

Executive/Administration Committee
List of Public Comments
Received before 5pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2021

	Date	Sender Name	Organization	Agenda Item (AI #)	Notes	Subject Line
1.	January 4, 2021	Henry Fung	Resident of Covina, CA	N/A	Oppose Regional Housing Needs Determination litigation	Comment on Executive/Administrative Committee for January 6, 2021

From: Henry Fung <calwatch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 11:59 AM
To: ePublic Comment Group <ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov>
Subject: Comment on Executive/Administrative Committee for January 6, 2021

Dear honorable members of the SCAG Executive/Administrative Committee:

Recently it seems that several cities are requesting that SCAG schedule a closed session for possible litigation on the state regarding the Regional Housing Needs Determination. As a taxpayer and resident of the SCAG region, I strongly oppose litigation.

SCAG has received many plaudits for its planning and programming activities. The RHNA methodology was praised by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The Go Human campaign, slow streets programs, and driver education have resulted in safe streets for walkers, bicyclists, and other non-automobile users. SCAG also acts as a forum for encouraging business investment through the sustainable communities program and the annual economic summit. Spending money on litigation necessarily means that some of these programs could be eliminated.

What these cities wish to do is to drain the SCAG budget, and possibly the budgets of many of its members, on litigation that is not likely to be successful. The President's RHNA Litigation Task Force has already studied the issue and chosen not to move forward. This decision should be respected.

With COVID-19 affecting city and county budgets extensively through revenue losses and added costs, any litigation will necessarily result in city general fund programs being cut. The loss of police officers, firefighters, library employees, parks workers, and the possible elimination of many programs essential in supporting families during the pandemic could be cut all because cities don't want to plan for housing. Many cities have already gone to the voters to raise their sales taxes to fund these services. The voters did not expect for the money to be spent on lawyers.

Some of the Orange County cities that want litigation may feel that they can afford to sue the State. If so, they should fund the litigation themselves and not have it drain the SCAG budget. The SCAG cities that do not want to participate should not be required for these expenses, or for the State's expenses should they lose.

Also, an adversarial position could result in more legislation passed at the State level that could make litigation moot. I support the SCAG President and executive leadership to continue to dialogue productively with the State, the Governor's Administration, and our legislators, and not go in the direction of fruitless litigation that could direct money away from both COVID-19 relief and the necessary steps to plan beyond COVID-19, and into the pockets of lawyers.

Sincerely,
Henry Fung
Covina, CA