

Gardena Councilman Mark E. Henderson, Ed.D
SCAG Regional Council Report
May 2025

1. At the general assembly we installed the new leadership board led by Councilwoman Cindy Allen (SCAG President)
2. On the final day there was a riveting keynote speaker Tucker Bryant, innovation strategist introduced the audience to the concept of breaking free from invisible barriers to creativity and bold leadership. He his keynote, The Poet's Keys he inspired the audience to reimagine our approach to collaboration and change.

Panel discussions included:

Creating a Regional Legacy for the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games

With the LA28 Games approaching, panelists explored how this global event can catalyze lasting improvements in mobility, equity, and infrastructure—benefiting not just visitors, but the region's nearly 19 million residents. Speakers included senior leaders from LA28, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the city of Los Angeles, and the city of Long Beach.

(One critical takeaway from this panel was the acknowledgment that there is no funding allocated to support some of the LA28 requests. An appeal was made that the entire region looks to collaborate where possible, as their own costs, possibly.) Commentary by RC Member Henderson

Fostering a Healthy Local Economy for All

As growth slows and crises become more common, how can local governments prepare for both immediate fiscal disruptions and long-term demographic shifts? Panelists shared how their communities are rethinking economic resilience and inclusive development. The panel featured

speakers from San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the city of Santa Ana, and Beacon Economics.

From Smart Cities to a Smart Region

A look at how cities are scaling real-time data analytics, connected infrastructure, and digital platforms into a coordinated, regional mobility strategy—one that reduces emissions, improves accessibility, and delivers better service to all residents. Panelists included leaders from ITS America, the city of Riverside, the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, and the city of Moreno Valley.

Strong Foundations: Housing Solutions in the Wake of Disaster

With wildfires worsening an already strained housing market, this panel highlighted innovative strategies for rebuilding stronger, more equitable communities. Speakers included leaders from Jamboree Housing, the Building Industry Association of Southern California, the Casita Coalition, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments.

Sustainable Infrastructure for Resilient Growth

A cross-sector discussion on building climate-resilient utilities, green infrastructure, and electrification to support sustainable growth and housing affordability. Panelists represented the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, Kosmont Companies, and Ethos Real Estate.

During the event, SCAG presented its annual Sustainability Awards, honoring the city of Baldwin Park's Homeless Reduction Initiative with the top award, for "Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability."