

Generic Talking Points for SoCal Business Coalition

For SCAG Regional Council Hearing to Adopt Connect SoCal

September 3, 2020

Version 1

- Introduction ... State your Name, Organization, and give some background on what your organization does (i.e. who it represents, number of members, size, and strength, etc.).
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Resolution to Adopt Connect SoCal.
- On May 7th, the Regional Council wisely granted a 120-day postponement of the SCS in order to allow more scrutiny and possible refinements.
- As a regional stakeholder, our organization has followed the work of SCAG's staff to ensure all of the stated reasons for the delay were addressed. We believe they were, and that these efforts have improved the plan.
- Specifically, we are pleased that Connect SoCal now better reflects already approved and entitled development projects ... especially housing projects.
- Regarding General Plan consistency ... SCAG's staff's comparison of Connect SoCal to local plans also led to recognition of the need to better assure that local governments can approve needed housing projects and deal with their respective RHNA (REE-NAH) obligations – as reflected in the resolution before the Regional Council today.
- These changes assure that local governments retain their flexibility and prerogatives over land use.
- Thanks to the great efforts of SCAG staff and leaders, (YOUR ORGANIZATION) sees the final version of Connect SoCal as much improved since May and now ready for adoption.
- Accordingly, we are pleased to support the Adoption Resolution for Connect SoCal, and we ask that you do the same. Thank you.

Version 2

- Name, Organization, and stock intro for your organization.
- Our organization is also part of the broad-based Business Coalition that has been actively involved in the review and approval process for Connect SoCal, and I am here today to express my organization's support for the Plan's adoption.
- As you will recall, on May 7th of this year, at the urging of many constituencies (including our Coalition) the SCS was postponed for 120 days.
- At the time of the postponement, the Regional Council stated three reasons for the extension, which were:
 - To assure that already approved and entitled development projects are properly reflected in Connect SoCal,
 - To review COVID impacts, especially those that might be immediately addressed through modest changes to the Plan, and
 - To identify and evaluate Connect SoCal, with an eye towards identifying the Plan's overall alignment and consistency with locally approved General Plans.
- Much hard work went into conducting a review of each of these issue areas by SCAG Staff and representative stakeholders ... including our Business Coalition.
- These efforts have led to a much improved Plan and therefore our organization (OR INSERT THE NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION) is pleased to support the Adopting Resolution before you today and we ask for your vote to approve Connect SoCal.
- Thank you.