineering Phase)	4.0
Riverside County Total	4.0
San Bernardino County	
City of Redlands: Redlands Regional Connector Project	0.7
City of Highland: Highland Regional Connector Project	0.7
City of Fontana: San Sevaine Trail	2.7
San Bernardino County Total	4.1

Project	Recommended FY2022 CRP (\$ millions)
Ventura County	
Microgrid for City of Thousand Oaks EV Bus Charging	1.0
Port of Hueneme North Terminal Shore Power System	0.4
<i>Ventura County Total</i>	1.4
SCAG Regional Total	33.6

Upon SCAG Regional Council approval, SCAG staff will work with the applicable CTCs to incorporate these projects into the 2023 Federal Transportation Improvement Program. During this process, the programmed CRP dollars above may be adjusted as necessary.

Selection of Projects to be Funded with FY2023 through FY2026 CRP Funds

SCAG staff will return with program guidelines for the selection of projects for FY2023 through FY2026 CRP funding. SCAG has received preliminary concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on a framework for the selection of the CRP projects within the SCAG region, which is modeled after the federal apportionment approach. Specifically, SCAG will use 65 percent of CRP funds (approximately \$92 million for FY2023 through FY2026) for a CTC Partnership Program. County nomination targets¹ will guide the CTCs in the amount of funding requests that they submit to SCAG for project selection, including any CRP funds programmed for FY2022. SCAG will select projects based on the initial screening and prioritization by the CTCs and additional regional project evaluations. SCAG will select projects that advance regional and federal performance measures. CTCs will be encouraged to develop planning studies that support the implementation of Connect SoCal and serve as a roadmap for CRP projects. SCAG will use 35 percent of CRP funds (approximately \$49 million for FY2023 through FY2026) to support a Regional Partnership Program, which is intended to identify, evaluate, and award CRP funding for regional or local pilots and partnership projects that achieve regional transportation goals and objectives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Work associated with this item is included in the FY2023 Overall Work Program (WBS No. 23-010.0170.01: RTP Amendments, Management, and Coordination and WBS No. 23-030.0146.02: Federal Transportation Improvement Program).

¹ The CRP nomination targets will mirror the nomination targets established for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program approved by the RC on February 2, 2023, as part of the STBG/CMAQ Compliance Action Plan.