

SCAG Energy & Environment Committee meeting, Sept. 2, 2021  
reported by  
Britt Huff, City Council/Rolling Hills Estates,

In addition to our usual EEC committee meeting on September 2, committee members were invited to attend the Regional Council meeting to hear the keynote speaker. Jack Dangermond, President and Founder of Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri), presented on the forthcoming launch of the pilot system of the [Regional Data Platform](#) (RDP). The RDP is a signature element of the Regional Council-directed Future Communities Initiative, a work program adopted in 2017 to accelerate SCAG's leadership in technology and open/big data to promote a more connected region. The RDP will provide access to data and applications to help SCAG and its local jurisdictions understand shared challenges and identify solutions, including through more robust civic engagement and coordinated planning at the local and regional scales.

At the Energy & Environment Committee the following reports were given:

1. Lolly Lim, Researcher and Project Manager from the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation presented an overview of the project series "Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on Vulnerable Communities to Design and Target Protective Policies," funded by the Strategic Growth Council Climate Change Research Program. The project focuses on measuring the potential impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations and communities and identifying policy gaps that could be filled to enhance resilience and facilitate adaptation throughout the state.
2. Alex Stockton, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board, briefed the Committee on the latest California Climate Investments (CCI) Annual Report. The CCI Report compiles statistics about state funding from California's Cap-and-Trade Program across all program categories and across all California counties. The presentation included key findings on CCI funding in the SCAG region. It also provided estimates of the GHG reductions expected from project investments and provided key statistics on benefits to disadvantaged communities, demand for funding, and leveraging, fiscal data and program accomplishments. 2020 was a record year for California Climate Investments with nearly \$3.1 billion in projects implemented, including more than \$1.5 billion to benefit disadvantaged and low-income communities. The many benefits to Californians include improved public health, fire prevention, affordable housing and energy efficiency, as well as significant reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases. Cap-and-Trade Auction proceeds are placed in the State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), then appropriated by the Legislature and distributed to more than 20 different state agencies to eventually be awarded to individual projects.
3. Daniel Woo, MPH, MS, LEED AP, Team Lead, and Meredith Milet, MPH, Epidemiologist, from the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Climate Change & Health Equity Section, presented an overview of the health equity framework guiding climate change efforts and describe how CDPH is embedding public health and health equity considerations in statewide climate change policy and planning. Climate change-related impacts are disproportionately affecting those already experiencing inequities. Staff shared what the Climate Change and Health Equity Section is doing at the state level to support local and regional partners in taking action to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and prepare for the unavoidable climate impacts on our communities.