

May 1, 2026

Legislative Status Report

Overview

This item provides an overview of recent state and federal legislative activity relevant to the agency.

Attachment 1 includes a summary from Ellison Wilson, LLC on state legislative activity related to SANDAG for April 2026. Attachment 2 includes a summary from Peyser Associates, LLC on federal legislative activity related to SANDAG for April 2026.

Key Considerations

SANDAG staff is recommending a “support” position on AB 2002 based on how it advances regional priorities identified in the 2026 Legislative Program. Support of bills means that SANDAG and its advocates will work to pursue passage of the legislation through letters of support and engagement with legislative offices.

AB 2002 (Solache) – Local Government Assistance: Regional Early Action Planning Fund **Recommendation: Support**

AB 2002 would codify the successful Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) framework to provide resources to support housing implementation and planning at the regional level, upon appropriation by the legislature.

Key Provisions:

- Establishes a permanent program based on the 2019 REAP 1.0 framework to authorize resources for COGs and MPOs to develop and implement Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
- Supports suballocations and technical assistance to jurisdictions for housing element preparation and implementation
- Builds on demonstrated success of the original \$125 million REAP 1.0 program in accelerating housing production and 6th cycle housing element compliance

SANDAG received \$6.8 million in REAP 1.0 funding to develop its Housing Acceleration Program (HAP) to effectively support member jurisdictions with housing element preparation and compliance. Making this program permanent would provide critical ongoing capacity for regional housing planning support as the state moves into the 7th RHNA cycle. It is important to note, however, that AB 2002 itself does not fund the REAP program. The bill relies on a future, currently unspecified General Fund appropriation to fund the program.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is sponsoring AB 2002 alongside a complementary \$125 million one-time budget request to implement the 7th RHNA cycle. This dual approach would provide both ongoing program funding and sufficient resources to address increased

Action: **Approve**

Staff will provide an update on state and federal legislative activities. The Executive Committee is asked to approve a “support” position on California Assembly Bill 2002 (Solache).

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

None.

complexity. AB 2002 aligns with Legislative Program Goal 6 (regional planning flexibility) and Goal 10 (housing development approaches).

Next Steps

Pending approval by the Executive Committee, SANDAG will notify the bill author of the agency's position and work to advance the bill through advocacy, coalition engagement, and coordination with member jurisdictions.

Hannah Stern, Director of Public Affairs

- Attachments:
1. State Report from Ellison Wilson Advocacy, LLC
 2. Federal Report from Peter Peyser Associates, LLC