



Western Riverside Council of Governments Planning Directors Committee

AGENDA

**Thursday, August 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.**

**Western Riverside Council of Governments
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501**

**WRCOG's OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO COVID-19
AND STAFF ARE WORKING REMOTELY**

**Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this meeting via Zoom
(see meeting information below)**

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SPECIAL NOTICE – COVID-19 RELATED PROCEDURES IN EFFECT

Due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Newsom has issued Executive Order N-29-20 (issued March 17, 2020) in which Section 3 supersedes Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (issued on March 12, 2020). This new order states that WRCOG does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. The Order allows WRCOG to hold Committee meetings via teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or electronically.

To follow the Order issued by the Governor, the Planning Directors Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. will be held via teleconference and any members of the public can attend electronically. Members of the public may send public comments by emailing snelson@wrcog.us, or calling (951) 405-6703 before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Suzy Nelson prior to 9:30 a.m. on August 11, 2020, at (951) 405-6703 or snelson@wrcog.us.

The Planning Directors Committee may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

1. CALL TO ORDER (H.P. Kang, Chair)

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time members of the public can address the Planning Directors Committee regarding any items with the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

4. SELECTION OF PLANNING DIRECTORS COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, AND 2ND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 P. 1

Requested Action: 1. *Select Planning Directors Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair positions for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.*

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

A. Summary Minutes from the May 14, 2020, Planning Directors Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration. P. 3

Requested Action: 1. *Approve Summary Minutes from the May 14, 2020, Planning Directors Committee meeting.*

B. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update P. 7

Requested Action: 1. *Receive and file.*

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. State Housing Legislative Update Chris Gray, WRCOG P. 17

Requested Action: 1. *Receive and file.*

B. WRCOG Geographic Information System and Transportation Modeling Service Bureau Proposal Chris Gray, WRCOG P. 19

Requested Action: 1. *Receive and file.*

- C. Exploration of a Western Riverside County Economic Development Corporation *Elisa Laurel, WRCOG* P. 25

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

- D. Regional Housing Trust Initiative *Ivana Medina, WRCOG* P. 31

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

- E. Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program Update – Subregional Partnership Program *Christopher Tzeng, WRCOG* P. 93

Requested Action: 1. Direct staff to move forward with the proposed Regional Early Action Planning project list.

7. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS *Members*

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Planning Directors Committee meetings.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS *Members*

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Planning Directors Committee.

- 10. NEXT MEETING:** The next Planning Directors Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at via Zoom platform.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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Western Riverside Council of Governments

Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Selection of Planning Directors Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair Positions for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Contact: Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning, cgray@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6710

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to select Planning Directors Committee leadership positions for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Requested Action:

1. Select Planning Directors Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair positions for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.
-

WRCOG's Committee leadership positions are selected at the start of each fiscal year. The leadership for the Executive Committee for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was selected as follows:

Chair: Kevin Bash, City of Norco
 Vice-Chair: Karen Spiegel, Riverside County
 2nd Vice-Chair: Crystal Ruiz, City of San Jacinto

Historically, the Planning Directors Committee (PDC) leadership has coincided with those of WRCOG's Executive Committee, although there are no requirements for this pattern stipulated in WRCOG's JPA or Bylaws. The incoming PDC leadership does not require a specific title or designation; it need only be an official representative designated by the member agency. The following lists Committee members that would follow the leadership of the Executive Committee if selected:

Chair: Steve King, City of Norco
 Vice-Chair: John Hildebrand, County of Riverside
 2nd Vice-Chair: Travis Randall, City of San Jacinto

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

None.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Planning Directors Committee was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Chair H.P. Kang, on the virtual platform, Zoom.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Members present:

Adam Rush, City of Banning
Christina Taylor, City of Beaumont
Jason Killebrew, City of Eastvale
H.P. Kang, City of Hemet, Chair
Richard MacHott, City of Lake Elsinore
Cheryl Kitzerow, City of Menifee
Jarett Ramaiya, City of Murrieta
Jay Eastman, City of Riverside
Luke Watson, City of Temecula
Matt Bassi, City of Wildomar
Kristen Warsinski, Riverside Transit Agency

Staff present:

Andrew Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning
Christopher Tzeng, Program Manager
Cameron Brown, Program Manager
Elisa Laurel, Program Manager
Rachel Singer, Staff Analyst
Ivana Medina, Staff Analyst
Kyle Rodriguez, Staff Analyst
Suzy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Guests present:

Jeff Caton, ESA
Jenny Chan, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
Jillian Guizado, RCTC
Bill Blankenship, WB Consulting
Alexa Washburn, National CORE
Arnold San Miguel, Southern California Association of Governments
Teifion Rice- Evans, EPS
Wallace Wallrod, Tech Coast Consulting Group
Rob Matthews, Houseal Lavigne Associates
Brian Sims, Houseal Lavigne Associates

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arnold San Miguel shared that the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant provides funding directly to local jurisdictions and the total eligibility of LEAP funding for the WRCOG subregion is \$5.6M. Applications are due to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by July 1, 2020. HCD is also

available to assistance jurisdictions with the application process, as well as when funds are awarded.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR – *(Lake Elsinore / Banning) 11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions. Items 4.A and 4.B were approved. The Cities of Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, and San Jacinto, and the County of Riverside, March JPA, Western Municipal Water District, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.*

A. Summary Minutes from the March 12, 2020, Planning Directors Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.

Action: 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the March 12, 2020, Planning Directors Committee meeting.*

B. Local Early Planning Grants Activities Update

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. State Housing Legislative Update

Bill Blankenship provided a summary surrounding current activities in the legislature. Pre-COVID-19, 200 housing bills were introduced prior to the adjournment of the legislature. Most of these bills were intended to be updated and revised later in the session but because of the adjournment, the updates did not occur.

The Assembly returned on May 4, 2020, and the Senate on May 11, 2020. The Assembly members were told to concentrate on COVID-19 and the State Budget. As of now the State Budget is short \$55 billion.

Some housing bills to pay attention to include Senate Bill (SB) 902 and SB 899. Other bills that should be on the radar regarding housing and planning are Assembly Bill (AB) 1924, AB 3144, AB 3145, AB 3147, AB 3148, and AB 3149. The Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development will meet on May 20, 2020. All bills mentioned will be monitored to see how they move through the committees.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. GIS Solutions for Housing Elements

Brian Sims and Rob Matthews presented on a Geographic Information System (GIS) solution service that allows jurisdictions to create visually compelling mapping systems when it comes to planning, designing and economic development. The GIS service creates solutions that ensure the compatibility between the existing, new, built, and natural environments. Many scenarios were presented, giving the Committee ideas and possible representations of complex policy options. This service has the capability to focus on a community's future with dynamic web maps that present the housing element graphically. Endless possibilities are available to curb to each of the jurisdictions needs.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Future Forward Series, COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts Analysis, Economic Planning Systems, Inc.

Teifion Rice-Evans provided an update on a recent analysis produced by Economic Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS) on the near-term fiscal impacts jurisdictions within Western Riverside County will be facing due to the current public health crisis. The assessment will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 was completed and identified the expected level and timing of impacts of two tax revenues that will most directly be affected. According to the State of California Controller's Office, Sales and Use Tax will be the biggest hit revenue at immediate risk, coming in at 33% within WRCOG's subregion. Mr. Rice-Evans shared an overview of each jurisdiction and the possible impact within the job sector, as well as broken down within each job field. A majority of jobs in the retail sector show being at immediate risk.

Some fiscal vulnerability indicators focused on the General Fund revenues were Property Taxes and Property Taxes in-lieu of vehicle license fees, Sales and Use Taxes, Transient Occupancy and Lodging Taxes, Franchise Fees, User Utility, and Business Taxes.

Before September 30, 2020, Phase 2 will build on the Phase 1 work with feedback and will involve additional analysis, looking in more detail at a broader range of public revenues, the different ways in which they may be affected, and the implications for the Western Riverside County jurisdictions' overall fiscal health.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. TUMF Revenue and Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Annual Review Report

Ivana Medina reported that the TUMF Program has continued to see development activity and fee payments during the March and April 2020 time frame. As the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, the online calculation and collection portal have aided social distancing by allowing two additional forms of payments directly from a computer. Developers can still mail in or wire payments and staff will continue to submit and process in a timely manner.

Fee collections in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/2019 totaled \$63 million, which is the highest in collections since the recession. Forecasting TUMF revenue for the remainder of the year will be difficult due to the unforeseen variables brought on by COVID-19.

Staff has identified approximately \$10 million of submitted projects by jurisdictions that have not paid TUMF fees yet. These projects were first submitted to WRCOG when the ordinance transitioning was transferred over for calculation and collection of fees for each jurisdiction. As of April 2019, project applications were submitted yet no payments have been made. Staff plans to follow up with each jurisdiction on specific permits to identify the projects that were submitted over 90-days ago.

WRCOG has finished conducting the FY 2018/2019 Annual Review. Staff requested and reviewed information related to TUMF credits, exemptions, and financial accounting of TUMF provided by each city. According to the findings, staff did not find any significant issues. Confirmation letters have been sent out to each jurisdiction with the findings.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Subregional Climate Action Plan Activities Update

Jeff Caton provided an update on the Western Riverside County Subregional Climate Action Plan (CAP), an update to the 2010 data that includes greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, targets and reduction measures. Over time, there have been new legislation and technological shifts across Western Riverside County. The CAP is intended as a road map to achieve deep GHG emission reductions through the year 2050 and will establish policies and priorities enabling participating cities to

implement strategies that successfully fulfill the legislation requirements.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

8. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION & PLANNING

Chris Gray provided Committee members with an update on the delayed SCAG's Connect SoCal and the effects on WRCOG activities. The TUMF Nexus Study and the Riverside County Transportation Analysis Model is now anticipated to be completed in August 2020.

Mr. Gray shared that Fehr & Peers is available for continued assistance on implementing SB 743 as jurisdiction's transportation analysis metric. These sessions will be conducted virtually, and a link will be sent out to the Committee members prior to the session.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

11. NEXT MEETING: The next Planning Directors Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom platform.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting of the Planning Directors Committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update

Contact: Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning, cgray@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6710

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide updates on noteworthy actions and discussions held in recent standing Committee meetings, and to provide general project updates.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.

Attached are summary recaps of actions and activities from recent WRCOG standing Committee meetings that occurred during the month of July 2020.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

1. Summary recaps from July Committee meetings.

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Item 5.B

WRCOG Committees and Agency
Activities Update

Attachment 1

Summary recaps from July
Committee meetings

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**Western Riverside Council of Governments
Administration & Finance Committee
Meeting Recap
July 8, 2020**

Following is a summary of key items discussed at the last Administration & Finance Committee meeting. To review the full agenda and staff reports, please click [here](#). To review the meeting PowerPoint presentation, please click [here](#).

Agreement Approved for Smart Climate-Resilient Transportation Planning and Investment Project

- An agreement with WSP USA was approved to provide technical services conducting risk assessments on vulnerable transportation assets in an amount not to exceed \$379,175.47.

Recap of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Program Highlights and Activities and a Look Forward

- A video highlighting programs and projects during Fiscal Year 2019/2020 can be viewed [here](#).
- Staff also noted that the Agency's draft Annual Report was included as an attachment to the agenda. It can be viewed [here](#).
- WRCOG staff provided an overview of three prospective projects to for WRCOG involvement during this next fiscal year.
- The first project discussed is the establishment of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC), an independently funded, non-profit organization governed by representatives from both the private and public sectors, which would help establish more continuity in economic development efforts in the Western Riverside County subregion. For more information, contact Elisa Laurel, WRCOG Program Manager, at elaurel@wrcog.us.
- The second project is the establishment of a Housing Trust, a public-private partnership that would coordinate and provide funding for affordable housing and homeless services to supplement existing programs. This housing trust would be modeled after similar efforts in the Bay Area, Orange County, and Silicon Valley. For more information, contact Chris Gray, WRCOG Director of Transportation & Planning, at cgray@wrcog.us.
- The third project is the creation of a GIS / Modeling Service Bureau, which would provide/enhance GIS / Transportation capabilities for member agencies. Possible services could include traffic volume maps, traffic model scenarios for new development, project mapping, and more. For more information, contact Cameron Brown, WRCOG Program Manager, at cbrown@wrcog.us.
- Members of the Committee provided positive feedback and suggestions. Staff will continue to update the Committee as they develop more structured work programs and schedules for each.

Next Meeting

The Administration & Finance Committee is DARK during the month of August. The next Administration & Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. via the Zoom platform.



**Western Riverside Council of Governments
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Recap
July 16, 2020**

Following is a summary of key items discussed at the last Technical Advisory Committee meeting. To review the full agenda and staff reports, please click [here](#). To review the meeting PowerPoint presentation, please click [here](#).

TAC Leadership Elected for Fiscal Year 2020/2021

- Chair: Andy Okoro, City of Norco
- Vice-Chair: George Johnson, County of Riverside
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Rob Johnson, City of San Jacinto

Professional Services Agreement for the Analyses of the Smart Climate-Resilient Transportation Planning and Investments Project Moving Forward

- An agreement with WSP USA was approved to provide technical services conducting risk assessments on vulnerable transportation assets in an amount not to exceed \$379,175.47.

Riverside County Economic Recovery Task Force Update

- Riverside County created a working group of approximately 20 business leaders and public-sector leaders to meet on an on-going basis to address the economic impacts of COVID-19.
- The County has distributed over \$20 million in grants to businesses funded through the CARES Act.
- The State of California has indicated that a portion of existing and future funding will be tied to the County's enforcement related to public health orders.

League of California Cities Update

- The State has made funding available to Cities and Counties to address fiscal challenges. A webinar was held on July 14, 2020, to discuss this issue. Materials from this webinar can be found [here](#).
- The Legislature has continued to work on various bills related to housing including AB 1279, which is opposed by the League and AB 3040 which is supported by the League.

Public Service Fellowship Update

- In March 2020, the Fellowship Program was postponed due to the impacts of COVID-19. Below is an updated timeline for the Fifth Round:
 - July 31, 2020 – All applications due
 - August 2020 – Fellow interviews and placement
 - September 2020 – Program begins
 - May 2021 – Program concludes
- Staff requested that all host agency applications are submitted by July 31, 2020, and asked members to reach out to staff if they are no longer interested in hosting a Fellow during the Fifth Round.

- Moving forward, staff will reconvene the Fellowship Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the optics of the Fifth Round of the Program in light of the impacts of COVID-19.

WRCOG Climate Adaptation Efforts

- Staff presented on the recently completed Resilient Inland Empire (IE), which developed a set of tools for Western Riverside and San Bernardino County jurisdictions to address climate-related challenges like droughts, fires, and floods. All resources can be found online [here](#).
- Check out the [Resilient IE video](#) that notates the City of Idylwild's experience with recent climate-related challenges.
- The second Phase of Resilient IE, which will start in Fall of 2020, will develop a tool for transportation infrastructure that identifies those facilities most at risk for climate-related events.
- WRCOG is also beginning work on another grant to address the issue of Energy Resiliency.

Environmental Department Programs Activities Update

- Staff reported that the City of San Jacinto was awarded \$140,000 to the remove waste from three homeless encampments.
- The Electronic Annual Reports submission date has been extended past August 1, 2020, with the transition of a new Recycling Disposal Reporting System.
- Staff provided a recap of the 2019/2020 [EcoHero Shows](#) in Western Riverside County and encouraged the committee to watch a Facebook [social media campaign](#) advertising WRCOG's Used Oil Program.
- State Route-91 was designated as an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Corridor under the Federal Highway Administration for Electric and Hydrogen passenger vehicle, which will provide more funding opportunities and address infrastructure gaps along or near the Corridor.

Next Meeting

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom platform.



Western Riverside Council of Governments
Finance Directors Committee
Meeting Recap
July 23, 2020

Following is a summary of major items discussed at the last Finance Directors Committee meeting. To review the full agenda and staff reports, please click [here](#). To review the meeting PowerPoint Presentation, please click [here](#).

Leadership Selected

- Chair: Matthew Schenk, March JPA
- Vice-Chair: Stacey Stevenson, City of Murrieta
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Ernie Reyna, City of Perris

4th Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

- Staff provided an update on the 4th Quarter draft Budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. The single largest amendment was consulting costs for the CAP Grant, of around \$300K, which will be offset by a reimbursement from Caltrans.

The Economy and Financial Markets

- Sarah Meacham with PFM gave an update on the economy and financial markets. COVID-19 has caused severe disruptions in the financial markets but appear to have bottomed.
- WRCOG's investments managed by PFM have outperformed the market benchmarks for the past year and in the last quarter.

EPS COVID-19 Fiscal Analysis

- On April 30, 2020, WRCOG held the first episode of its Future Forward Series, a monthly webinar broadcast focused on innovating through disruption. Its aim is to bring thoughtful leadership and meaningful information to WRCOG members and partners during these disruptive times.
- The first episode featured [Teifion Rice-Evans](#), Managing Principal at Economic Planning Systems, Inc., (EPS) who shared Phase 1 of a two-Phase analysis on the fiscal impacts WRCOG jurisdictions could face due to COVID-19. The first episode and in-depth presentation can be accessed [here](#).
- WRCOG jurisdictions on average could face 35% of city general revenues at immediate risk, with Retail Sales and Use Tax being the most heavily impacted.
- EPS will be conducting a second phase of the analysis and sharing its findings with WRCOG members.

PACE Programs Update

- HERO / PACE Assessments continue to decline. There were 1,601 assessments completed for Tax Year 2019/2020, a 58% decrease from the previous year.
- The PACE Program property tax payment delinquency rate is currently at 1.54%. Last year through the same time period it was at 1.17%. Staff will continue to closely monitor delinquencies given the COVID-19 environment.
- WRCOG has completed six Commercial PACE projects since March for over \$10.5 million. Two of those projects were completed in the subregion, one in Murrieta and the other in Hemet.

Report from the Chief Financial Officer

- WRCOG's upcoming monthly webinar broadcast, Future Forward, will address the impacts of COVID-19 to Transportation. It will be held on June 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- To sign up for the Future Forward Webinar click: [Here](#)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Finance Directors Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., online via Zoom.

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Western Riverside Council of Governments

Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: State Housing Legislative Update

Contact: Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning, cgray@wrcoq.us, (951) 405-6710

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide an update of recent state legislation related to housing.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.

Legislative Update

Since the last Planning Directors Committee meeting in May 2020, the California Legislature has continued to meet and transact business on a limited basis because of COVID-19. While the legislature has been focused on the State Budget, several housing related bills are still moving through the various Committees. Some pending bills include:

Senate Bill 902 (Senator Weiner): The Bill's principal coauthor is Senate President Pro Tem, Toni Atkins. The bill was referred on June 29, 2020 to the Assembly Committee on Local Government. This bill permits local government to pass an ordinance to zone any parcel up to 10 units of residential density per parcel, if the parcel is located in a transit rich area, a job rich area, or deemed an urban infill area. This bill is viewed as the replacement to Senate Bill 50 and in its current form has received opposition from several prominent unions and a short list of cities. The bill has received support from various pro-business and pro-housing organizations.

Senate Bill 1385 (Senator Caballero): On June 29, 2020, this bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government. This bill enacts the **"Neighborhood Homes Act"** which establishes housing as an allowable use on any parcel zoned for office or retail use. The bill's goal is to facilitate the conversion of aging retail centers into housing centers.

Assembly Bill 3107 (Assemblyman Ting and Bloom): The bill was amended by the author on July 21, 2020 and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Housing. The bill makes housing development an **"authorized use"** on a site designated in an element of the general plan for commercial uses. The bill also requires that a minimum of 20% of the units in a commercial conversion development project be deed-restricted as affordable units to lower income households.

Senate Bill 1120 (Senate President Pro Tem, Atkins): The bill was amended by the author on July 27, 2020 and was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government. This bill has several co-authors, including local Senator Richard Roth. The bill promotes small-scale neighborhood residential development by streamlining the process for a homeowner to create a duplex or subdivide an existing lot in all residential areas. The bill requires ministerial approval of duplexes.

Assembly Bill 1279 (Assemblyman Bloom): The bill was amended by the author on July 22, 2020 and was re-referred to the Committee on Senate housing. The bill establishes “high resource areas” throughout the State. The resource areas are defined as neighborhoods with high quality public schools, proximity to well-paying jobs and a clean and safe environment. The bill will target high opportunity and low residential density areas for future housing developments. The bill intends to alleviate the housing crisis and reduce exclusionary practices by establishing that housing development must be a **“use by right”** in an established high resource area. The bill also allows for greater density and heights to occur in established resource areas.

WRCOG will continue to provide updates after the Legislative Session concludes.

Prior Action:

May 14, 2020: The Planning Directors Committee received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments

Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: WRCOG Geographic Information System and Transportation Modeling Service Bureau Proposal

Contact: Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning, cgray@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6710

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to present information on a new WRCOG initiative to provide Geographic Information System and Transportation Modeling services to our member agencies.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.

WRCOG provides a variety of services to its members such as TUMF, Grant Writing, Active Transportation, Climate Change / Adaptation, and Fellowship. WRCOG is now evaluating whether it should provide Geographic Information System (GIS) and Transportation Modeling services to its member agencies.

Background

Earlier in 2020, WRCOG engaged in a comprehensive Agency-wide visioning session to explore new initiatives. Three initiatives identified for future investigation included:

- Forming a regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- Developing a regional Housing Trust
- Implementing a regional GIS / Traffic Modeling Bureau

For each of these initiatives, staff are preparing a work plan which includes a series of schedules and deliverables.

These initiatives were developed based on input from member agencies as well as through a review of services offered by other agencies.

The concept of a GIS / Traffic Modeling Bureau was based on three items of input:

- Feedback from WRCOG Planning Directors Committee, particularly for assistance with GIS.
- Requests from consultants and other stakeholders for assistance with travel modeling, particularly as it relates to Vehicle Miles Traveled estimates.
- Discussions with other regional agencies such as the San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, which currently offer these services.

Proposed Work Plan

The proposed work plan for the GIS / Traffic Modeling Bureau includes outreach with members of the Public Works and Planning Directors Committees to identify specific areas of assistance related to GIS and Traffic

Modeling that would help member agencies. Additionally, WRCOG will provide a set of guidelines that will address the implementation of this effort including but not limited to:

- What services will be provided to members agencies?
- How to address requests from non-members such as consultants or developers?
- What approach will WRCOG take related to cost recovery?
- How will staff prioritize requests from different agencies?
- How will staff differentiate between routine requests and those requiring a significant amount of time to complete?

Next Steps

WRCOG will be executing the specified work plan, focusing on initial outreach, and developing the guidelines for this effort. Staff will be reaching out to members of the Planning Directors and Public Works Committees to discuss each jurisdiction's needs and interests individually.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

1. GIS / Travel Demand Modeling Initiative.

Item 6.B

WRCOG Geographic Information
System and Transportation Modeling
Service Bureau Proposal

Attachment 1

GIS / Travel Demand Modeling
Initiative

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GIS / Travel Demand Modeling Initiative

Task 1- Additional Due Diligence Research

Staff will hold virtual meetings with agency staff members and peer agencies to discuss their experience with GIS and Traffic Modeling services. We will use these meetings to more fully inform us on experience these agencies have had with such services.

- Additional meeting with SANDAG staff on successes and failures of programs, what to expect, costs, and staff time
- Review of SANDAG policies, work templates, contracts, etc.
- Research on other agencies providing similar services (SACOG and SCAG)
- Meeting with SBCTA Staff to discuss costs for similar services

Schedule: August – September 2020

Responsible Staff: Cameron Brown

Assistance Needed: Chris Gray

Task 2- Stakeholder Outreach

Staff will conduct outreach to PDC and PWC members via the August meeting. During this meeting, Staff will ask for jurisdictional interest in this type of services and ask for guidance on issues such as which specific services are needed, jurisdictional ability to pay, and other relevant topics.

Schedule: August-October 2020

Work Product:

- Staff Report for August PDC and PWC
- August PDC and PWC Meeting Powerpoint

Responsible Staff: Cameron Brown

Assistance Needed: None

Task 3- Potential Governing Structure

This effort is proposed as a WRCOG-led effort which would be administered by the WRCOG Transportation & Planning Department.

Schedule: November 2020

Work Product: Internal memorandum detailing the operations GIS/Modeling Program which creates a program within the WRCOG Transportation & Planning Department to address the GIS/Modeling needs to WRCOG member agencies.

Responsible Staff: Cameron Brown

Assistance Needed: None

Task 4- Implementation Plan

Staff will develop a set of formal guidelines for adoption by the PDC and PWC relating to the provision of GIS and modeling services by WRCOG. These guidelines will include:

- A description of the overall process by which WRCOG will receive and process requests
- A discussion of cost recovery which will specify those items which will be provided at no cost and those which will require some level of reimbursement.

- Services that WRCOG will provide our member agencies
- A price list of anticipated service costs

Schedule: January 2021

Work Product:

- Guidelines related to GIS and Modeling
- Purchase of high-end machine to handle GIS and Modeling operations
- Purchase of TransCAD modeling software and additional ArcGIS software

Responsible Staff: Cameron

Assistance Needed: None

Task 5- Funding Plan

Staff estimates that the up-front hardware and software costs are \$20K which can be funded initially through LTF dollars and then reimbursed through charging for services. Staff will develop a proposed budget amendment to show offsets in consultant costs to maintain the overall LTF budget.

Schedule: August 2020 – January 2021

Work Product: Budget amendment

Responsible Staff: Cameron Brown

Assistance Needed: Chris Gray/Finance Department

Task 6- Communications Strategy

Staff will primarily distribute information about this new effort through the WRCOG Committee Structure. Regular updates to PDC and PWC will be provided and a presentation will be provided to the Executive Committee once the program is operational. Additional information will be provided on the WRCOG website as well as the WRCOG Briefing.

Schedule: September 2020 – January 2021

Work Product:

- Three staff reports and presentations to PDC and PWC
- One staff report and presentation to the Executive Committee
- Updates to WRCOG website
- At least one WRCOG briefing article

Responsible Staff: Cameron Brown

Assistance Needed: Elisa/Rachel



Western Riverside Council of Governments

Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Exploration of a Western Riverside County Economic Development Corporation

Contact: Elisa Laurel, Program Manager, elaurel@wrcoq.us, (951) 405-6752

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide information on the exploration of the formation of a Western Riverside County Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.

Background

WRCOG staff held a Visioning Session on June 18, 2020, to re-visit Agency goals and accomplishments and discuss new initiatives for potential WRCOG involvement as well as consider suggestions from member agencies. During the session, Agency Directors and Managers presented ideas, discussed program ideas, and provided feedback on activities that WRCOG is currently engaged in regarding the Agency's long-standing focus on the issue areas identified below. These focus areas were first adopted in 2011 and were subsequently affirmed by the Executive Committee and Technical Advisory Committee in 2014 and 2017. In 2014, the Agency shifted "economic development" to be a central pillar for the five other goal areas, which were recognized to be mutually dependent on one another to advance. WRCOG's programs are intended to work together to support improving quality of life, which is perhaps the overall largest factor in improving the area's economic development. The focus areas include:

1. Economic Development
2. Energy and Environment
3. Water
4. Transportation
5. Education
6. Health

Next Steps

As a follow up to this exercise, staff presented to the Administration & Finance Committee on July 8, 2020, three prospective projects for WRCOG involvement during this next fiscal year. One project is the exploration of the formation of a Western Riverside County EDC, which would stand as an independently funded non-profit organization governed by representatives from both the public and private sectors, which would help to establish sustained and complimentary services in economic development. The concept was met with positive feedback and there was a high interest to further explore the formation an EDC for the subregion. As a next step to this effort, staff is conducting further due diligence and research in the discovery phase which will consist of reviewing existing EDC models, regionally, statewide, and nationally, that would best fit the needs of the Western Riverside County subregion.

Prior Action:

July 8, 2020: The Administration & Finance Committee received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

1. EDC Workplan Schedule.

Item 6.C

Exploration of a Western Riverside
County Economic Development
Corporation

Attachment 1

EDC Workplan Schedule

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Economic Development Corporation Workplan Schedule

Due Diligence	What additional data or outreach do we need to start our stakeholder outreach process? What are typical best practices for a similar entity?	Schedule	Work Product	Responsible Staff
Task 1	Perform due diligence in the Discovery and Research Phase by reviewing other EDCs regionally, statewide and nationally that best identify with the Western Riverside County subregion's goals and the programs that would best serve our members.	Complete by: October 30, 2020	Executive Summary	Elisa Laurel
Stakeholder Outreach	What specific persons are we going to contact about this topic? What WRCOG Committees will be used for these efforts?	Schedule	Work Product	Responsible Staff
Task 2	Discovery calls will be conducted with economic development partners in the region including city, county and regional stakeholders. Additional outreach will also be conducted with industry influencers such as private industry, community based organizations, academic institutions and others. WRCOG Committees that will be leveraged for this effort will include but not limited to: Executive, Administration and Finance, Technical Advisory and Planning	Complete by: October 30, 2020	Formation of a Steering Committee	Elisa Laurel
Potential Governing Structure	Is this a WRCOG Program or a stand-alone agency?	Schedule	Work Product	Responsible Staff
Task 3	Subsequent to the Discovery and Research Phase. The Steering Committee will make the determination on whether this should be a WRCOG program or a stand-alone agency.	Complete by: December 30, 2020	Steering Committee to decide on governance model	Elisa Laurel
Implementation Plan	What specific steps are needed to implement this plan including WRCOG Board action or action of other agencies?	Schedule	Work Product	Responsible Staff
Task 4	*Completion of Discovery and Research Phase: September 1, 2020 *Completion of Stakeholder Outreach: October 30, 2020 *Finalize the formation of an Executive Steering Committee: October 30, 2020 *Complete the Governance Exploration Phase: by December 2020 *Launch: January 2021	Complete by: January 2021	Formation of EDC	Elisa Laurel
Funding Plan	How would we fund implementation and on-going operations?	Schedule	Work Product	Responsible Staff
Task 5	Explore possible funding opportunities that include but are not limited to: Business Improvement Districts, Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts, AB 3205, EDA Grants, Others	Complete by January 2021	Solidify Funding	Elisa Laurel
Communications Strategy	How are we going to convey information about this topic and the importance of addressing it?	Updates to committee structure	Publicized Events	Future Forward Events
Task 6	Leverage existing WRCOG events, partnerships and other opportunities to inform, educate and create buy in with stakeholders.	*Planning Directors Committee *Technical Advisory Committee *Administration and Finance Committee *Executive Committee	Ongoing	Ongoing

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Western Riverside Council of Governments

Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Regional Housing Trust Initiative

Contact: Ivana Medina, Staff Analyst, imedina@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6753

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide a summary of a new Regional Housing Trust initiative and seek input from Committee members.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.

WRCOG staff held a visioning session on June 18, 2020, to re-visit Agency goals and accomplishments and discuss new initiatives, some suggested by member agency staff, for potential WRCOG involvement. One idea that was introduced was a Regional Housing Trust. New potential ideas were screened through a filtering process by way of a series of questions, after which the Executive Committee would be able to more easily determine whether a proposed idea is, 1) already being adequately addressed and, if not, 2) should be undertaken by WRCOG or by another entity. The framework provides a baseline analysis regarding whether it is in the best interests of WRCOG's members to commit to taking on an issue. The Regional Housing Trust matter was presented to the Administration & Finance Committee on July 8, 2020, where Committee member support encouraged WRCOG staff to further research and develop a work plan for the concept. The following is a summary of a white paper that was developed by WRCOG's On-Call Bench Consultant that discusses the development of a proposed regional housing trust in the WRCOG subregion.

Background

The State faces a significant housing supply and affordability crisis spurred by high land costs, rising construction costs, and limited financing options. These challenges have become significant issues in Western Riverside County and are compounded by the interrelated impacts on housing supply, homelessness, and economy at the local and subregional scale. Housing trusts in California have become increasingly popular in recent years as local jurisdictions and regional agencies across the state seek solutions to the statewide housing crisis. Housing trust models have existed since the 1970s and there are currently 48 local and regional housing trusts in California. Neighboring housing trusts include:

- San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust - established in 2020
- Orange County Housing Trust - established in 2010
- Orange County Finance Trust - established in 2019
- Anaheim Housing Trust – established in 2005
- San Diego Housing Trust – established in 1990

What are Housing Trusts?

Housing trust funds (or housing trusts), often established by elected government bodies, provide a dedicated source or sources of revenue for a wide variety of housing activities. A housing trust can provide a mechanism

for local agencies to make ongoing investments in affordable housing using both direct revenues and leveraged matching funds available from state and federal sources, available exclusively for housing trust programs. Local and regional housing trusts in California generally share the following three characteristics:

1. Housing Trusts receive ongoing revenues, rather than being dependent on annual appropriations from general funds or similar sources.
2. Funds are primarily designated to support affordable housing, rather than market rate housing or other community goals – state and federal matching funds, as well as most dedicated tax revenues or fees, are exclusively available to support affordable housing.
3. Housing Trusts benefit from funding sources not restricted to housing activities, rather than relying exclusively on dedicated housing funds, and may benefit from the flexibility of offsetting public fund allocations with revenue captured from the private sector.

Housing trusts provide a dedicated source of revenues for a variety of housing activities such as:

- New construction of affordable housing
- Preservation of rehabilitation of existing affordable housing
- Land acquisition for development of affordable housing
- Homeless housing services
- Pre-development activities
- Gap financing loans
- Down payment assistance for developers or eligible first-time home buyers

Housing Trust Administration, Programming, and Funding

Of the various housing trusts reviewed, the recommended structure at this time is a nonprofit-Joint Powers Agreement variation model. This type of structure will allow maximum stability and access to more funding opportunities. The companion non-profit arm can raise funds rather than solely rely on public money. A Board of Directors, comprised of jurisdictional representatives, elected officials, and other stakeholders, would oversee the allocation of funds.

Trusts are typically funded by a variety of sources. Some of the most common forms of revenue sources for housing trusts include dedicated fees (such as commercial linkage fees or housing impact fees) implemented by jurisdictions to support the development of housing, redevelopment tax increment set-aside funds, discretionary local revenues, grant and charitable contribution funds, loan repayments and commercial development loans, and state-funded local housing trust funds.

Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Program

One revenue source, the PLHA Program offers consistent funding to local jurisdictions for affordable housing construction and supportive services. Participating jurisdictions could choose to dedicate all or a portion of these funds to the housing trust in lieu of a membership dues payment. While local PLHA allocations may not be sufficient to fill a housing project funding gap, when kept within the local jurisdiction, they can be dedicated to a regional housing trust and leveraged with other jurisdictions' local PLHA or other funds to be an effective short- or long-term source of funding.

Staff seeks input from the Committee on how PLHA funds are currently being used and to further discuss the potential of establishing a Regional Housing Trust Program in Western Riverside County. The emphasis of exploring such a program is to facilitate ways to collectively address the housing crisis in a coordinated and efficient manner.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachments:

1. Housing Trust White Paper.
2. Housing Trust Work Plan.

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Item 6.D

Regional Housing Trust Initiative

Attachment 1

Housing Trust White Paper

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Housing Trust Fund Feasibility in Western Riverside County



A White Paper Prepared by



PLACEWORKS



Draft August 2020

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Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Housing trust funds, or housing trusts, offer a great opportunity to increase housing supply in Western Riverside County, southern California's once affordable residential outpost now on the rise as an economic hub, but with shrinking housing opportunities. There are a variety of administrative structures for housing trusts, but the most impactful is the regional model. Given the limited capacity of local jurisdictions to devote resources to trust administration, and WRCOG's well-established role in the subregion, WRCOG is both qualified to and capable of administering a regional housing trust that would address regional housing needs while minimizing duplication of resources across Western Riverside County. This Executive Summary provides an overview of housing trusts and recommendations for instituting a WRCOG-administered housing trust, which the full white paper discusses in more depth. In addition to expanding on the contents of this Summary, the White Paper includes an analysis of existing housing trusts (Appendix A), including several interviewed for this paper, which serves as the central foundation of the included recommendations.

FRAMING THE ISSUE

The entire state, including Western Riverside County, faces a significant housing supply and affordability crisis spurred by high land costs, rising construction costs, and limited financing options. While each of these factors has worsened over the last few decades, the most significant change may be the funding void created by lost redevelopment funds, which previously contributed between 30 and 60 percent of per-unit project costs to an affordable housing development.¹ These community challenges have become regional issues with compounding, interrelated impacts on housing supply, homelessness, and economies at the local and subregional scale.

In Western Riverside County, housing supply has not kept pace with population growth. Instead, growth is being accommodated through increases in persons per household and overcrowding.^{2,3} With a much higher demand (or need) for housing units than there is supply, both home and rental prices have increased to stymie the influx of interest. Significant portions of Western Riverside County pay more than 30 percent of their gross income towards housing payments, and higher housing costs put lower income households at risk of homelessness. Without a concerted effort to expand the affordable housing supply, increasing numbers of households will become unable to afford housing in Western Riverside County as rents continue to rise.

¹ Washburn, A., July 19, 2020, Personal Communication.

² Western Riverside Council of Governments Planning Directors Committee, 2019, Staff Report: Housing Workshop Discussion, <http://www.wrcog.cog.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/5437/pdc-021419-agendapacket>, accessed on June 8, 2020.

³ Department of Finance data (Table E-5) indicates that the average persons per household has increased in all jurisdictions in Western Riverside County from 2010 to 2020, except in unincorporated Riverside County. Furthermore, the increase in average persons per household is greater than the overall statewide increase.

WHAT ARE HOUSING TRUSTS?

A housing trust fund is a program or independent organization that raises funding to dedicate to housing production, preservation, and related activities. A housing trust can provide a mechanism for local agencies to make ongoing investments in affordable housing using both direct revenues and leveraged matching funds available from State and federal sources, available exclusively for housing trust programs. Housing trusts have many benefits including, but not limited to, serving as a flexible source of gap financing for affordable housing, giving regions the ability to compete for otherwise restricted State funds, increasing homeownership opportunities with down-payment assistance for lower-income families, and supporting homeless assistance.

Housing trusts in California have become increasingly popular in recent years as local and regional jurisdictions across the state seek solutions to the statewide housing crisis. Local and regional housing trusts in California generally share the following three characteristics:

1. They receive ongoing revenues, rather than being dependent on annual appropriations from general funds or similar sources.
2. Funds are primarily designated to support affordable housing, rather than market rate housing or other community goals—State and federal matching funds, as well as most dedicated tax revenues or fees are exclusively available to support affordable housing.
3. They benefit from funding sources not restricted to housing activities, rather than relying exclusively on dedicated housing funds, and may benefit from the flexibility of offsetting public fund allocations with revenue captured from the private sector.

HOUSING TRUST ADMINISTRATION, PROGRAMMING, AND FUNDING SOURCES

The organizational structure, programming, and funding sources of a housing trust are all interrelated and co-dependent. For example, the organizational structure informs what kind of funding opportunities are available to the trust fund, the funding sources impact the programming types that can be supported by the trust, and the funding sources impact the stability of the organizational structure. This is primarily due to the restrictions imposed on funding sources available. Decisions regarding each component of the trust must be considered in relation to the effect on the other two components.

ADMINISTRATION OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Housing trusts are operated by a variety of organization types and models including individual jurisdictions, a consortium of multiple local agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Each organizational structure has benefits and drawbacks, which the full white paper discusses in more depth. In general, local city- and county-administered trusts benefit from more accessible public funding and institutional government knowledge, but they operate slowly and often lack adequate staff time and resources to devote to a housing trust. Nonprofit models benefit from greater autonomy and flexibility to diversify and leverage funding sources, but they are unable to tap into public funds and some government grants.

Operating under either a public or nonprofit organizational structure, Joint Powers Authority (JPA)-administered housing trusts have risen in popularity in recent years due to their reliable government support, ability to pool resources, and greater flexibility to pursue and leverage funds. Trusts administered by a JPA can operate as a quasi-local governmental organization (holding equal power with other jurisdictions participating in the JPA) or as a nonprofit.

While obtaining seed funding to initiate a trust can be more difficult for nonprofits, they tend to glean funds from outside resources for affordable housing more effectively in the long term. When paired in a hybrid nonprofit/JPA organizational structure, housing trusts have the flexibility and autonomy of a nonprofit with the financial support and government backing of participating cities and counties. Furthermore, utilizing a JPA fosters multi-jurisdictional cooperation, which unites local jurisdictions to address regional issues such as housing, and amasses resources to reduce cost and duplication of efforts. All California-based housing trusts interviewed view JPA-administered trusts favorably. It is recommended that a WRCOG-administered housing trust be organized as a nonprofit/JPA hybrid to maximize stability and access to funding opportunities.

FUNDING SOURCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a variety of revenue streams for housing trusts administered by the State and federal government, local governments, and private sources. Funds available from public entities, especially at the State and federal level, are often stringent, exacting specific requirements in order for housing trust programs to qualify. Private sources, although more difficult to obtain initially, more often provide funding with fewer restrictions or requirements. Appendix B provides an analysis of a variety of public and private sources of revenue ranging from the State-administered Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds to commercial linkage fees to private donations.

A WRCOG-administered trust should consider a variety of revenue sources. The following initial list of sources, both one-time and ongoing, have been preliminarily identified as appropriate for WRCOG to pursue to procure seed funding and establish program stability in the first five to ten years of operation:

- State Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) program grant funds from participating member jurisdictions
- State-matching Local Housing Trust Fund grant funds
- National Housing Trust Fund grant funds
- Transient Occupancy Tax revenue from participating member jurisdictions
- Inclusionary zoning in-lieu fee revenue from participating member jurisdictions
- Community Benefit Agreement revenue
- Discretionary local revenue from participating member jurisdictions

PROGRAMING OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A housing trust fund must specify in its bylaws what types of projects, programs, and activities the trust will fund. Activities could include, but are not limited to, new construction of affordable housing, predevelopment activities for affordable housing development, down payment assistance for developers

or first-time homebuyers, preservation or rehabilitation of existing affordable housing, land acquisition for development of affordable housing, and establishment of housing for homeless populations. Housing trusts funnel revenue into defined programs that carry out these intended activities and greater goals. The most common program for housing trusts in California is a revolving loan fund.

Some housing trust activities are more effective tools for creating affordable housing than others, depending on the resources available and local context. This report recommends that a WRCOG-administered housing trust initially prioritize short-term, low-interest loans in a revolving loan fund to maximize affordable housing development, and then expand over time to longer-term loans, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) loans, and Community Impact Notes (CINs) as the housing trust grows in size and stability.

IMPLEMENTATION

it is recommended that the WRCOG-administered trust take the following steps to establish a housing trust over the course of one to two years. The final step listed below will likely take five to ten years to implement before the housing trust will have stability and funding for programming and standard operation.

1. **Trust structure.** Identify interested and eligible jurisdictions for participation; determine JPA structuring (amendment to existing WRCOG JPA or establishment of new JPA) depending on whether or not the trust achieves participation of WRCOG's full membership and participant jurisdictions' interests.
2. **Housing issues.** Identify housing needs and priorities in the WRCOG subregion; establish and implement campaign to foster public support of the housing trust.
3. **Official trust formation.** Enact intent to establish trust within WRCOG; develop Administrative Plan for housing trust operation; adopt new JPA or amend existing WRCOG JPA for housing trust administration; adopt resolutions to join at the jurisdiction level; form the non-profit component of the housing trust.
4. **Activity start-up.** Pursue revenue; transition to ongoing implementation.

Introduction

This paper provides an introduction to housing trust funds, or housing trusts, examining trust fund organizational models, operation and administration logistics, and funding sources. This information is examined through the lens of the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) to understand the feasibility of establishing a WRCOG-administered housing trust fund and how such a fund should be to best support housing production throughout Western Riverside County. The analysis culminates with recommendations for administration and operation, revenue sources, and implementation next steps.

Background

HOUSING TRUST FUND INTRODUCTION

A housing trust fund is a program or independent organization that raises funding to dedicate to housing production, preservation, and related activities, such as grant funding for construction or rehabilitation, infrastructure, land acquisition, or impact fees; low-interest construction, acquisition, or gap financing loans; and grants or loans that implement home weatherization programs, support transitional or emergency housing and shelters, or preserve existing multi-family housing.

A housing trust can provide a mechanism for local agencies to make ongoing investments in affordable housing using both direct revenues and leveraged matching funds available from State and federal sources, available exclusively for housing trust programs.

A housing trust fund is similar to a community land trust (CLT), though they serve complementary, rather than duplicative purposes. CLTs are typically structured as nonprofit organizations and can serve a variety of purposes, though they are most commonly used to preserve housing affordability and support lower-income families' ability to build wealth. As the name suggests, the CLT model is based on land acquisition and ownership, recognizing that it is the value of land, not the residential structure, that increases over time. As explained by the organization Community-Wealth.org, a CLT "acquires land and maintains ownership of it permanently. With prospective homeowners, it enters into a long-term, renewable lease instead of a traditional sale. When the homeowner sells, the family earns only a portion of the increased property value. The remainder is kept by the trust, preserving the affordability for future low- to moderate-income families."⁴ Locally, the newly formed Inland Empire Community Land Trust works to support the affordability of both for-sale and rental housing.⁵ As noted above and described in more detail in the following sections, a housing trust, by contrast, primarily serves to meet the gap funding needs of

⁴ Community-Wealth.org, 2020. <https://community-wealth.org/strategies/panel/clts/index.html>

⁵ Inland Empire Community Land Trust, 2020. <https://www.ieclt.org/about>

affordable housing. A housing trust fund and CLT could theoretically work collaboratively to acquire the land and develop affordable housing.

BENEFITS OF HOUSING TRUSTS

Housing trusts offer general benefits to communities by providing safe affordable homes for all income levels, including extremely low- or no-income households. They ensure long-term investment in affordable housing; address homelessness, gentrification, and displacement; and advancing transit-oriented development. The following benefits are particularly applicable in the context of the WRCOG subregion:

- **Flexible source of gap financing.** A revolving loan fund, as a function of a housing trust, provides access to a flexible source of capital that can be used in combination with traditional sources of revenue to fund affordable housing development. Gap funds provided through a revolving loan fund serve as a bridge between the amount a borrower can obtain to finance housing development in the private sector and the remaining dollars needed to initiate construction.
- **Ability to compete for State funds.** The State makes funds available to housing trusts in California annually with specific requirements for eligible applicants. Operation of a housing trust would expand the subregion's access to State housing funds to include revenue streams otherwise unavailable, such as Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) funds.
- **Homeless assistance.** Housing trust funds are flexible resources for homelessness assistance, allowing and fostering distinct programs targeted to one or more aspects of homelessness. Housing trust funds can devote portions of their revenue to augment existing emergency and transitional homeless programs, assist supportive service organizations, or create new homeless housing or support services. Homelessness is often a product of housing shortages when extremely low-income households are forced out of the housing market when the demand for housing exceeds the supply, driving up housing prices and the cost of rents. Housing trust funds can help to expand the housing market with both affordable housing for people at risk of homelessness, and market rate housing to lessen the housing shortage and housing price inflation rates.

HISTORY OF HOUSING TRUSTS IN US AND CALIFORNIA

The first housing trust funds in the United States were implemented in Maryland and California during the 1970's. They proved to be effective models for permanent affordable housing revenue streams, and the concept soon spread to other states. Virtually every state in the U.S. now has local and /or State housing trust funds. A few states have created more than one State housing trust fund, including Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oregon, and Washington. The Federal Government established the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in 2008 and began implementing the program in 2016, distributing \$174 million through funding solicitations, generally administered by states. In 2016 approximately \$10.1 million of NHTF funds were allocated to California. Within the state, NHTF funding is further distributed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

Housing trusts in California have become increasingly popular in recent years as local and regional jurisdictions across the state seek solutions to the statewide housing crisis. California has passed legislation encouraging and/or enabling local jurisdictions to dedicate public funds to affordable housing. However, California is one of four states that have created housing trust funds legislatively but do not currently have public revenues committed to the funds. As of 2016, 45 local and regional housing trusts in California generally share the following three conditions:

4. They receive ongoing revenues, rather than being dependent on annual appropriations from general funds or similar sources.
5. Funds are primarily designated to support affordable housing, rather than market rate housing or other community goals—State and federal matching funds, as well as most dedicated tax revenues or fees are exclusively available to support affordable housing.
6. They benefit from funding sources not restricted to housing activities, such as those that could otherwise be devoted to other community goals (e.g. environmental conservation, economic development, or transportation), rather than relying exclusively on dedicated housing funds, and may benefit from the flexibility of offsetting public fund allocations with revenue captured from the private sector.

HOUSING TRUST APPLICABILITY TO WRCOG

The entire state, including Western Riverside County, faces a significant housing supply and affordability crisis spurred high land costs, rising construction costs, and limited financing options. While each of these factors has worsened over the last few decades, the most significant change may be the funding void created by lost redevelopment funds, which previously contributed between 30 and 60 percent of per-unit project costs to an affordable housing development.⁶ Major housing challenges in the WRCOG subregion include:

- **Housing supply shortage:** The housing supply has not kept up with population growth. Between 2014 and 2018, 20,626 new housing units were constructed while the population grew by 122,737, indicating that population growth is being accommodated through increases in persons per household.^{7,8} Older generations are living and staying healthier longer and therefore are choosing to stay in their homes. Paired with increasing demands from the Millennial generation seeking housing, homes are in higher demand than they have ever been before.
- **High housing prices:** With a much smaller housing supply than the market demands, both home and rental prices have increased to stymie the influx of interest. Inflation-adjusted median household income has decreased between 2012 and 2016 in Riverside County, and significant portions of Western Riverside County pay more than 30 percent of their gross income towards housing payments. Up to 62 percent of renters and up to 40 percent of homeowners in some

⁶ Washburn, A., July 19, 2020, Personal Communication.

⁷ Western Riverside Council of Governments Planning Directors Committee, 2019, Staff Report: Housing Workshop Discussion, <http://www.wrcog.cog.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/5437/pdc-021419-agendapacket>, accessed on June 8, 2020.

⁸ Department of Finance data (Table E-5) indicates that the average persons per household has increased in all jurisdictions in Western Riverside County from 2010 to 2020, except in unincorporated Riverside County. Furthermore, the increase in average persons per household is greater than the overall statewide increase.

communities overpay for housing, meaning it can be far more difficult for renters to save for a down payment on a home.⁷

- **Low rate of new affordable housing construction:** At the end of 2019, Western Riverside County jurisdictions had constructed less than four percent of very low-income units and low-income units allocated in the 5th RHNA cycle.⁴ Depending on the type of housing (e.g. senior, family, or veteran), affordable housing developments in the region typically require between 10 and 20 percent of funding to come from local sources.⁵ Despite growing need, a lack of funding sources has inhibited the development of much needed affordable housing in Western Riverside County.

A housing trust offers a creative solution to begin to address the funding limitations that stifle the development of affordable housing in the WRCOG subregion and leverages WRCOG's unique strengths as a convener adept at facilitating collaboration.

WRCOG's 2019-2020 Legislative Platform, which includes a specially designated Housing Priority Area, further supports the COG's administration of a regional housing trust. WRCOG's housing priorities include establishing a funding program to fill the void created by the elimination of redevelopment housing set-asides, which directly supports creation of a housing trust fund. In addition to this priority, WRCOG also supports the housing priorities listed below. Activities to be funded under a WRCOG-administered housing trust fund should be focused on these housing priorities:

- Expedite the development of market-rate and affordable housing.
- Collaboration between the building industry, regulators, non-profits, and other parties to develop housing.
- Obtain funding to reduce homelessness, expand the availability of permanent supportive and transitional housing, support existing efforts pioneered by the Regional Homeless Alliance (RHA) for Temecula, Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Murrieta, and Menifee, and facilitate coordinated re-entry services to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Streamline CEQA requirements for projects listed in State-compliant Housing Elements.
- Institute an equitable geographic distribution of state funding for the development of programs that would improve the subregion.
- Incentivize training for skilled and unskilled trades that work in the construction industry to reduce the cost of housing.

Additionally, while WRCOG prioritizes housing concerns in the subregion, the agency must balance those needs with other issues of importance to member jurisdictions and the public. Other Legislative Platform issues relevant to a housing trust fund are discussed below, organized by platform area:

- **Economic Development.** WRCOG supports legislation that facilitates collaboration between local government, education, and business. This reinforces support for a housing trust, which would facilitate collaboration across sectors depending upon dedicated revenue sources. WRCOG also supports maintenance and/or allocation of grant funding for coordinated local and regional economic development efforts, which would include a housing trust fund.
- **Transportation.** WRCOG currently serves as the program administrator for the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF), a regional fee program designed to provide transportation

infrastructure mitigating the impact of new growth in Western Riverside County. The potential housing trust could be established and administered in a process similar to TUMF. Regional support for this program indicates potential support for a regional housing trust.

- Water. WRCOG's member jurisdictions dedicated voter-approved property tax revenue to providing vital water and wastewater infrastructure in the subregion. This demonstrates existing public support for property tax allocations, similar to what would be needed to fund a housing trust.

WRCOG is organized as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), that represents local governments to provide cooperative planning, coordination, and technical support on issues not constrained by political boundaries. As the subregional population continues to grow, community challenges become regional challenges that have compounding, interrelated impacts. WRCOG focuses on regional matters important to future growth, including housing, with duties that complement rather than duplicate jurisdictional activities.

Due to its role as a regional council, WRCOG is advisory in nature and lacks traditional government powers of taxation, regulation, or decision implementation. WRCOG currently works through its committee structure and amassed resources to reduce duplication of efforts, which could include establishment of a regional housing trust fund. WRCOG's reliance upon member jurisdictions to follow through on decisions would require that member jurisdictions take individual action to participate in a regional housing trust administered by WRCOG.

WRCOG's JPA explicitly permits the agency to apply for grants under federal, State, or local programs, which could include application for grants in representation of the housing trust. To establish a housing trust fund, WRCOG would modify its joint powers agreement to explicitly permit administration of the trust, with specified limitations for participating cities and the county within Western Riverside County. Other requirements, including funding prerequisites, and WRCOG-specific recommendations are discussed in the following sections.

Trust Fund Operating Structure

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Housing trusts are operated by a variety of organization types and models including individual jurisdictions, a consortium of multiple local agencies, and nonprofit organizations. These organizations often apply for grant funding to augment funds or to provide start-up resources. Some of the largest and most viable revenue sources in California have relatively strict eligibility requirements, typically restricting funding availability to cities, counties, or tribal governments and/or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Organizational models with the ability to attract the primary funding sources appropriate for a governmental agency, such as WRCOG or its member jurisdictions, to operate are examined below.

LOCAL CITIES AND COUNTIES

Local cities applying for funding would be considered a Local Housing Trust, whereas a county or consortium of multiple cities would be considered a Regional Housing Trust. Local cities and counties are eligible for State and federal funding that may not be accessible to other types of agencies or organizations. However, most cities have limited staff, time, and funding to administer a housing trust. In practice, many housing trusts administered by local governments obtain one source of funding and place it into a revolving loan fund. The stagnant revolving loan fund recycles money over time and does not continually expand its resources. However, cities and counties have the beneficial foundation of an established reputation and network of resources to initiate conversations about housing needs and to obtain funding. In addition, elected officials often trust city staff as the in-house experts on planning and housing-related issues. Less inhibited access to elected officials and an established relationship of trust may spur initial support for a housing trust from elected decision makers, helping get the trust off the ground.

LOCAL JURISDICTION—JPA VARIATION

Local cities and counties can also enter into a joint power agreement to cooperatively provide funding for affordable housing in a greater region. Housing trusts operating as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) receive reliable government support, often through membership requirements and dues established in the JPA's bylaws, are able to issue bonds without a credit rating, and benefit from coordination among jurisdictions. JPAs have many of the same powers as the JPA's member jurisdictions, though they do not have the authority of eminent domain or the ability to issue bonds without a credit rating. WRCOG could operate as an equal member under this agreement, and WRCOG's current experience operating as a JPA would translate smoothly into administration of a housing trust with this JPA variation. JPAs are not eligible to receive State matching funds, so funding resources are limited under this model.

NONPROFIT

Nonprofit organizations may have greater difficulties obtaining seed funding to initiate a housing trust fund due to fewer available federal or State grants with applicant restrictions and no prior resume of affordable housing development upon initiation. However, non-profits have greater autonomy to pursue private industry money, bank investments, and collaborations with multiple local and regional jurisdictions, effectively diversifying and creatively leveraging funding sources to increase community dollars funneled to affordable housing. Nonprofits have the flexibility to serve as a financial intermediary and can be approved to operate as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), enabling them to issue CINs and further diversify their sources of revenue. In addition, employing a combination of sources to fund the housing trust diversifies income sources, ensuring the trust is fiscally stable in the long-term. As they grow and become more successful over time, nonprofit housing trust models tend to more effectively bring in larger donations from outside resources and leverage those funds more effectively towards affordable housing development.

NONPROFIT—JPA VARIATION

Non-profit housing trusts have the flexibility to form a JPA. As discussed in a previous section, a housing trust acting as a JPA is largely given the same powers as the JPA's member jurisdictions. San Mateo's HEART is structured as a JPA/nonprofit partner housing trust, in which HEART holds equal power as the County and cities in the trust. Under their JPA agreement, cities and the County are required to contribute

a portion of their general fund appropriations to HEART annually. The portion is based on the jurisdiction's population, the number of jobs in the jurisdiction, and the projected rate of growth.

A JPA cannot act as a CDFI, thereby constraining its ability to capture revenue through CINs. JPA/nonprofit housing trusts have the option of forming a subsidiary to be eligible as a CDFI. In addition, JPAs on their own are not eligible for State matching funds, but a JPA/nonprofit can apply for those funds. Operation as a JPA/nonprofit, rather than a consortium of local jurisdictions/JPA, further increases the housing trust's flexibility to pursue and creatively source new funds. San Mateo's HEART is one of the few JPA/nonprofit partner housing trusts in the West, but their model has successfully received funds from a diverse array of sources.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERSIGHT

When operating outside of an individual city's or county's purview, housing trust funds have an advisory body, or board of directors. This board can provide the housing trust fund with a broad range of expertise and provide a way to maintain a connection with the communities served and their needs. Virtually all boards of directors have some responsibility for developing or advising on the policies that govern the fund. In some cases, the board helps recommend applicants for funding.

The board of directors can also help buffer the housing trust fund process from politics when controversial decisions – such as constructing new high-density multifamily projects in established single-family neighborhoods – are made. Representation on the board of directors can range from interagency coordinating bodies, with staff from different agencies, to a broad membership of housing advocates, low-income individuals, service providers, bankers, realtors, apartment owners, developers, and others. Not all participating jurisdictions need representation on the board either. In the VCHT, for example, only five seats of the 12 participating jurisdictions are reserved for government representation. Regardless of affiliation, members in the board of directors should all have experience with low-income housing.

While the voices that comprise the board of directors should be varied and diverse, they should be condensed into a relatively small group. Communication and collaboration across large boards of directors can become complex, bureaucratic, and arduous. Boards are best kept relatively small to allow representation without compromising the operational efficiency of oversight.

Housing Trust Funding Sources and Operating Costs

FUNDING SOURCES

Some of the most common forms of revenue sources for housing trusts in California include dedicated fees (such as commercial linkage fees or housing impact fees) implemented by jurisdictions to support the development of housing, redevelopment tax increment set-aside funds, discretionary local revenues, grant and charitable contribution funds, loan repayments and commercial development loans, and State-

funded local housing trust funds. Common housing trust fund revenue source types and examples of each are listed below:

- **State and federal grants**, such as the California Permanent Local Housing Allocation and National Housing Trust Fund Program
- **Bonds**, such as general obligation and revenue bonds
- **Tax increment funds and taxes**, such as real estate tax increments, real estate transfer taxes, and transient occupancy taxes
- **Fees**, such as development impact, commercial linkage, document recording, business license, and inclusionary zoning in-lieu fees
- **Revolving loan funds**, which are revenue replenishing programs housing trusts can administer
- **Private sources**, such as donations and community benefit agreements

Trusts should have diversified revenue sources that include dedicated funds, such as inclusionary housing program fees or a portion of a transient occupancy tax (TOT), so that the trust does not have to compete with other priorities during annual budget reviews of local governments or charitable organizations, allowing the trust to plan for long-term housing investments and minimize funding uncertainty. Appendix B includes a description and additional information on a variety of housing trust funding mechanisms.

HOUSING TRUST FUND OPERATING COSTS

TRUST ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

Many successful housing trust administrators report that the majority of housing trust start-up investments funded administrative costs. The County of Ventura Housing Trust Fund (CVHTF), for example, reported that approximately 90 percent of funds were allocated to administrative costs in its first few years of operation, prior to rolling out any programming. This is because housing trust start-ups often require significant personnel time to set up collection systems; layer seed funding; and solicit public, non-profit, and private agencies for seed funding. Over time, CVHTF's administrative costs have decreased overall and revenues have increased. In 2019, administrative costs accounted for 77 percent of CVHTF's expenses, or 51 percent of all annual income received. Start-up time frames for other housing trusts are discussed in Appendix A.

For San Mateo's HEART, the County of San Mateo provided seed grant money from its General Fund. During the first few years of operation, over 85 percent of funds were allocated to administrative costs, primarily for general trust management and set-up. Most of the grant funding and private contributions in the subsequent few years went towards start-up costs. In 2015, the Chico-based North Valley Housing Trust (NVHT) received a three-year commitment of \$40,000 per year as start-up funds from the City of Chico. This year, NVHT was able to leverage local contributions with matching funds from locally-contributed PLHA funds, State matching funds, and several grants to initiate NVHT's revolving loan fund. NVHT no longer receives funds from the City of Chico and all matching fund sources since their start-up

have changed. This evolution of funding sources is common for housing trusts given ongoing changes to eligibility requirements and depletion of available grants.

ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The organization authorized to administer a housing trust fund on behalf of a local jurisdiction must be clearly designated in an ordinance or resolution and identified in the trust's administrative guidelines. Administration includes holding, investing, and managing the fund account, with administrative costs typically covered by a percentage of the fees collected for the fund itself. Most regional and local jurisdictions cap administrative costs at 10 percent of the fund to maximize the creation of housing. Other external sources of administrative funding could include other public agency programs, interest earned by the fund, or fees charged for applications or other services provided by the trust fund.

A 2011 study performed by the Washington State Department of Commerce, titled the "Affordable Housing Cost Study," found that developing housing trust fund-expertise with in-house staff, as opposed to contracting with various outside parties for different housing trust activities, allows for more informed analysis of proposed and ongoing housing activities. Experienced staff insights into potential risks and opportunities that could alter costs incurred from trust fund activities help reduce uncertainty and minimize unnecessary expenditures. Consolidating resources to employ in-house trust fund staff effectively minimizes administration and project-level costs. For a WRCOG administered housing trust, participating member jurisdictions would cede control of their revenue sources to WRCOG.

EXISTING HOUSING TRUST ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING MODELS

With 1.5 full-time staff members, Ventura County's CVHTF provides a good model for a relatively small trust. Since receipt of seed funding in 2006, CVHTF took about seven years to raise enough funding through the 2008 Housing Recession to initiate a revolving loan fund in 2013. As of 2019, operating/personnel costs account for 77 percent of their yearly expenses of approximately \$298,000. The remaining expenses cover costs of loan servicing, developing a new housing land trust, fundraising efforts, and overseeing the loan program.

In comparison, the Chico-based NVHT was founded in 2015 and has only one employee working 0.75 time. This trust is relatively small due to its rural location in Butte County where there are very few large corporations, limiting access to the types of corporate donations that are more readily available in cities and economic hubs. NVHT is currently only making its second loan, with about \$40,000 in annual administrative costs comprising 8 percent of the organization's annual operating budget of \$500,000. The funds used for housing programs are separate from the operating budget and are expected to reach \$2 million through grants and State matching funds this year. These funds are separated because some grants and donations restrict eligible activities.

San Mateo's HEART has two full-time staff and an annual operating budget of about \$500,000. HEART has avoided increasing staff to keep operating costs low and preserve the low interest rates of its loans, keeping them competitive. Loan underwriting and bookkeeping are both performed several times per year by consultants because HEART has found that intermittent contracting, rather than hiring more in-house staff, has reduced operating costs. HEART also partners with the County to receive legal services and occasional help with underwriting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COST MINIMIZATION STRATEGIES

Compared to local trusts, regional housing trusts are better able to minimize costs by capturing economies of scale through consolidated administrative and operations expenses. WRCOG has extensive practice in fostering cost savings through collaborative planning. Existing housing trust fund administrators interviewed for this paper recommended such consolidation to minimize resource expenditure, capitalize on shared information, and better leverage funds for housing throughout the region. In addition, existing trust administrators cite the benefits of relieving local governments of the administration and management of some affordable housing work, which has been difficult to manage internally since the dissolution of redevelopment agencies in 2012.

Other housing trusts reduce costs by sharing office space with other agencies or operating within larger agencies to minimize overhead. Existing trusts also reported retaining services, such as bookkeeping and website creation, at low or no cost through partnerships with participating local jurisdictions or regional public agencies. Small non-profits recommend forgoing annual fundraising events, which are common sources of revenue for more established trusts, due to the large energy and time demands. These trusts reported that directly asking potential donors for money without hosting an event has been an effective alternative fund raiser without the added cost.

Housing Trust Projects and Programing

HOUSING TRUST ACTIVITY TYPES

A housing trust fund must specify what types of projects and programs (which may be restricted by funding sources) will be funded by the trust in its Administrative Plan. The following types of activities are common among housing trusts and could be appropriate in the WRCOG subregion. Specific housing trust programs to fulfill these activities are discussed in the following section.

- **New construction of affordable housing.** Housing trusts may provide funding for the development of affordable housing, including affordable housing for households with disabled and/ or elderly members, restricted to long-term or indefinite affordability terms. This is often administered through a revolving loan fund, discussed in the Housing Trust Programs section below.
- **Preservation or rehabilitation of existing affordable housing.** Housing trust funds can support the preservation or rehabilitation of existing multi-family housing and single-family housing, which is often a lower-cost alternative to new construction. Preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units reduces displacement of low-income residents, thereby preserving existing low-income neighborhoods.
- **Land acquisition for development of affordable housing.** Housing trusts can also provide financing for the acquisition of available, buildable land. High land prices can be a significant barrier to housing development in California and relieving affordable housing developers of this steep cost burden can help bridge this crucial gap.

- **Establishment of transitional, supportive, or permanent homeless housing.** Funds from housing trusts can be used for the development and ongoing operation of transitional, supportive, and permanent housing and accompanying supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness both acutely and chronically. Housing trusts may offer funds to build the capacity of local non-profits to help maintain or grow their in-house supportive services for homeless individuals and families. Funds could also be directed towards local governments' homeless programs, augmenting existing services or addressing unmet needs of the homeless population.
- **Predevelopment activities.** Housing trusts may consider providing cash flow to affordable housing developers, often through low-interest loans, to fund predevelopment costs. These costs can include preliminary land surveys, architectural designs, permitting costs including associated infrastructure or development impact fees, financing fees, and other up-front cost barriers to affordable housing development.
- **Down payment assistance for developers or eligible, first-time homebuyers.** Housing trust funds can provide down payment assistance for both developers and first-time homebuyers. Low-interest down payment assistance to affordable housing developers can help reduce the debt incurred by the development, and make the initial planning work for affordable housing financially viable. For first time homebuyers, down payment assistance provided through small loans can help moderate income families become homeowners when they lack the resources to obtain mortgage financing through traditional bank loans.

HOUSING TRUST PROGRAMS

A housing trust can carry out its goals and intended activities through a variety of programs. Some programs that might be effective in other states may not be feasible in California given existing State law, so this paper focuses on viable and popular options in California. The most common program for California housing trusts, discussed below, is a revolving loan fund, which can include a first-time homebuyer component. Less common approaches include: forming a housing land trust, or issuing low-risk, low-return loans from private organizations via community impact notes (CINs), which serve as the intermediary for affordable housing developers to receive low-rate development loans from banks under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). These programs are discussed in further detail below.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Existing housing trusts report that low-interest construction loans and gap financing, or “bridge”, loans are the most feasible options for establishing a revolving loan fund due to their shorter term limits and smaller lending needs compared to acquisition or predevelopment loans. In contrast, acquisition and predevelopment loans inherently carry more risk, so housing trust revolving loan funds should avoid these until developing greater lending capabilities after years of growth. To minimize risk, successful housing trust administrators also recommend only working with experienced affordable housing developers because of the complex structure of fund layering to break even on affordable housing development. Considerable seed funding is needed to establish a revolving loan fund and, due to various regulations and restrictions, not all funding sources can be used for revolving loan funds.

First-Time Homebuyer Revolving Loan Funds

Revolving loan funds can be structured as first-time homebuyer programs, which can be effective in communities with higher rates of homeownership units and single-family units. However, some housing trust administrators note that the long terms on these loans can be draining to any revolving loan fund and do not provide housing opportunities for as many people as other types of revolving loan funds.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT LOANS

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was created to encourage deposit institutions (including most banks but excluding credit unions) to extend credit to low-income communities, by requiring investment in specified community development activities, which includes support of affordable housing development in the community. Instead of specifying criteria for evaluating the performance of financial institutions, the law directs that the evaluation process should accommodate the situation and context of each individual institution. While there are no minimum or maximum requirements for funding, banks are required to commit dollars to the community through eligible activities. Qualifying banks can receive CRA credit by supporting “CRA qualified” community development activities including loans to borrowers for affordable housing rehabilitation and construction or investments directly to housing trusts.

The CRA establishes the level of community development activity investment required for banks based on size (small, intermediate, and large). Small local branches have limited budgets and typically make nominal contributions to community activities. Larger investment dollars in community development, which would better benefit a housing trust, generally originate from the bank’s corporate office or regional headquarters. Some banks are not actively aware of CRA requirements or the scope of investment opportunities available to them, such as investment in affordable housing. Advocating for the CRA to meet local needs in recent years has resulted in more than \$50 billion newly invested into California communities. Agreements negotiated with communities and community members can result in commitments of between 10 and 20 percent of California deposits to be reinvested in local communities.

In Western Riverside County, WRCOG could collaborate with jurisdictions, especially those with larger minority populations and low-income communities, to advocate for commercial development loans or support for affordable housing from banks operating locally. Banks will not lend to inexperienced housing trusts, so CRA funding is not a viable seed funding option. New housing trusts must first gain experience administering a housing trust fund to develop a record of success before being considered for CRA funding. Additionally, CRA funds are not eligible for State matching funds, so these would be obtained without intention of additional leveraging from the State. However, these funds are an effective strategy to harness revenue from other economic sectors to address the housing crisis, which existing housing trust administrators recognize is an important strategy to addressing the housing crisis.

COMMUNITY IMPACT NOTES

A promissory note is a written promise to pay another party a definite sum of money by a specified future date with no secured collateral. The promissory note investor purchases the note as a secured debt to become a lender under specified terms for the note’s principal, interest rate, and maturity date. These types of loans are neither government-insured nor guaranteed. A non-profit can issue promissory notes, or Community Impact Notes (CINs) in the context of a housing trust. The non-profit housing trust must be

certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the US Department of Treasury CDFI Fund for administration of loans to private entities.⁹ The housing trust's ability to repay the CINs would be dependent upon the economic success of its lending activities.

The trust can use the proceeds of CINs to fund housing development. Housing trusts can establish a CIN template to give private companies or agencies the ability to invest in the trust's loan fund. CIN loan funds often have a fixed return but are attractive to some investors because they provide an opportunity to be part of a workforce housing solution. Terms for CIN programs vary, but often range from 1 to 10 years with no fees. The SVHT acts as the issuer of CINs to fund its activities; these CINs have maturity rates at 5 years or 10 years, with 1.5 percent and 2.0 percent interest rates, respectively. Like any loan, there are risks and uncertainties associated with lending.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR HOUSING LAND TRUST

Obtaining land to be held in a perpetual trust ensures readily available for low-income and/or supportive housing development. Housing prices in the region are high, in part, due to the high cost of land. Factoring out the cost of land through public land acquisition would make homes more affordable and attainable for residents of Western Riverside County, including those looking to move to the region for employment. The trust would work with local jurisdictions, school districts, and transit agencies to identify their vacant, underutilized lots for donation to the trust. This trust could also accept monetary and land donations from private sources. Monetary donations would go towards the trust's acquisition of land for affordable housing.

Recommendations

Establish a WRCOG-Administered Regional Housing Trust

A housing trust has the potential to significantly enhance Western Riverside County's housing landscape. A trust would be most effective structured as a regional body to avoid unnecessary strain on the limited resources of local jurisdictions while leveraging the subregion's collaborative strengths. WRCOG is well-positioned to administer the regional housing trust on behalf of interested jurisdictions in Western Riverside County. WRCOG's existing staffing infrastructure is skilled in all requisite administrative areas including executive leadership, financial accounting, and administration. The agency has operated as a regional body governed by a joint powers agreement for 28 years and has a track record of achieving meaningful results. And WRCOG has a wealth of experience administering similarly structured and independent programs, such as the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) Program, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA), and Western Community Energy. The following recommendations are intended to guide establishment of a WRCOG-administered housing trust fund using best practices identified for meeting the WRCOG subregion's housing financing needs.

⁹ Housing Trust Silicon Valley, 2017, Community Impact Notes Offering Memorandum, <https://housingtrustsiliconvalle.app.box.com/s/ccjdb8qg390alolpdziin0ix1iv0xnj3>, accessed April 3, 2020.

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL

Establishing a regional housing trust as a dual JPA/nonprofit will provide WRCOG and member jurisdictions with the greatest opportunity to achieve economies of scale and access to the widest variety of revenue streams possible. By simultaneously acting as a non-profit and a JPA, the housing trust fund would maximize flexibility to obtain and leverage funds, with access to sources available to both nonprofit and JPA models, including State matching funds. Nonprofits tend to be more flexible in how they can operate and what funding sources they can accept from donors, especially in the private sector. A nonprofit entity will diversify and more creatively leverage funding sources across jurisdictions, bringing introducing funding streams into the trust than could public operation alone. JPA-administered housing trusts ensure reliable government support, are better able to pool resources, and provide greater flexibility to pursue and leverage funds, similar to nonprofits.

WRCOG could activate the existing WRCOG Supporting Foundation nonprofit to support a hybrid trust model or establish a new nonprofit. Similarly, WRCOG's membership could approve a revision to the existing joint powers agreement or establish a separate JPA for the housing trust. Establishing a separate JPA would be the best solution if some member jurisdictions opt not to participate in the trust. To update the JPA agreement to initiate the trust, the following conditions would need to apply:

- All JPA member jurisdictions are in compliance with State Housing Element law and therefore eligible for federal and State funding.
- All JPA member jurisdictions agree to be part of the housing trust through adoption of a local ordinance.

WRCOG will be the agency responsible for administering and overseeing the regional housing trust in representation of all interested member jurisdictions. WRCOG will also adopt a resolution requiring interested member jurisdictions to take formal action to join the regional housing trust, disclosing eligibility to receive State matching funds through compliance with current State housing law. Each eligible member jurisdiction will elect to participate in the housing trust fund through adoption of an ordinance and membership in WRCOG. Member jurisdictions not explicitly electing to participate in the trust and devote revenue to the housing trust fund would not be eligible to receive funds or resources from the trust.

REVENUE ALLOCATIONS

The WRCOG-administered trust should maintain as much flexibility with the application of its funding resources as possible. This includes avoiding the enactment of any internal mechanisms that devote funds proportionally to participating jurisdictions based on the location of revenue collection within the region. Multiple successful housing trust administrators report that siloed funds from each participating jurisdiction reduce the trust's ability to leverage these funds to their greatest potential. Furthermore, many jurisdictions have regulatory, political, or economic barriers to implementing housing projects, despite having the political will for affordable housing development and financial investment in the trust. For example, if City A were to invest \$80,000 into the housing trust fund with the stipulation that the

money must be reinvested in City A, but City A's zoning requirements discourage developers from affordable housing projects, then that \$80,000 would sit unused in the housing trust fund. In the meantime, a housing project in City B would use other housing trust funds to develop a \$1.5 million project. If City A instead invested that money with no stipulations, the housing trust fund could leverage that money to increase donations to the project in City B threefold, increasing the project size and resources provided in the original \$1.5 million project to add an additional \$240,000 in value.

WRCOG currently administers the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF), which collects fees to complete transportation system capital improvements necessary to meet increased travel demand and sustain current traffic levels of service. Fees are calculated proportionally to the costs of proposed transportation improvements based on the cumulative transportation system impacts of different types of new development, and the collected funds must be reinvested in designated sub-areas of the WRCOG subregion. Similarly, the housing trust fund could establish a first preference for reinvesting allocations within the jurisdiction or sub-area of origin, following the same boundaries as those designated by the TUMF, without posing absolute geographic restrictions on housing trust fund expenditures.

While some jurisdictions may initially oppose the practice of investing in the housing trust without a guaranteed return on investment within their jurisdictional boundaries, the benefits exceed drawbacks. State-compliant Housing Elements must provide adequate sites with appropriate zoning for housing development in each income category. Currently, there is not a requirement that Jurisdictions have to achieve buildout of their RHNA requirements once planned for in the Housing Element. Therefore, investing in the housing trust for the creation of housing within the jurisdiction's boundaries does not divert resources away from other necessary investments that would preclude their ability to remain State-compliant. On the contrary, jurisdictional investment in affordable housing trusts is highly praised by HCD. Other housing trusts report that participation in their housing trust assists cities with meeting Housing Element requirements and helps them obtain credits for the creation of affordable housing.

Jurisdictions that elect to participate should commit to allocating revenue annually to the housing trust fund for the first five to ten years, granting resources relative to their jurisdiction's size, number of jobs, and projected growth rate. The WRCOG housing trust JPA should enact a formula based on those factors to determine annual allocation requirements. While individual contributions may vary annually based on the number of participating jurisdictions, the total allocations should meet a minimum threshold of \$230,000 to support housing trust fund activities.¹⁰ The trust should not guarantee that a member jurisdiction's allocation will be directly reinvested in their community. However, when housing programs or projects come up in that jurisdiction, the housing trust should direct the jurisdiction's investments into that project to the maximum extent feasible.

OVERSIGHT AND STAFF

The housing trust should have a Board of Directors to oversee allocation of funds. The Board should consist of jurisdiction representatives, both elected officials and staff, as well as at-large representatives from the private sector. Both the CVHTF and San Mateo County's HEART operate with large 19-member

¹⁰ \$230,000 was the minimum total threshold requirement in 2019 for San Mateo's HEART, which is the only other JPA/non-profit model in California. Only JPAs can set minimum requirements for participating member jurisdictions, although Ventura County's CVHTF received at least \$50,000 from all member jurisdictions electing to participate in the housing trust in 2019.

Boards of Directors. When CVHTF first began, city representation came from elected officials but was switched to City staff representation after the first few years to remove political motivations and utilize city staff's in-house expertise. CVHTF also recommends keeping the size of the Board of Directors smaller for better communication and coordination of priorities across the region.

Staffing should be provided via a new department within WRCOG. This model has been proven successful by WRCOG's effective administration of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency and Western Community Energy. This approach will leverage the agency's in-house staff expertise and existing connection to resources in the region.

REVENUE SOURCES

WRCOG should consider all of the revenue sources discussed in the Housing Trust Funding Sources section, however based on an initial analysis, the following one-time and ongoing sources are identified as potentially being the most appropriate to pursue in the context of the WRCOG subregion and should be considered first. For more information on each revenue source, refer to Appendix B.

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

PERMANENT LOCAL HOUSING ALLOCATION (PLHA) PROGRAM

The new PLHA Program offers consistent funding to local jurisdictions for affordable housing construction and supportive services. Although the annual allocations will vary, the 2019 allocation is broken down by jurisdiction in Appendix B. While local allocations may not be sufficient to close a housing project funding gap when kept within the local jurisdiction, they can be delegated to a regional housing trust and leveraged with other local PLHA or other funds to be an effective short- or long-term source of funding.

- Funding Stage: Both start-up and ongoing.
- Eligible Activities: PLHA supports a variety of activities including affordable housing construction, affordable ADU construction, and homelessness services.
- Administration Limitations: A local government sharing the funds with a housing trust can use no more than 5 percent of the allocation for administrative costs for activities for which the allocation was made. However, staff and overhead costs related to carrying out the activity costs are not subject to the cap on administrative costs.
- Housing Trust Type Currently Eligible: Non-profit, JPA, city or county.

STATE-MATCHING LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

As described in Appendix B, the State-Matching Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) is a competitive grant process, but it awards large matching grants. HCD releases NOFAs periodically and a portion of program funds is set aside each year as matching funds for the first year of operation for new housing trusts. WRCOG should pursue both initial and annual funds.

WRCOG should note all State-matching funds require that housing developers use prevailing wage limiting the activities that the grant can fund upon award.

- Funding Stage: Both start-up and ongoing.

- Eligible Activities: Loans for acquisition, predevelopment expenses, development of affordable rental housing projects, transitional housing projects, emergency shelters and homeownership projects, including down payment assistance to qualified first-time homebuyers, and for rehabilitation of homes owned by income-eligible homeowners. No more than 20 percent of each allocation may assist moderate-income households, and at least 30 percent of each allocation is required to assist extremely low-income households.
- Administration Limitations: Administrative expenses are limited to five percent of the grant.
- Housing Trust Type Currently Eligible: Non-profit, city or county.

NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAM (NHTF)

The National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) serves as the primary source of federal funding for housing trusts and is administered by HCD. At least 80 percent of each annual grant must fund rental housing, and up to 10 percent can fund homeownership housing. The WRCOG housing trust should review the notice of funding availability (or NOFA) annually to confirm eligibility and alignment with its priorities to determine whether WRCOG should apply for funds.

- Funding Stage: Start-up and ongoing.
- Eligible Activities: Real property acquisition, site improvements and development hard costs, related soft costs, demolition, financing costs, operating cost assistance for rental housing (up to 30 percent of each grant), administrative and planning costs (up to 10 percent of each grant)
- Administration Limitations: Administrative expenses are limited to 10 percent of the grant.
- Housing Trust Type Currently Eligible: trusts, partnerships, limited partnerships, local public entities, corporations, limited liability corporations.

TAX INCREMENT FUND FUNDS AND TAXES

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX (TOT)

While most local jurisdictions in Western Riverside County already levy a TOT, most local regulations currently exclude short term rentals from the definition of a transient occupancy facility. Upon establishment of a trust, WRCOG should advocate for all participating member jurisdictions to update their definition of transient occupancy facilities to include Airbnb and VRBO units, and in the cases of Eastvale and Wildomar, establish new TOTs on short-term rentals. The incoming revenues would be placed in the member jurisdiction's general fund and then transferred annually to the WRCOG-administered housing trust fund.

- Funding Stage: Ongoing.
- Eligible Activities: Activities compliant with the established nexus between transient occupancy facilities and the associated loss of affordable housing in the community.
- Administration Limitations: Language in the jurisdictions' municipal codes would be examined to ensure there are no restrictions prohibiting support of administration activities or activities outside the local jurisdiction's limits.
- Housing Trust Type Currently Eligible: Nonprofit, JPA, city or county.

INCLUSIONARY ZONING IN-LIEU FEES

Only two cities in Western Riverside County have adopted inclusionary zoning requirements: Calimesa and Jurupa Valley. WRCOG should consult these two cities on their proclivity to allocate in-lieu fees to the trust fund and work with other member jurisdictions to assess the feasibility of implementing new local inclusionary ordinances. WRCOG should provide additional support to member jurisdictions interested in establishing a housing trust fund if the jurisdiction agrees to direct a portion of in-lieu fees to the housing trust fund.

- Funding Stage: Ongoing.
- Eligible Activities: Development of affordable housing, conditional upon the contributing jurisdiction's regulations stipulating that the in-lieu fees be directed to community-specific housing projects.
- Administration Limitations: WRCOG would not be able to easily leverage funds from an inclusionary ordinance in the jurisdiction's regulations stipulate that the in-lieu fees be directed to community-specific housing projects. Language in the jurisdictions' inclusionary ordinances and municipal codes would be examined to ensure there are no restrictions prohibiting support of administration activities or activities outside the local jurisdiction's limits.
- Housing Trust Type Currently Eligible: Nonprofit, JPA, city or county.

PRIVATE SOURCES

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) would help WRCOG leverage developer commitments to fund housing trust activities. In exchange for widespread public support from a community group(s) for the development project, WRCOG should collaborate with member jurisdictions to engage medical centers, large-scale developers, and the University of California, Riverside as they develop plans to expand.

- Funding Stage: Initial and ongoing.
- Eligible Activities: Assist the development and preservation of affordable housing.
- Administration Limitations: None. CBAs are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, so WRCOG would ensure that the agreement would not place restrictions on trust fund operation and administrative costs.
- Housing Trust Types Currently Eligible: Nonprofit, JPA, city or county.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

DISCRETIONARY LOCAL REVENUES

Participating member jurisdictions should appropriate money from their general fund to invest in the future of the housing trust in good faith, giving the new housing trust start-up costs to then pursue additional external funding. If WRCOG opts to use a nonprofit approach, the COG should ask interested member cities and/or the county to commit to general fund allocations for the next five to ten years. If WRCOG is able to use a JPA/nonprofit approach, it would include stipulations in the JPA agreement requiring that member jurisdictions allocate money from their general fund annually, based on an agreed-upon formula.

While cities could also choose to dedicate money from their existing affordable housing funds, it is recommended that WRCOG advocate more strongly for general fund allocations so that the trust brings in resources not already dedicated to housing.

- Funding Stage: Initial and ongoing.
- Eligible Activities: Assist the development and preservation of affordable housing.
- Administration Limitations: None. Existing housing trusts often use discretionary local revenues to fund administrative costs.
- Housing Trust Types Currently Eligible: Nonprofit, JPA, city or county.

FUND ACTIVITIES

Some housing trust activities are more effective tools for creating affordable housing than others, as discussed in the Housing Trust Projects and Programming section. Housing trust administrators interviewed for this report generally recommended prioritizing specific activity/program types to maximize affordable housing development and shared best practices for each, discussed in Appendix A. Paired with a preliminary assessment of various revenue stream restrictions and barriers to housing in the WRCOG subregion, the following three programs would likely be appropriate for a WRCOG-administered housing trust and should be strongly considered.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Successful housing trusts report that the most impactful way to encourage affordable housing consistently is through loans to developers. Once seed funding is obtained, WRCOG would use that money to provide reduced rate loans to affordable housing developers. Repayments from these developers over time would establish a revolving loan fund and ongoing revenue source for the trust. To start, WRCOG should provide construction loans and bridge loans to seasoned, low-risk developers because they are short-term loans with limited uncertainty. This will ensure that money comes back into the revolving loan fund in a shorter time frame with less risk associated with the loan, allowing the trust to provide units more quickly than loans committed to a first time homebuyer program (which typically provide larger loans from 15 to 30 years to fewer households). WRCOG should also avoid administering pre-construction and acquisition loans during the first few years of a revolving loan fund because they carry higher risk and require larger commitments.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT LOANS

This money can fund the development of affordable housing, with the WRCOG-administered housing trust acting as the intermediary between affordable housing developers and banks. Since corporate offices or regional headquarters for banks typically have larger budgets to invest in the community, WRCOG should reach out to mid-sized and big banks in the subregion to solicit investment in the housing trust once the trust has been in operation for a few years. WRCOG would seek out banks with headquarters in Western Riverside County, such as Bank of Hemet, Commerce Bank of Temecula Valley, First National Bank of Southern California, and Provident Savings Bank, to donate money to the housing trust fund to meet their CRA requirements. WRCOG should also seek CRA contributions from local branches in participating member jurisdictions without any mid-sized or large-scale banks. While these small sized branches often

donate money to local events or parades, WRCOG and partnering local government staff should implore them to shift contributions to the housing trust fund.

CRA funds are ineligible to receive State matching funds, so dollars contributed from CRA to the WRCOG-administered trust will be less impactful than other sources. In addition, this money cannot be used as seed funding because banks will not typically lend to inexperienced housing trusts, but they can help augment trust fund activities in the long-term. As with all other funds, the Administrative Plan for the housing trust would encourage WRCOG to direct funds obtained from different communities back into those communities when feasible, rather than diverting them to finance other communities' housing activities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT NOTES

A WRCOG-administered trust should become certified as a CDFI to administer low-interest loans to private investors to bring private sector dollars into the affordable housing market, as discussed in the Housing Trusts Project and Programming section. WRCOG's housing trust would establish a Community Impact Note (CIN) template to set up terms for loans to private agencies or companies. It is recommended that the terms of loans range from one to 10 years to keep housing trust payment commitments relatively short-term. The template should also provide multiple short-term loan options, such as a five year loan template and a ten year loan template, to provide potential investors with more flexibility in the investment opportunity. WRCOG's CINs should have no fees to increase their benefits for lenders, given that the loans have low rates of return.

HOUSING TRUST IMPLEMENTATION

TRUST ESTABLISHMENT

Steps to establish a housing trust using a JPA/non-profit organizational model include the following:

1. Identify Participating Jurisdictions

WRCOG would solicit interest from member jurisdictions in establishing a housing trust fund and then work with those interested member jurisdictions to move through the steps below.

2. Joint Powers Agreement

Because WRCOG currently operates as a JPA, it could move forward with either of the below approaches, contingent upon interest from WRCOG member jurisdictions:

- a. Amend the existing joint powers agreement to become a housing trust if all member jurisdictions are interested in participating in the housing trust. The modified joint powers agreement would authorize administration of a WRCOG housing trust through an Administrative Plan.
- b. Establish a new, separate JPA with interested member jurisdictions.

While both options presented above are viable, it is likely that not every WRCOG member jurisdiction will want to participate in the housing trust and that it would therefore be cleaner to establish a new JPA, so it is recommended that WRCOG pursue the latter option. It is assumed that a new JPA will be

formed for the following steps of trust establishment. However, if all member jurisdictions agree to participate, then the former option above is recommended and the subsequent steps of trust establishment remain relatively unchanged.

3. Identify Housing Need

WRCOG and participating member jurisdictions would collaborate to determine housing needs for localized areas and the region. These needs would inform the activities allowed and prioritized in the Administrative Plan drafted in later steps and would inform campaign goals and messaging. This process should be integrated with the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) and preparation and implementation of local housing elements to the extent possible, both taking cues from and informing these other planning documents.

4. Campaign

Interviews with administrators of successful housing trusts in California indicate that the greatest predictor for housing trust success is strong support from local government, elected leaders, and the business community. The campaign for a housing trust should demonstrate need for additional housing support and resources in Western Riverside County. The messaging to these groups should be clear about the need the trust will address and potential impacts from the trust, some of which are demonstrated through examples offered in this paper. Soliciting support from local activists and political leaders can help push the campaign without delving the housing trust into the political fray. Strong support from the local community will bring revenue into the project early and help establish a strong foundation to build the trust to great heights.

WRCOG and participating member jurisdictions would enact a campaign to generate community interest and support for the new housing trust fund. More details about the campaign are in the following section.

- a. WRCOG would provide interested jurisdictions with messaging and information about the benefits of housing trusts to bring to their local elected officials, political activists, and non-profits.
- b. This campaign for the trust would be an ongoing activity through each step of trust set-up.

5. Enact Intent to Establish Trust

WRCOG would pass an initial ordinance authorizing its establishment of the regional housing trust fund conditional upon:

- a. WRCOG drafting an Administrative Plan for agreement by all participating member jurisdictions.
- b. Participating member jurisdictions taking formal action to join the regional housing trust (e.g. by passing an ordinance).

6. Administrative Plan

WRCOG would draft an Administrative Plan for the fund. This plan would be reviewed by all participating jurisdictions, and WRCOG would allow at least one round of comments by each jurisdiction. The Administrative Plan would include the following components:

- a. Defining the purpose and structure of the housing trust.
- b. Assigning participating members' authorities.
- c. Stipulating member authorities' annual contribution requirements using a formula based on the member jurisdictions' population, jobs, and projected growth.
- d. Outlining WRCOG'S administrative duties and responsibilities. This would include identification of existing staff or formation of a new department.
- e. Creating a Board of Directors to manage initial and ongoing housing trust fund activities and goals. This would include details about board governance, meeting protocols, and administration and oversight.
- f. Establishing a housing trust funds account and a sub-account specifically for administrative purposes.
- g. Enacting annual reporting procedures for WRCOG to maintain records and publish efforts for member jurisdictions to review.
- h. Establish procedures to allow member jurisdictions to enter or leave the trust in the future.

7. Adopt New JPA

Upon completion of the Administrative Plan, WRCOG would adopt a new JPA in partnership with all interested jurisdictions to officially enact the housing trust.

- a. The JPA would incorporate language from the Administrative Plan into the official agreement.
- b. The JPA must state the trust's application for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is completed or pending and specify that the trust has a charitable purpose, which is to develop funds for affordable housing.

8. Jurisdiction Resolutions

Interested jurisdictions would individually pass resolutions to join the regional housing trust.

- a. Participating jurisdictions would include language in their individual resolutions committing to pay membership dues annually as to be part of the JPA/nonprofit housing trust. The resolution would also contain language certifying eligibility to receive State funds through compliance with current State housing law.
- b. A designated representative from each participating jurisdiction would subsequently sign the JPA, agreeing to conditions of the JPA and Administrative Plan.
- c. At this time, the participating member jurisdiction would be required to pay membership dues to the trust.

9. Non-Profit Component

Given that WRCOG would likely form a new JPA to enact the housing trust, WRCOG would also need to form a new accompanying nonprofit to administer the trust using the dual JPA/nonprofit organizational model. WRCOG would apply for the housing trust's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). General filing instructions are as follows:

- a. Draft and file the articles of incorporation. This would include the organization's name, specify its use for charitable purposes by developing funds for affordable housing, identify an agent for service of process, and list any limitations on corporate powers. If the Board of Directors is named in the articles of incorporation, then these articles would be signed by the board.
- b. Appoint the Board of Directors, if not named in the articles of incorporation.
- c. Attach the trust's bylaws, which is the joint powers agreement for the housing trust and draft a conflict of interest policy.
- d. Provide proof of the participating members' consent to the joint powers agreement.
- e. Obtain an employer identification number (EIN). This can be done online.
- f. File the initial registration form (Form C T-1) with the California Attorney General's registry of Charitable Trusts.
- g. File the Statement of Information (Form SI-100) with the Secretary of State.
- h. Apply for federal tax exemption with the IRS (Form 1023) and receive a letter of determination from the IRS.
- i. Apply for California tax exemption with the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) using Form 3500A and a copy of the IRS determination letter (in step above) and receive an affirmation of exemption letter from the FTB.

10. Revenue Pursuit

Once non-profit status has been approved, WRCOG would begin pursuit of revenue sources, operating as a dual JPA/nonprofit housing trust. This would include the following actions, not necessarily completed in this order:

- a. Collect annual membership dues from participating jurisdictions.
- b. Solicit private donations from large local corporations and businesses.
- c. Collaborate with local jurisdictions to collect their PHLA allocations to help leverage State matching funding.
- d. Apply for State matching funding, NTHF grant funding, and other grants.
- e. Follow protocol established by the US Department of Treasury to become a CDFI. Once registered as a CDFI, draft a CIN template to offer low-interest loans to private entities.
- f. Partner with participating jurisdictions to negotiate CBAs with developers for allocation of funds to the housing trust.

- g. Provide continual support for cities attempting to impose TOT fees or inclusionary zoning requirements for allocation of those funds to the housing trust fund.

11. Transition to Ongoing Implementation

WRCOG would manage the resulting income sources and allocate them toward programs meeting established priorities. Growth would be managed over time and the Board of Directors would steer the goals of the housing trust over the long-term.

Appendix A: Existing Housing Trust Profiles

The following table lists all housing trust funds in California cataloged by the Housing Trust Fund Project through 2020. This list is not exhaustive of all housing trust funds in the state. Of the 46 jurisdictions on this list, 14 are located in Southern California, 2 are in Central California, and the remaining 32 are located in Northern California.

JURISDICTION	HOUSING TRUST FUND	YEAR CREATED	ADMINISTERING AGENCY
Alameda County	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2003	Housing and Community Development (public)
Anaheim	Housing Trust Fund	2005	Community Development Department (public)
Berkeley	Housing Trust Fund	1990	Housing Development (public)
Butte, Shasta, Yuba, Sutter, Tehama, Siskiyou, Glenn, Plumas, Lassen,	Housing Trust Fund	2015	North Valley Housing Trust (private/nonprofit)
Campbell	Housing Trust Fund	2006	Community Development Department (public)
Citrus Heights	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2003	Housing and Grants Division (public)
Cupertino	Affordable Housing Fund	1987	Community Development Department (public)
Elk Grove	Affordable Housing Fund	2003	Planning (public)
Emeryville	Housing Trust Fund	2014	Economic Development and Housing (public)
Fremont	Affordable Housing Development Fund	2014	Housing Division (public)
Livermore	Housing Trust Fund	2005	Community Development (public)
Long Beach	Housing Trust Fund	2005	Housing Services Bureau (private/nonprofit)
Los Angeles	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2002	Housing Department (public)
Los Angeles	Affordable Housing Impact Trust Fund	2017	Chief Administrative Officer (public)
Los Angeles: Skid Row	Affordable Housing Trust	1989	Skid Row Housing Trust (private/nonprofit)
Los Angeles County	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2013	LA County Community Development Commission

Mammoth Lakes	Housing Trust Fund	2003	Mammoth Lakes Housing (private/nonprofit)
Marin County	Workforce Housing Trust Fund	2004	Community Development Agency (public)
Menlo Park	Below Market Rate Housing Program	1988	Community Development (public)
Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz	Housing Trust Fund	2016	Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
Morgan Hill	Senior Housing Trust Fund	Not available	Not available
Mountain View	Housing Trust Fund	Not available	Not available
Napa County	Affordable Housing Fund	1992	Napa Valley Housing Authority (public)
Oakland	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2003	Department of Housing & Community Development
Orange County	Housing Trust	2010	Orange County Housing Trust (private/nonprofit)
Orange County ¹	Housing Finance Trust	2019	Orange County Housing Finance Trust (JPA)
Oxnard	Affordable Rental Housing Trust Fund	2003	Housing Department (public)
Palo Alto	Affordable Housing Fund	1974	Planning and Community Development (public)
Pasadena	Housing Trust Fund	1993	Housing and Community Development Department
Petaluma	Housing Fund	2003	Housing Division (public)
Sacramento	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2020	City of Sacramento (public)
Sacramento City and County	Housing Trust Fund	1989	Housing and Redevelopment Agency (public)
San Diego	Housing Trust Fund	1990	San Diego Housing Commission (public)
San Francisco City and County	Housing Trust Funds	1987;2012	Office of Housing (public)
San Jose	Housing Trust Fund	2003	Department of Housing (public)
San Jose	Housing Impact Fee Fund	2014	Department of Housing (public)
San Luis Obispo County	Housing Trust Fund	2003	San Luis Obispo County Housing Trust Fund (public)

San Mateo County	Housing Endowment and Regional Trust	2003	HEART of San Mateo County (private/nonprofit)
San Mateo County	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2013	San Mateo County Department of Housing (public)
Santa Barbara County	Housing Trust	2005	Housing Trust of Santa Barbara County (private/nonprofit)
Santa Clara County	Housing Trust Silicon Valley	1997	Housing Trust Silicon Valley (private/nonprofit)
Santa Cruz	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	2003	Housing Division (public)
Santa Monica	Citywide Housing Trust Fund	1986	Housing Division (public)
Santa Rosa	Housing Trust	2004	Economic Development and Housing (public)
Sonoma County	County Fund for Housing	2005	Department of Community Development (public)
Sunnyvale	Housing Trust Fund	Not available	City of Sunnyvale (public)
Ventura County	Housing Trust Fund	2010	Housing Opportunities Made Equal (private/nonprofit)
West Hollywood	Affordable Housing Trust Fund	1986	Rent Stabilization and Housing Division (public)

¹ This trust is not explicitly for housing but for homelessness. Given its proximity to Riverside County and the JPA model, it is included in this list.
Source: Housing Trust Fund Project, 2020; City of West Hollywood, 2020; Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, 2020; North Valley Housing Trust, 2020; Skid Row Housing Trust, 2020; City of Sacramento, 2020.

The following five California-based housing trusts have different organizational structures, funding sources, and fund activities, but each demonstrates the ability to incite housing change despite divergent regional contexts. Some housing trusts examined below are located in Northern California due to the higher occurrence of housing trusts in Northern California and specifically housing trusts operating under the private/nonprofit model, the organization model recommended for WRCOG.

COUNTY OF VENTURA HOUSING TRUST FUND

The non-profit County of Ventura Housing Trust Fund (CVHTF), since rolling out housing support in 2012, has issued over \$9 million in approved loans, constructed 365 affordable housing units, helped 15 affordable housing developments in 70 percent of cities within the county, and raised \$6.7 million through grants, investments, sponsorships, and fundraisers.¹¹

¹¹ Housing Trust Fund Ventura County, 2019, Everyone Deserves a Home: 2019 Annual Report.

- Organizational Structure: 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Year Established: 2005, first loan in 2012
- Percent of expense budget dedicated to operating costs: 77 percent
- 2019 annual budget: \$451,849 (revenue), \$297,957 (expenses)
- Programs and activities administered: Revolving loan fund, pro-bono consulting for affordable housing developers
- Top revenue sources: Revolving Loan Program, events, donations and grants, local government grants
- Best practice recommendations:
 - Do not accept funds from local governments earmarked to come back into that jurisdiction.
 - Leverage funding creatively through layering of all different sources.
 - Only work with seasoned affordable housing developers.
 - Recycle money from State matching funds through a revolving loan program to gradually remove State's restrictions from repaid money.
 - Focus on providing short-term loans such as construction loans or gap financing and avoid pre-construction loans or first-time homebuyer loans during first few years of the trust due to higher risks and larger loan amounts.
 - Seek guidance and feedback from the developer community often.

ORANGE COUNTY HOUSING TRUST

Orange County Housing Trust (OCHT) is a nonprofit private capital-funded housing trust powered by NeighborWorks Orange County (NWOC) and Orange County Business Council (OCBC) – two leading organizations committed to making Orange County a vibrant place to live, work and play. NWOC and OCBC have retooled OCHT, originally established in January 2010, as a financing vehicle for grantors, foundations, and corporations to leverage public and private funding to bring future permanent supportive and affordable housing projects to Orange County. Using the Housing Trust of Silicon Valley as a model, the OCHT engages local businesses to help tackle the housing issues facing the county. The Disneyland Resort provided a \$5 million grant for seed funding to support provides in Anaheim, which financed a 102-unit affordable housing development. The OCHT Board of Directors is comprised of the region's top business leaders including The Irvine Company, U.S. Bank, OCBC, Disneyland Resort, and FivePoint Holdings. The trust operates within NWOC's organizational structure as a program, which keeps operation costs low.

- Organizational Structure: 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Year Established: Established in 2010, revitalized in 2019
- Percent of expense budget dedicated to operating costs: No restrictions on operating costs, but it amounts to about \$48,000/year to administer with in-house staff at NWOC. There are no official staff positions for the trust.
- Annual budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020: About \$5 million, due to Disneyland donation

- Programs and activities administered: Provides gap financing for developers creating permanent supportive and affordable housing projects. They have also provided short-term residual loans in the past with a smaller budget and interest in faster turnover on loan terms.
- Top revenue sources: Private investments
- Best practice recommendations: Nonprofit housing trust funds struggle more with obtaining seed funding, but nonprofits should be persistent because it takes a long time and lots of labor to obtain money from private sources. Private organizational models have the benefits of avoiding politics and involvement from government that comes from public ownership in a housing trust fund.

SAN MATEO HOUSING ENDOWMENT AND REGIONAL TRUST

In San Mateo County there are two regional housing trusts, a County-administered trust (explored in detail below) and San Mateo’s Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) is a JPA/non-profit fund operated throughout the County. While the County fund primarily uses sales taxes through Measure K to fund housing projects, HEART cannot directly obtain this funding and therefore uses different sources to augment housing support. To avoid duplication of services, the two entities collaborate often to fund different types of projects and policies, harness different funding sources based on their eligibility, and partner on projects when appropriate. HEART noted that, while the County releases a NOFA for developers semiannually, development deals typically occur more often and much faster, so developers can work with HEART instead to minimize time and money lost in the bureaucratic cycle of hearings, long review periods, and commission meetings.

San Mateo’s HEART, both a Joint Powers Authority and nonprofit, has raised over \$12 million since 2003—\$2.9 million from the private sector and \$9.5 million from the public—to fund the construction, renovation, or purchase of over 805 homes for low- and moderate-income families, representing nearly 10 percent of all new units built in San Mateo County in the last five years. This fund is invested in many developments representing a combined \$217 million in direct economic activity, stimulating both construction and permanent jobs. HEART’s investment work has leveraged over \$18 in funds from other sources for every \$1 from HEART to bring additional resources into the region.¹²

- Organizational Structure: Joint Powers Authority and 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Year Established: 2003
- Percent of expense budget dedicated to operating costs: 94 percent
- Annual budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016: \$1.6 million (revenue), \$756,594 (expenses)
- Programs and activities administered: Revolving loan fund (both First Time Homebuyer Loans and Development Loans), Green and Livable Accessory Dwelling Unit Resource (GLADUR) program
- Top revenue sources: public investment from the County of San Mateo and matching grants from the State of California
- Best practice recommendations:

¹² HEART of San Mateo, 2020, <https://www.heartofsmc.org/about-heart/>, accessed on April 7, 2020.

- Gain activist interest to generate support for the trust without the trust becoming overtly political itself.
- Establish strong relationships with local jurisdictions.
- Communicate often with local developers.
- Direct investment dollars from local jurisdictions back into their jurisdiction whenever possible.
- Hire outside consultants intermittently to perform loan underwriting or bookkeeping to keep in-house staffing low and reduce administrative costs
- Operate as a dual Joint Powers Authority and non-profit to allow the flexibility to operate with power as a jurisdiction while receiving money from the state and private contributions.
- Avoid accepting housing-dedicated funds from local governments because that money will theoretically be spent on housing in their own jurisdiction anyway.
- Require that cities commit a percentage of their annual appropriations for the first five to ten years of the trust as their “membership dues”.

SAN MATEO COUNTY HOUSING TRUST

The County’s Department of Housing (DOH) operates the countywide regional housing trust. The fund was initially started when the Board of Supervisors (BOS) allocated \$13.4 million of unrestricted General Funds to affordable housing purposes, as derived from a one-time distribution of housing trust funds held by former redevelopment agencies in San Mateo County. The County housing trust fund currently primarily uses sales taxes through Measure K to fund housing projects both in the unincorporated county and within cities. Measure K is a direct appropriation from the County’s BOS every two years. The allocation has increased over the years as demand from developers has increased, evidenced by more applications and larger loan requests. They also receive funding from HCD’s No Place Like Home (NPLH) fund and the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program. The County releases two NOFAs annually, collaborating with developers throughout the year to ensure that their NOFA meets the needs of the affordable housing development community. Administrative costs are low for this fund, and it is set up so that most housing trust funds go directly towards the projects.

- Organizational Structure: County (Department of Housing)
- Year Established: 2013
- Percent of expense budget dedicated to operating costs: Not disclosed. DOH notes that they charge a 1.5 percent administrative cost fee as part of the loan application process, but it does not cover DOH’s costs to administer the trust.
- Available funds released in June 2019: \$27.6 million available for affordable housing. Note that this is one of two NOFAs typically released per year.
- Programs and activities administered: Revolving loan fund for multi-family affordable rental housing projects. This includes predevelopment, construction, and permanent loans to developers for new developments and rehabilitation loans for existing affordable rental housing.
- Top revenue sources: Measure K funds
- Best practice recommendations:

- Release NOFAs on a consistent schedule because it allows developers to anticipate the funds and better plan for affordable housing projects.
- Foster open and strong relationships with the development community and ask for feedback on programs.
- Work closely with jurisdictions to determine what they need without duplicating efforts.

SKID ROW HOUSING TRUST

The Skid Row Housing Trust (SRHT), a non-profit focused on ending homelessness in Los Angeles County, has invested in 26 housing developments in 30 years, providing nearly 2,000 people with permanent homes and thousands more with transitional support on the way to more independent living. In 2018, SRHT generated revenue from development and service fees, foundation and corporate grants, government grants, and contributions for development of supportive and transitional housing.¹³

- Organizational Structure: 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Year Established: 1989
- Percent of expense budget dedicated to operating costs: 11.8 percent
- 2018 annual budget: \$39 million
- Programs and activities administered: Revolving loan fund, supportive services for the homeless, development and ongoing management and operation of permanent and supportive housing
- Top revenue sources: Development and service fees
- Best practice recommendations: not available for interview

WEST HOLLYWOOD AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

The West Hollywood Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHFT) is a City-operated housing trust fund established in 1986 to offset development impacts and generate additional resources to meet the affordable housing need. The City's policy requires residential and commercial developers to provide affordable housing or pay an in-lieu fee to finance affordable housing development in the city. These two revenue streams provide the largest sources of revenue annually, but they vary widely based on the development cycle each year. For example, the City has annual revenue totals ranging from 1.8 million to 11 million in the past five years, solely due to varying contribution requirements written into development agreements. The West Hollywood AHFT requires at least 20 percent of units be designated low-income, and 60 percent of units be designated low- to moderate-income in all affordable housing projects funded. They perform nexus studies every three to four years to ensure the commercial linkage fees and residential in-lieu fees provide an adequate return on investment without crippling potential development projects and investor interests.

- Organizational Structure: City (Rent Stabilization & Housing Division)
- Year Established: 1986

¹³ Skid Row Housing Trust, 2020, <https://skidrow.org/about/impact/>, accessed on April 7, 2020.

- Percent of expense budget dedicated to operating costs: 5-10% of administrative costs are permitted in the terms of money received from the residential in-lieu fees and the commercial linkage fees.
- 2019 annual budget: \$1.7 million (\$1.8 million in 2018, \$3.4 million in 2017, \$11 million in 2016, and \$2.1 million in 2015)
- Programs and activities administered: Provide residual receipt loans for acquisition and rehabilitation or construction of new affordable housing developments with affordability restrictions for 55 or 57 years. Loans are forgivable if the term is fulfilled to annuity. They are interested in expanding to fund a first-time homebuyer program in the future.
- Top revenue sources: Residential in-lieu fees (projects less than 10 units must pay an in-lieu fee or restrict at least one unit to be affordable; projects with 11 or more units must dedicate 20% of units for low-income households) provide at least \$600,000 annually and commercial linkage fees (commercial projects over 10,000 square feet must pay \$9/square foot to the housing trust fund) contributes at least \$600,000 annually to the fund as well.
- Best practice recommendations: Given WRCOG'S scope, it would be very effective for any new trust to operate at a regional level and follow a JPA approach to give smaller communities with limited resources the ability to create affordable housing and address the housing shortage at a regional level. Seeing the benefits of a regional JPA approach to housing trust funds, West Hollywood is interested in banding together with other cities in Los Angeles to do follow a similar model in the future. Perform nexus studies every few years if fees are adopted to fund the housing trust to ensure they do not impose severe financial barriers to development. Work with developers continuously to understand barriers to affordable housing development and alleviate unnecessary development constraints.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM TRUST INTERVIEWS

The following synthesizes key takeaways reiterated by multiple established trusts in personal interviews.

1. Local support from the public and decision-makers is crucial to establish a housing trust. Lack of community support often stems from a misinformation regarding the greater need for more affordable housing, so an effective campaign and outreach is critical for success.
2. Non-profits are a more effective organizational model for a housing trust than a traditional city or county model. JPAs also provide more leverage than traditional cities and counties but are not eligible for many sources of funding, so a dual JPA/nonprofit model is widely viewed as most effective.
3. Community Impact Notes (CINs) are an effective source of revenue for trusts. Trusts that do not currently offer CINs as a program note that it is their goal to become a CDFI and issue CINs in the future.
4. Housing is a regional issue, and this should be emphasized in campaign messaging to local government staff and officials whenever possible. However, local jurisdictions may be averse to contribute funds when there is no set guarantee of reinvestment back into their community. Therefore, funds should be reinvested back into jurisdictions that contribute housing trust funds whenever feasible, though not established as a requirement. For example, if TOT revenues are

funneled to a housing trust, then the trust should attempt to directed towards housing activities in that community.

5. Be wary of contributions from jurisdictions that may have that money earmarked for activities specific to their jurisdictional boundaries. For example, cities or counties with an inclusionary zoning ordinance may have regulations requiring that affordable housing in-lieu fees be directly invested back into that community. Therefore, any money donated from those jurisdictions would be earmarked to ensure they are allocated to activities in that jurisdiction. While this delineation of funds provides cities with protections on their investments, they restrict the ability of the housing trust to further leverage funds to enact greater change in the regional community.
6. Only provide loans to seasoned affordable housing developers, and work with them continuously to minimize development uncertainty and address barriers to affordable housing creation.
7. Reduce administrative costs by keeping staffing low, contracting out for underwriting services, and sharing costs with other non-profits or partner agencies when possible.
8. Seek guidance and feedback with the developer community often to ensure programs funded by the trust are effective and user-friendly.

Appendix B: Housing Trust Funding Sources

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

PERMANENT LOCAL HOUSING ALLOCATION (PLHA) PROGRAM

Funded through the \$75 real estate transaction fee established by Senate Bill (SB) 2, the PLHA Program is intended to provide a permanent source of funding for local governments to support affordable housing. PLHA funds are flexible and can be used for a variety of housing-supportive efforts, including as matching funds for local or regional housing trusts.

PLHA currently offers a total of \$8.8 million in formula (non-competitive) grants and competitive grants in Western Riverside County, with total funding available contingent upon the real estate transaction fees from year to year.¹⁴ The first NOFA for formula grants was issued in February 2020. Applications will program five years of PLHA formula funding and be issued on an annual basis, as real estate transaction fees are collected. While applications can only be submitted in response to a NOFA, local jurisdictions unable to submit applications for the 2020 NOFA, may apply in 2021 to redeem funding allocated for 2020. Under the Program, a Joint Powers Authority, such as a WRCOG-administered housing trust, could be delegated funds by a local jurisdiction, those funds could then be leveraged as matching funds needed to secure revenue from the competitive PLHA funds.

¹⁴ Funds for non-entitlement jurisdictions are looped into the total funds allocated to the County. Therefore, the total \$8,783,917 available in PLHA funds in 2020 includes unincorporated areas of Riverside County outside the WRCOG subregion, Indian Wells, Coachella, La Quinta, and Rancho Mirage. See Appendix B for the breakdown of funds.

PLHA 2020 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

JURISDICTION	FUNDING AMOUNT
Entitlement Jurisdictions	
Corona	\$582,003
Hemet	\$402,536
Lake Elsinore	\$248,527
Menifee	\$251,603
Moreno Valley	\$1,029,809
Perris	\$466,532
Riverside	\$1,622,125
Riverside County ¹	\$3,996,171
Temecula	\$273,393
Non-Entitlement Jurisdictions	
Banning	Part of Riverside County allocation
Beaumont	Part of Riverside County allocation
Calimesa	\$88,783
Canyon Lake	Part of Riverside County allocation
Eastvale	Part of Riverside County allocation
Jurupa Valley	Part of Riverside County allocation
Murrieta	Part of Riverside County allocation
Norco	Part of Riverside County allocation
San Jacinto	Part of Riverside County allocation
Wildomar	Part of Riverside County allocation

¹ The Riverside County allocation includes non-entitlement jurisdictions as specified in this table as well as unincorporated areas of Riverside County outside the WRCOG subregion, Indian Wells, Coachella, La Quinta, and Rancho Mirage. It is the County's responsibility to utilize those funds within those non-entitlement jurisdictions.

STATE-MATCHING LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUND (LHTF) PROGRAM

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) distributes matching State funds for local and regional housing trust funds in California. Funding is restricted to the following applicant types: a city, county, or city and county; a charitable nonprofit organization permitted in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and Native American Tribes. For a WRCOG-administered trust to be eligible for funds, member jurisdictions would need to take action to form the trust and identify WRCOG as the partner agency representing the participating jurisdictions. All participating member jurisdictions must have a State law-compliant housing element to be eligible for funding.

Eligible sources of funds to be matched by State funds include taxes, fees, loan repayments, and public or private contributions. Funds restricted for housing use by State or federal law, including the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, or redevelopment agency Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund (LMIHF) funds administered by HCD, cannot be used as matching funds. While local (single jurisdiction) housing trusts are not allowed to apply for matching funds using their Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) funds, regional housing trusts can receive matching funds from PLHA funds. As a new regional housing trust, a WRCOG trust would be eligible to request a minimum match of \$750,000 and a maximum of \$5 million, if using PLHA funds.

State matching funds require that all construction workers be paid prevailing wage, which can make affordable housing project costs infeasible, even with the additional funding. As a work around, existing housing trusts often separate State matching funds from other funding sources that do not invoke prevailing wage, and use those funds for expenses not related to construction such as administrative costs, loan underwriting fees, or homelessness services. If developers opt to use State matching funds through a housing trust's revolving loan fund (explored below), the returned capital from the loan repayments is no longer held to prevailing wage requirements.

NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAM (NHTF)

NHTF is an affordable housing production grant program supporting affordable housing for low- and very-low income households. This is the only federal resource dedicated explicitly to housing trusts. Administered at the State level through HCD, this grant funds production or preservation of affordable housing, and housing trusts are eligible applicants to receive this funding. The grant requires that at least 80 percent of each annual grant is for rental housing and allows for up to 10 percent each for homeownership housing and the trust fund's administrative and planning costs.¹⁵ NHTF funds may be used for the acquisition, new construction, reconstruction, and/or rehabilitation of housing with suitable amenities. All NHTF-funded rental housing must be restricted to affordable housing for at least 30 years. All NHTF-funded homeownership housing must be affordability restricted for period of 10, 20 or 30 years, depending on the amount of NHTF investment in the unit. HCD further specifies eligible activities through the annual release of a NOFA; in 2018, eligible activities were limited to new multifamily construction for all applicants.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Planning and Development, 2015 National Housing Trust Fund Fact Sheet, <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/National-Housing-Fund-Trust-Factsheet.pdf>, accessed March 28, 2020.

BONDS

GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BONDS

General Obligation (GO) bonds are a popular type of municipal bond for housing trusts, invoked via a new tax rather than a specific project's revenue. To put them on the ballot, proposed GO bond measures must be adopted by resolution by the jurisdiction's elected officials and must receive a two-thirds majority vote. **Error! Bookmark not defined.** In 2016, Alameda County voters approved a \$580 million Affordable Housing GO bond, Santa Clara County voters approved a \$950 Homelessness and Housing GO Bond, and Oakland voters approved an infrastructure GO bond that included \$100 million for housing. Each of these bonds include a portion that directly funds a local affordable housing trust. GO bonds may be a feasible housing trust funding source in some WRCOG jurisdictions, though many may struggle to garner sufficient elected official or voter support for approval.

REVENUE BONDS

Revenue bonds are municipal bonds supported by specific revenue streams and are tax exempt because they are entirely financed by a specific project. For example, mortgage revenue bonds are directly repaid by the individual buyer. While the lack of municipal backing power on this type of bond increases the risk, it also increases the rate of interest paid back on the bond. The City of Santa Rosa's housing trust issued tax-exempt revenue bonds for public purpose developments that require below market interest rate financing to meet community needs. The City Council approved multiple types of revenue bonds including both single-family housing mortgage revenue bonds and multifamily rental housing revenue bonds. Local jurisdictions should have guidelines to consider requests for revenue bonds to preserve potential bond buyer confidence in the jurisdiction and form the basis for short and long-term policy objectives.

TAX INCREMENT FUNDS AND TAXES

Property tax-based strategies can effectively generate revenue in strong housing markets where home values continue to appreciate over time. Local jurisdictions can contribute directly to the housing trust fund from discretionary local revenues using a designated portion of existing local revenue sources or establishing a new tax increment fund or tax. While establishing new taxes is less popular with the general public, they provide a reliable, steady source of revenue for housing trust funds. Types of tax increment funds or other taxes include:

REDEVELOPMENT TAX INCREMENT FUNDS

With voter approval, a city or county can establish redevelopment areas using the redevelopment of blight as a nexus for allocating additional property taxes collected in the area to improve the neighborhood's housing. Housing trusts then receive additional property taxes resulting from increased property value as the area improves. For example, Philadelphia's Housing Trust Fund has reported a 4.7 percent increase in property values near housing trust fund developments, accounting for inflation.¹⁶ In

¹⁶ Center for Community Change, 2016, The 2016 Housing Trust Fund Survey Report, https://housingtrustfundproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/HTF_Survey-Report-2016-final.pdf, accessed March 23, 2020.

California, Los Angeles County directs tax increment revenue collected from designated redevelopment areas annually to their Affordable Housing Trust Fund. A Community Revitalization and Investment Authority (CRIA) can also be created to authorize the revitalization of disadvantaged communities through affordable housing via tax increment financing.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX

A real estate transfer tax is a sales tax, based on the value of the property and assessed at the State, county, and/or city level, most often used as general revenue. However, real estate transfer taxes can be dedicated to specific uses, such as affordable housing development. Real estate transfer taxes typically range from 0.01 to 0.40 percent and often include exemptions for low-income households and first-time homebuyers. Real estate transfer tax increases are not restricted under California's Proposition 13, as they are not considered property taxes.

Real estate transfer taxes must be approved by a vote of the local jurisdiction. General law cities are authorized to impose a tax of up to \$0.55 per \$1,000 of value. There is no cap on the real estate tax for charter cities, so Western Riverside County's two charter cities, Norco and Riverside, could impose the tax above this statutory limit if desired. To enact a real estate transfer tax, a local jurisdiction can either propose a measure for increasing the real estate transfer tax to generate general revenue, which only requires a majority vote to pass, or propose a measure that specifically funds affordable housing, which requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Real estate transfer taxes are popular funding sources for affordable housing in the state, but are often created through general revenue measures, rather than specifically for affordable housing due to the less stringent vote requirements. A companion measure, requiring a two-thirds majority to pass, is required to accompany a general revenue measure to clarify the use of collected funds, such as the diversion of funds to a WRCOG-administered trust for housing. For example, the City of Santa Rosa has a real estate transfer tax collected based on the sale of homes in the city, which provided approximately \$3.8 million in FY 2019-2020. This money is funneled to the General Fund and then, per the companion measure, transferred to the housing trust fund for housing-related programs annually.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

The transient occupancy tax (TOT) is a voter-approved tax that is charged for the use of any transient occupancy facility, such as a hotel. The tax is required to be paid by the guest to the operator of the transient facility at the time that rent is paid. A jurisdiction can allocate the TOT collection toward affordable housing by establishing a nexus to the generated need for and/or loss of affordable housing in the local jurisdiction's TOT ordinance. For example, a hotel, lodging, or short-term rental generates significant income for local jurisdictions. Hotels and motels create many low-paying jobs in areas that often lack affordable housing for these workers. Additionally, short-term rentals, such as Airbnbs and vacation rentals by owner (commonly known as VRBOs) reduce the supply of housing available for sale or long-term rental and increase the costs of long-term rents overall.

Only two jurisdictions in Western Riverside County do not have a TOT: the cities of Eastvale and Wildomar. All other WRCOG member jurisdictions have TOTs in place, ranging from 8 to 13 percent.¹⁷ Often, short-term rentals are not included in the TOT's definition of transient occupancy facilities, so these facilities are exempt. WRCOG member jurisdictions can leverage funds from local TOTs to support a housing trust fund by imposing a new TOT (Eastvale or Wildomar), increasing the existing TOT, or revising the definition of transient occupancy facilities to include short-term rentals. By law, a new TOT or increase to an existing TOT rate requires a majority vote of the general public. TOT revenues are typically allocated to the general fund, unless approved as a special TOT tax, which requires a two-thirds vote for approval. A special TOT tax would allow direct allocation of funds to affordable housing upon demonstrating a reasonable nexus. There is no statewide cap on the TOT.

The City of Sacramento has a TOT rate of 12 percent and increased revenue collected from the TOT by including short-term rentals in their definition of transient occupancy facilities beginning in 2016. The additional revenue collected is allocated to affordable housing. Both the City of Pismo Beach and the Town of Mammoth Lakes have enacted TOT ordinances on short-term rentals and annually allocate collected taxes towards the creation of affordable housing. Pismo Beach's Municipal Code Chapter 17.09 provides an example TOT ordinance with model nexus language, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes provides clear definitions for all transient occupancy facilities that generate taxable revenue for member cities to reference.^{18,19}

FEES

Fees are a pragmatic strategy to generate revenue from private entities without imposing blanket taxes on the general public. In addition, fees do not require voter approval to be initiated; they simply need approval from the local government's elected body. Fees require a nexus be established between the activity charged and the resulting activity funded, thereby ensuring that money is reinvested into the community. Common fees imposed by local governments that could support a housing trust are described below.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES AND COMMERCIAL LINKAGE FEES

Many jurisdictions have impact and commercial linkage fees to support affordable housing. Commercial linkage fees may be assessed on all new non-residential development under the assumption that the facilities will stimulate the creation of low-wage jobs but will not provide on-site affordable housing for low-wage workers. Los Angeles, San Diego, and West Hollywood have all adopted commercial linkage fees for housing production. Similarly, housing impact fees may be assessed on new market-rate residential development under the assumption that new residents will generate increased demand for services and,

¹⁷ The WRCOG member jurisdictions have the following TOTs in place as of June 2020: Banning, 12%; Beaumont, 10%; Calimesa, 10%; Canyon Lake, 10%; Corona, 10%; Jurupa Valley, 10%; Hemet, 10%; Lake Elsinore, 10%; Menifee, 10%; Moreno Valley, 13%; Murrieta, 10%; Norco, 11%; Perris, 10%; Riverside, 13%; Riverside County, 10%; San Jacinto, 8%; Temecula, 8%.

¹⁸ City of Pismo Beach Municipal Code, 2020, <https://www.prcity.com/DocumentCenter/View/25961/Pismo-Beach-Outside-Coastal-Zone-Short-Term-Rental-Ordinance>, accessed April 8, 2020.

¹⁹ Town of Mammoth Lakes Municipal Code, 2020, https://library.municode.com/ca/mammoth_lakes_/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3REFI_CH3.12TROCTA#TIT3REFI_CH3.12TROCTA_3.12.040TAIM, accessed April 8, 2020.

in turn, low-wage jobs to fulfill that demand. The fee revenue is distributed to support the development of housing affordable for the new employees and/or residents attracted to the new development. Local jurisdictions could deposit these linkage or housing impact fees into the housing trust fund. To enact a fee for the housing trust, existing fees could be diverted to the housing trust fund by a vote of the local jurisdictions' governing bodies, or a new developer impact fee or commercial linkage fee could be established in individual jurisdictions.²⁰ City and county staff would prepare an ordinance and resolution to specify such details as the fee's purpose, nexus to affordable housing, and methods for fee calculation.

INCLUSIONARY ZONING IN-LIEU FEES

Over 150 California cities have adopted inclusionary housing programs that require new housing developments meeting certain criteria to provide a percentage of affordable housing as a condition of development of both owner and renter-occupied housing. These programs generally allow in-lieu fees to be paid as an alternative to direct construction of the required housing; such in-lieu fees could be allocated to a housing trust. To do so requires an ordinance approved by the jurisdiction's elected body. Two WRCOG member cities, Calimesa and Jurupa Valley, have inclusionary zoning requirements, requiring 5 and 4 percent of new housing developments be reserved as affordable, respectively. Some cities explicitly require that the money obtained from in-lieu fees be invested back into the community where fees are incurred, which can make the funding more difficult to utilize through a regional housing trust.

DOCUMENT RECORDING FEE

Local jurisdictions can adopt a document recording fee placing a surcharge on the \$75 administrative fee set by the State to generate income for the housing trust fund. The additional recording fee must be approved by a majority vote of the public. For the fee to be explicitly dedicated for affordable housing, it would need to be approved by two-thirds of voters as it would be considered a special fee.

BUSINESS LICENSE FEES

Cities and counties can charge an annual business license fee for continued operation in their jurisdiction. The fees can be tiered according to business size and type to ensure small businesses or non-profit organizations are not overburdened. When used for housing trusts, fees are typically funneled to the jurisdiction's general fund as they are collected and an appropriation is transferred to the housing trust fund on an annual basis. The City and County of San Francisco assesses such a fee for allocation to the housing trust fund.

LOANS

Once provided with base funding, housing trust funds often lend money to private or nonprofit developers for affordable housing projects. Revolving loan funds are one example of the types of loans

²⁰ Institute for Local Government, 2007, Establishing a Local Housing Trust Fund, https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/resources__Local_Housing_Trust_Fund_0.pdf, accessed March 23, 2020.

that housing trusts often offer and, due to their unique ability to “clean” money, explored below, they are considered here as a type of funding source.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Housing trusts can provide reduced rate financing for construction or purchase of affordable housing. Loan repayments can then be used to create a revolving fund that allows the trust fund to make additional investments. While this is not an option to fund start-up costs, a loan repayment program would provide the housing trust fund with ongoing revenue, strengthening the fund’s stability and longevity. Arlington County, Virginia, finances the creation of affordable housing with support from loan repayments and developer contributions in addition to the County’s general fund allocations and document recordation fees. In FY 2019, the County reported \$14.3 million allocated to its housing trust fund and estimated that every dollar of County loan funds leveraged three dollars in private funds.²¹

While this revenue source does not generate considerable new funding (it primarily recycles existing funds), it allows trusts to better tap into restricted funding sources. Not only does a revolving loan fund help the trust maintain a consistent revenue source over time, it also allows trusts to “clean” money received from grants with strict requirements. Once money has been repaid by developers or first-time homebuyers through the revolving loan fund, it is essentially “clean” for the trust to use at its own discretion. This function generates one of the largest sources of non-restricted funds for trusts over time.

PRIVATE SOURCES

PRIVATE DONATIONS

Individuals, corporations, or organizations can pledge one-time or ongoing funds to a housing trust. For example, the Silicon Valley Housing Trust (SVHT) was established using a \$2 million grant from Santa Clara County, matched by \$1 million donations each from Adobe, Applied Materials, Cisco Systems, Intel, KB Homes, and Solectron. While Western Riverside County does not have the same large supply of multi-million dollar corporations as Silicon Valley, the housing trust could solicit funds from prominent private employers in the region such as Amazon, the Corona Regional Medical Center, J. Ginger Masonry, Kleinfelder Construction, Parkview Community Hospital Medical, Pechanga Resort & Casino, Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside University Health, Southwest Healthcare System, Inland Empire Health Plan, and other large employers. In particular, it may be possible to leverage investments by health care providers given the linkage between homelessness and health care services.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) are an effective tool to extend a developer’s commitment to provide a range of community benefits related to a new development project. In exchange for public support from a community group(s) for the development project, the developer enters into a contract with the community group. CBAs are voluntary agreements, and agreement details related to amenities,

²¹ Arlington County, <https://housing.arlingtonva.us/development/financial-tools/>, accessed on April 3, 2020.

mitigations, or funds contributed are negotiated between the community groups and developers. The expansion of health centers, universities, or other major developments present an opportunity for CBAs that include payments to a housing trust fund, as support services staff and maintenance staff would qualify for affordable housing negotiated in a CBA. In California, government representatives sometimes serve as formal CBA signatories to facilitate agreements between these groups. WRCOG could collaborate with member jurisdictions to engage medical centers and the University of California, Riverside as they develop plans to expand.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

In addition to bonds, grants, taxes, fees, and loan repayment, housing trusts may receive support from other non-recurring sources of funding. These sources are described below.

DISCRETIONARY LOCAL REVENUES

Local jurisdictions can opt to contribute directly to local or regional housing trust funds from discretionary local revenues in their general fund. Upon the dissolution of redevelopment agencies (RDAs) in 2012, the State funds collected from local property taxes previously allocated to RDAs for housing were redirected back into city and county general funds, making local governments the successor agencies responsible for winding down RDA activities and seeing through existing obligations. Local governments still collect revenues owed to dissolved RDAs and can opt to divert a percentage of these funds from the general fund into a separate fund for affordable housing, including to a housing trust. This has been done in numerous communities, including Alameda County where 20 percent of RDA funds, between \$5 million and \$7 million each year, have been allocated the Alameda County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

SALE OF PUBLICLY-OWNED LAND

Some housing trusts have been able to access unrestricted proceeds from the sale of publicly owned land. In addition to city- and county-owned lands, housing trusts can work with local school districts and transit agencies as partners to auction available land and may offer technical assistance to facilitate the sale. Trusts receive a percentage of proceeds from the sale as a voluntary donation from the local government or public agency.

Item 6.D

Regional Housing Trust Initiative

Attachment 2

Housing Trust Work Plan

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Task 1- Additional Due Diligence Research

What additional data or outreach do we need to do to start our Stakeholder outreach process? What are typical best practices for a similar entity.

Before the white paper is ready to circulate and be presented to committees, final packaging of the document will occur and a separate document with only the Executive Summary will be prepared for Rick's review.

In preparation of anticipated questions from member jurisdictions, a budget analysis will be prepared that will show the approximate monetary contribution each participating jurisdiction would need to contribute as "membership dues".

A Frequently Asked Question document and other potential collateral (e.g. infographic) will also need to be created as a quick reference that can be distributed to interested parties.

Schedule: July 15-August 28

Work Product:

- Finalized white paper
- Executive Summary standalone document
- Budget analysis
 - Minimum-maximum contributions per jurisdiction per year
 - Confirm whether the \$220k best practice-recommended funding amount listed in the paper is what WRCOG wants to target.
 - Come up with the allocation based on population per jurisdiction if all jurisdictions participate versus other scenarios, e.g. 50% of population, versus 25% of population.
 - Determine if Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) allocations can be used as participating jurisdictions' contributions
 - Confirm which jurisdictions are submitting a PLHA application for 2020, which may indicate that the funds have already been programmed and are not available.
 - The 2020 NOFA period accepted applications from April 27 to July 27, 2020. If these are to be used for local jurisdiction contributions, they will not be available until approximately April of 2021 when NOFA opens. WRCOG could use REAP funding to support initial development including JPA formation and potentially Administrative Plan development until then and be prepared to launch upon jurisdictional funding commitment.
- FAQ document
- Draft proposed timeline to launch, based on use of PLHA funding or not
- Determine outreach material branding
 - Should we have a stylized brand for the Housing Trust similar to WCE? Slide deck/PPT, infographic. Christian?

Responsible Staff: Ivana with assistance from PlaceWorks as directed

Assistance Needed: Chris input

Best Practices: The recommended model of governance is a JPA/ non-profit. This allows smaller communities with limited resources the ability to create affordable housing and address the housing shortage at a regional level. It is crucial to have local support from the public and decision-makers in order to establish a housing trust. Lack of community support often stems from misinformation regarding the greater need for more affordable housing, so an effective campaign and outreach is critical for success.

Task 2- Stakeholder Outreach

What specific persons are we going to contact about this topic? What WRCOG committees will be used for this effort?

In addition to the WRCOG committee structure, staff should meet one on one with jurisdiction staff to establish housing needs for localized areas and the region. This would encourage participation from all jurisdictions and shape the strategy for specific housing programs the trust can undertake. These needs would inform the activities allowed and prioritized in the Administrative Plan drafted in later steps and would inform campaign goals and messaging. This process should be integrated with the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) and preparation and implementation of local housing elements to the extent possible, both taking cues from and informing these other planning documents. Other stakeholders, specifically the BIA and affordable housing builders (National CORE) should be met with to discuss goals and vision.

Schedule: September 1-30

Work Product:

- A standardized ppt/slide deck to show at committee meetings (PDC, TAC, Admin & Finance, Exec) or stakeholder meetings that articulates what a housing trust is and why it is needed in the region.
- Housing need survey with eligible activities of a Housing Trust
 - new construction of affordable housing
 - predevelopment activities for affordable housing development
 - down payment assistance for developers or first-time homebuyers
 - preservation or rehabilitation of existing affordable housing
 - land acquisition for development of affordable housing
 - establishment of housing for homeless populations

Let's list some specific people to talk with this issue about:

- Lou Moneville (BIA)
- Randall Lewis
- Alexa Washburn, National Core
- Heidi Marshall, Riverside County
- Inland Empire Land Trust
- Rose Mayes, Fair Housing Council of Riverside

Responsible Staff: Chris, Ivana

Assistance Needed:

Task 3- Potential Governing Structure

Is this a WRCOG Program or a Stand-alone agency? What are the pros/cons of each?

The Housing Trust should be administered as a new program within WRCOG. Existing staff resources, augmented by consultant support as needed, will be able to support the program's initial formation, but it is anticipated that additional staff will be needed to support the program upon launch. This approach will leverage the agency's in-house staff expertise and existing connection to resources in the region. Other Housing Trust models employ between 1-2 full and part time staff dedicated to administration. This model keeps operating costs low and preserves the low interest rates of its loans, keeping them competitive.

Schedule: Depends on above activities- estimate of Jan 2021

Work Product:

- Establish Housing Trust governance structure
 - It is recommended that a WRCOG-administered housing trust be organized as a nonprofit/JPA hybrid to maximize stability and access to funding opportunities.
 - Amend current JPA or create new one with participating jurisdictions: Identify interested and eligible jurisdictions for participation; determine JPA structuring (amendment to existing WRCOG JPA or establishment of new JPA) depending on whether the trust achieves participation of WRCOG's full membership and participant jurisdictions' interests.
 - BBK staff to review legal documents

Responsible Staff: Chris, Ivana

Assistance Needed: Consultant services will be needed to create the Admin Plan. This Admin Plan will be like TUMF's Admin Plan with bylaws and other administrative elements.

Task 4- Implementation Plan

What Specific Steps are Needed to implement this plan including WRCOG Board action or action of other agencies?

In the white paper, a detailed analysis of recommended implementation steps is described. The first few steps of implementation will likely take 1-2 years while the final steps will likely take five to ten years to implement before the housing trust will have stability and funding for programming and standard operation. WRCOG will need Board approval to create or amend a JPA, establishing the creation of the

Housing Trust. Participating jurisdictions will need to take formal action by adopting a resolution, similar in structure on how jurisdictions participate in the TUMF program.

Schedule: Dependent on previous activities, but JPA should be established before NOFA for PHLA funds is released for interested jurisdictions to apply their funds to the Housing Trust.

Work Product:

- Draft ordinance: WRCOG would pass an initial ordinance authorizing its establishment of the regional housing trust fund
- Creation of Admin Plan: WRCOG would author an Administrative Plan for agreement by all participating member jurisdictions.
- Participating member jurisdictions take formal action to join the regional housing trust by passing an initial ordinance
- Jurisdictions will adopt resolutions to join at the jurisdiction level; form the non-profit component of the housing trust.
- Activity start-up: Pursue revenue; transition to ongoing implementation

Responsible Staff: Chris, Ivana, TBD Consultant, BBK

Assistance Needed: Determination of what consultant can draft the admin plan.

Task 5- Funding Plan

How would we fund implementation and on-going operations?

There are several types of suggested revenues sources to pursue in order to implement and sustain the Housing Trust. One initial source of funds could be from the REAP program allocated to WRCOG. It is recommended that the minimum threshold of total contributions from participating jurisdictions should be \$230,000 to support housing trust fund activities. Jurisdictions can dedicate PLHA funds to the housing trust as membership dues.

Schedule: April 2021- ongoing through trust establishment and management

Work Product:

- Funding Plan: Strategies/ Best Practices to secure funding
- Collect annual membership dues from participating jurisdictions.
- Collaborate with local jurisdictions to collect their PLHA allocations (if separate from member dues) to help leverage State matching funding.
- Solicit private donations from large local corporations and businesses.
- Apply for State matching funding, National Housing Trust Fund grant funding, and other grants.

*There are many additional opportunities that could be appropriate depending on the trust priorities and formation structure.

Established Trust revenue sources, which would be available once the trust has been operational for multiple years:

State and federal grants, such as the California Permanent Local Housing Allocation and National Housing Trust Fund Program

Bonds, such as general obligation and revenue bonds

Tax increment funds and taxes, such as real estate tax increments, real estate transfer taxes, and transient occupancy taxes

Fees, such as development impact, commercial linkage, document recording, business license, and inclusionary zoning in-lieu fees

Revolving loan funds, which are revenue replenishing programs housing trusts can administer

Private sources, such as donations and community benefit agreements

Responsible Staff: Chris, Ivana

Assistance Needed: Support needed from experienced staff or on-call consultants such as Blais & Associates in applying for grants and setting up revolving loan funds.

Task 6- Communications Strategy

How are we going to convey information about this topic and the importance of addressing it?

- a. Updates to committee structure
 - i. YES
- b. Publicized events
 - i. Podcast
- c. Future Forward events
 - i. YES, possibly future forward on the outlook of housing and turn it into how a housing trust establishes a long-term beneficial program that many other regions have already taken advantage of
 - ii. Speakers – Interviews from established Housing Trust staff
- d. Determine the audience
 - i. Audience is elected officials and jurisdiction staff
 - ii. Housing advocates/stakeholders in the region
- e. FAQ list
 - i. YES
- f. Promotional Video
 - i. Maybe

Schedule: Ongoing

Work Product:

- Introduction and updates to WRCOG committee structure
 - Housing Trust guest speaker
- Podcast with Housing Trust official or affordable developer who has worked received a loan from a Housing Trust and how it benefitted them/why the region needs them
- Future Forward Event: State of Housing

Responsible Staff: Ivana, Chris

Assistance Needed: Elisa and Rachel should be consulted in communication strategy. Potential Future Forward or Podcast.



Western Riverside Council of Governments

Planning Directors Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program Update – Subregional Partnership Program

Contact: Christopher Tzeng, Program Manager, ctzeng@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6711

Date: August 13, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide a summary on the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program – Subregional Partnership Program from the Southern California Association of Governments.

Requested Action:

1. Direct staff to move forward with the proposed Regional Early Action Planning project list.

Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program Summary

The California 2019-2020 Budget Act, also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 101, appropriated one-time programs to provide regions with grants for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to increase housing planning and accelerate housing production in order to meet housing needs as determined by the Sixth Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). Local governments are separately eligible for formula-based planning grants under the Local Early Action Program (LEAP) and regional governments are eligible for grants supporting the RHNA process and support of LEAP activities under the REAP. Up to \$47.5 million is available for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) under REAP for eligible activities.

There is a wide range of activities that are eligible for funding under the REAP grant. Generally, activities focus on programs and plans designed to promote pro-housing policies, streamline the housing approval process, and remove barriers to development. SCAG's Regional Council voted in February 2020 to set-aside half of the region's REAP funding to support subregional partnership programs to align regional resources with the RHNA allocations. Other activities approved by the Regional Council as part of SCAG's early application for REAP include the development of regional data tools, regional outreach efforts, finalization of the RHNA allocations, and technical assistance offered to local jurisdictions through SCAG's Sustainable Communities Program.

Funding Allotment to Western Riverside County

The Western Riverside County subregion is currently estimated to receive \$1.678 million in funding through the REAP Subregional Partnership Program based on its current RHNA allocation. This amount of funding is subject to change based on the final RHNA allocation. The REAP Subregional Partnership Program funding is intended to augment a jurisdiction's LEAP and SB 2 activities. SCAG is currently requesting input from the subregions on ideas for projects to assist jurisdictions' increase of housing planning and accelerate housing production. Based on discussions at recent Planning Directors Committee (PDC) meetings, WRCOG has proposed a preliminary list of projects to SCAG. This list is not final and is brought forth to the Committee to gather input and incorporate other projects.

Timeline

WRCOG will have to apply for the funds on a project-by-project basis so any project will be subject to approval by SCAG based on the Program guidelines that will be finalized and adopted by the SCAG Regional Council in September 2020. The REAP has the same timeline as LEAP, so all funds must be spent by December 2023. The earliest any REAP project can commence is November 2020, based on the grant administration process. A final list of projects is due to SCAG in conjunction with the adoption of the final RHNA.

Preliminary WRCOG REAP Project List

Project Name	Description
Staff Augmentation or Grant Administration Assistance	Provide project management staff support for jurisdictions on its housing element development and assist the administration of SB 2 and LEAP grant funds. (hiring / retention of contract planners)
Site Inventory	Work with jurisdictions to conduct suitability analysis for possible density increases that would conform to RHNA criteria.
Underutilized CR Conversion Study / RHNA Support Mapping (Pilot?)	Work with jurisdictions and the California Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department to come up with context sensitive retail / industrial conversion criteria and model its potential to be used in the housing elements
GIS and Data Support	Provide a local GIS clearinghouse and up-to-date database collection to assist jurisdictions ensure that data utilized in Housing Elements is current.
Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Western Riverside County subregional Climate Action Plan (CAP)	WRCOG is currently working on a subregional CAP and the goal is for the Plan to be a "qualified" one. This Plan will be complete in February 2021. However, WRCOG is proposing to utilize REAP funds to conduct an PEIR for the CAP to allow jurisdictions to streamline its review related to GHG emissions reduction.
VMT Mitigation Bank on Telecommuting	Both SBCOG and WRCOG has a countywide VMT study completed. VMT mitigation bank can be established so that the housing projects could take advantage of VMT credits generated by increase in telecommuting.
Housing Trust Due Diligence for WRCOG subregion	Conduct due diligence whether a Regional Housing Trust is feasible in western Riverside County and would allow the subregion to support the preservation and production of housing. This due diligence task will also entail due diligence with jurisdictions within the subregion to ensure efforts are not duplicative.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

1. SCAG's Regional Early Action Program - Subregional Partnerships presentation.

Item 6.E

Regional Early Action Planning Grant
Program Update – Subregional
Partnership Program

Attachment 1

SCAG's Regional Early Action
Program - Subregional Partnerships
presentation

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SCAG's Regional Early Action Program (REAP)

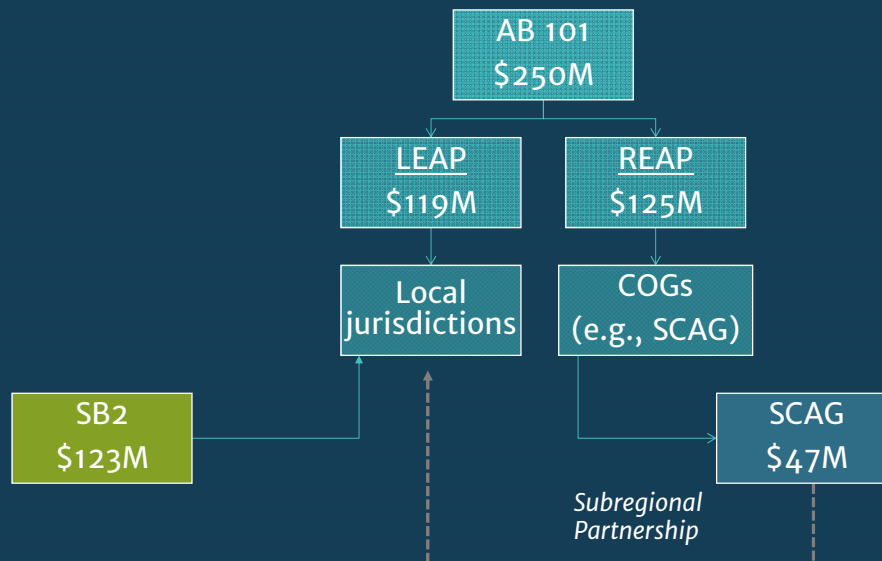
Subregional Partnerships

Ma'Ayn Johnson, AICP
Housing Program Manager

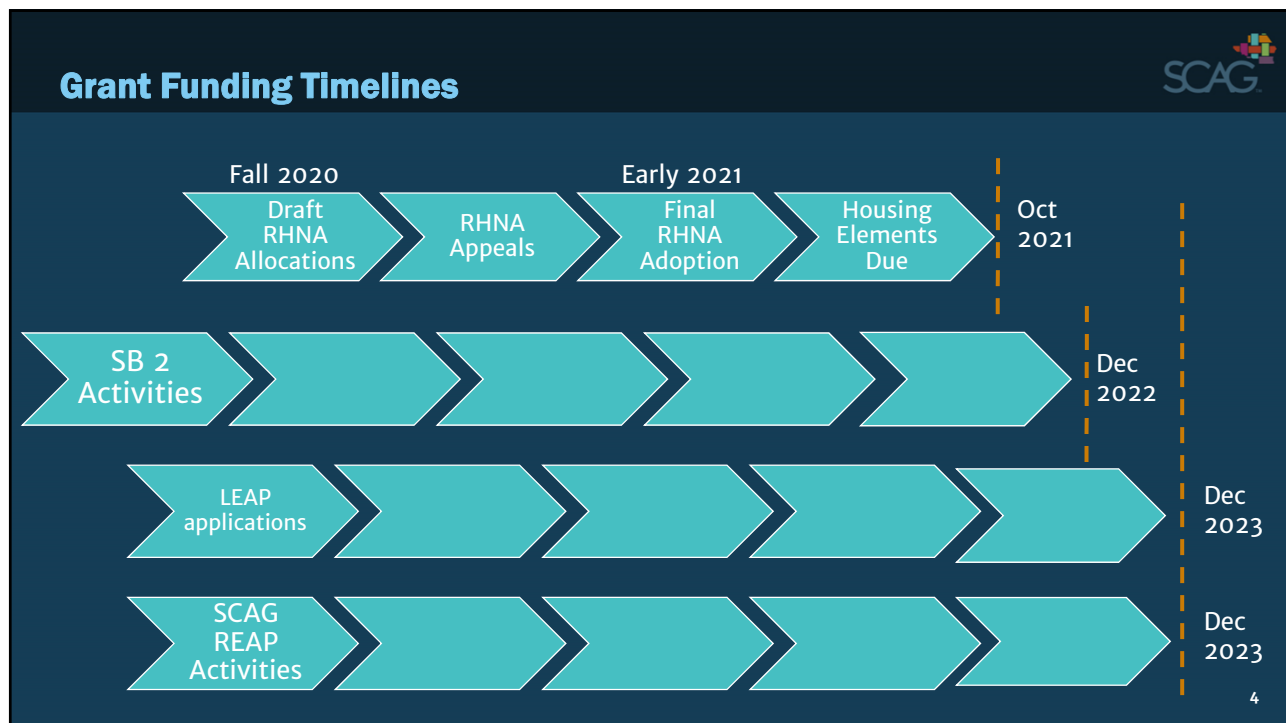
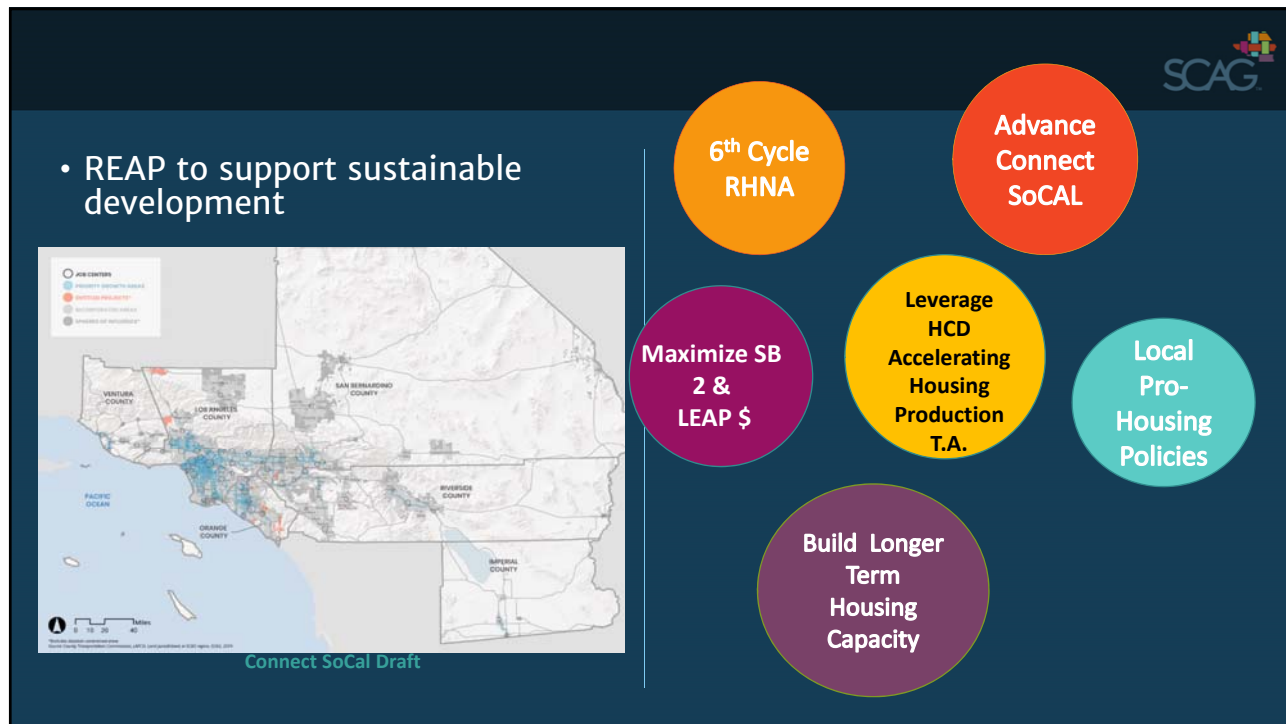
www.scag.ca.gov



AB 101: Funding Model



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SCAG Local Governments Eligible for roughly \$ 50 Million of LEAP Planning Funds



County	Number of Jurisdictions	As Much As \$ (Millions)
Los Angeles	89	\$ 21.8
Orange	35	\$ 10.0
Riverside	29	\$ 7.8
San Bernardino	25	\$ 7.1
Ventura	11	\$ 3.2
Imperial	8	\$.9

REAP: Subregional Partnerships



- \$23 M will be set aside to fund subregional partnerships
- Funds available for Subregional partnership will be based on final RHNA allocation
- Intended to augment LEAP and SB 2 activities
- All activities must accelerate housing production or have a net-positive effect on housing supply

Subregional Partnership Funding by Subregion*



Subregion	Estimated subregional allocation (millions)
Arroyo Verdugo	\$3.9
CVAG	\$0.5
Gateway	\$1.3
Imperial	\$0.2
Las Virgenes-Malibu	\$0.01
City of Los Angeles	\$8
County of Los Angeles	\$1.5
North LA County	\$0.4
OCCOG	\$3.2
County of Riverside	\$0.7
SBCTA	\$2.4
SGVCOG	\$1.5
South Bay Cities	\$0.6
Ventura	\$0.4
Westside Cities	\$0.3
WRCOG	\$ 1.6

**Estimates based on RHNA methodology adopted in March 2020. Final subregional allocations will be based on the adopted final RHNA allocation.*

Subregional Partnership Program Goals



Subregional Partnership Program Objectives

- Augment locally received SB 2 and LEAP funds
- Prioritize programs that support local efforts
- Create tools unique to the needs of the subregion and jurisdictions



Supplemental SCAG REAP Activities

- Housing element data assistance
- Housing outreach toolkits
- Sustainable Communities Program (SCP)
 - Specific plans, special districts
 - VMT reduction policies
 - Social infrastructure policies, fair housing analysis
 - Housing supportive infrastructure and strategies

Eligible Activities



- Examples of eligible activities:
 - ADU ordinances
 - Streamlined environmental review
 - Establishing regional housing trust fund
 - Housing element assistance
 - Temporary staffing
- Recommendations
 - Projects that benefit multiple jurisdictions within the subregional area
 - Projects that supplement or complement existing subregional priorities or efforts

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Project Roles (draft)



Subregional partner role:

- Engage and outreach with jurisdictions and other partners (e.g., CTCs, housing authorities, etc) to determine local needs and priorities
- Provide list of prioritized projects for funding

SCAG role:

- Develop Program guidelines
- Develop project agreements/contracts
- Reimburse project invoices

Either/or options:

- Procure resources to administer project
- Project administration
- Progress reporting

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Administration (draft)



Options

- Determining who will procure and manage the project can be done on a project-by-project basis
- A third-party (e.g., CTC, housing authority, or others) can manage the project

Requirements

- Activities requiring a procurement process must follow normal procurement procedures
- Contract outlining objectives, key tasks, deliverables, costs, timeline
- Monthly invoices
- Reporting and metrics
- Projects are funded on a reimbursement basis

Administrative fees

- Up to 5% of project funding can be used for administrative activities

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Schedule (draft)



- June 2020: Listening sessions and surveys with subregions
- July – Aug 2020: Partner outreach to jurisdictions; development of preliminary list of projects by subregions
- Sept 2020: Regional Council adoption of program guidelines
- Sept 2020: Initial list of prioritized projects due to SCAG
- Oct/Nov 2020: Initial contracts completed; start of projects
- Early 2021: Adoption of final RHNA; final list of projects due
- Oct 2021: Housing elements due
- July 2023: Final activity reports and invoices due to SCAG

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For More Information visit SCAG's
Housing and Land Use Webpage
www.scag.ca.gov/rhna

Questions or Comments
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