
Council Meeting Date: November 3, 2014

Agenda Item: i (a)

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussion of SCA Membership and SCA's 2015 Budget Position		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office		
PRESENTED BY:	Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Relations Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Staff was requested by Council to review the City's membership in the Sound Cities Association (SCA) and their proposed increase in dues for 2015. Council previously reviewed SCA membership in 2011 and 2012, including offering amendments to the SCA bylaws. The SCA Board chose to forward some but not all of the amendments to the full membership, which were ratified.

SCA has not increased its membership dues since 2008, and actually reduced dues in 2009. The SCA Board recently voted to propose a membership increase to the 2009 rate of \$0.5989 per capita. That equates to an increase of \$2,290.15 over Shoreline's 2014 dues of \$30,044. For 2015, the proposed SCA dues would be \$32,335.

SCA represents 36 cities within King County, which equals nearly 1 million people. Along with acting as an advocate for cities at the regional level, SCA appoints members to regional committees at King County, the Puget Sound Regional Council, and other regional committees. Since 2011, SCA has raised its profile and improved the service it provides to members. Shoreline Councilmembers and staff actively participate on boards and regional committees, and SCA has supported Shoreline on some of its priorities, such as Sound Transit.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

SCA dues for 2014 were \$30,044. Under the proposed 2015 dues, this amount would increase by \$2,290 to \$32,335.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council continue its membership in SCA and support the 2015 dues increase at the SCA Annual Meeting on December 3rd.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **JA-T**

INTRODUCTION

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) announced a proposed dues increase for 2015 in an August 29, 2014 letter (Attachment A). Council has requested staff to review the City's membership in SCA and the proposed dues increase. SCA is proposing to increase dues to \$0.5989 per capita based on Shoreline's population of 53,990, which equates to an increase of \$2,290.15 over 2014's dues.

Since 2011, SCA has raised its profile and improved the service it provides to members. Shoreline Councilmembers and staff actively participate on boards and regional committees, and SCA has supported Shoreline on some of its priorities, such as Sound Transit. Attachment B is a listing of current City of Shoreline appointments through SCA.

BACKGROUND

SCA represents 36 cities of King County and provides a voice for nearly one million people. SCA was founded in the 1970s to help cities act locally and partner regionally to create vital, livable communities through advocacy, education, leadership, mutual support and networking. Originally all King County cities except the City of Seattle were members of SCA. However, Bellevue also left the organization to pursue their own seats on regional committees.

The vision of the SCA is to be an influential advocate for cities and effectively collaborate to create regional solutions. They provide leadership on economic and community development, transportation, land use, health, government operations, environment, education, public safety, social welfare and other public policy issues.

One of the important roles SCA plays regionally is making appointments to regional committees. SCA appoints members to the three regional King County committees, PSRC committees, and other regional committees such as Enterprise Seattle and the Committee to End Homelessness. In addition, SCA staff provides staff support to each of the committees that SCA appoints.

Since 2012, Shoreline has paid an average of around \$29,882 in dues per year, with dues being \$30,044 in 2014. SCA has not increased membership dues since 2008, and actually reduced dues in 2009. The SCA Board recently voted to propose a membership increase to the 2009 rate of \$0.5989 per capita. That equates to an increase of \$2,290.15 over Shoreline's 2014 dues of \$30,044, for a 2015 dues amount of \$32,335.

DISCUSSION

SCA is proposing increasing dues, combined with cost savings measures, to provide funding for an additional policy analyst to serve on SCA staff. SCA currently provides for 3.5 staff members, including the director, executive assistant, one full-time policy analyst and one part time policy analyst.

Since 2011, SCA has raised its profile and influence in the region, and has gained seats on boards, commissions and task forces, which increases the influence of the

organization. SCA provides staff to every board or committee that it appoints members to; as the number of boards or committees increase, so does the workload.

Prior Shoreline Concerns

Shoreline raised concerns to SCA in 2011, just prior to the new Executive Director taking office. The Board at the time requested that Shoreline allow the new Board and Executive Director time to address those concerns. In 2012, the City proposed amendments to the bylaws leading up to the annual meeting (See Attachment C, City 2012 Letter to SCA proposing Bylaw Amendments and proposed Bylaw amendments Policy Paper). Those amendments revolved around vote recording, quorum voting requirements for the board, weighted voting at the Public Issues Committee, and the ability for a committee member to express an alternative position than the caucus.

SCA Response

At that time, the SCA Board requested that the City withdraw its amendments in return for the Board's commitment to review and potentially include those amendments as the Board proposed amendments at the 2012 annual meeting. The Board provided a thorough review, including Deputy Mayor Eggen advocating for the amendments, and ultimately decided to support both the vote recording and quorum requirements, but not the weighted voting or expressing an alternative position from the SCA caucus. The Board noted the overwhelming support among members for the 'one member, one vote' principle (See Attachment D, 2012 SCA response letter).

Shoreline's Participation in SCA

In addition to the benefits of regional participation and networking with elected peers, Shoreline Councilmembers and staff actively participate in SCA, through Deputy Mayor Eggen's work on the Board, Councilmember Roberts' work on the Public Issues Committee, and other Councilmembers' and staff's participation on regional committees including the Board of Health, the Domestic Violence Initiative, the Growth Management Policy Committee, the Growth Management Policy Board, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the Regional Project Evaluation Committee. Attachment B is a listing of Shoreline's appointments through SCA (SCA appointments are both ***bolded and italicized***).

In addition, SCA has been very helpful in providing political support to Shoreline on regional issues including Sound Transit station area designations, opposition to changes to the special purpose district assumption statutes in Olympia, and the Ronald Wastewater District Boundary Review Board process. SCA has also been a very effective voice on the regional transportation options discussions over the past couple of years.

Alternatives

There are three alternatives that Council could consider. The main issue is whether or not to retain membership in SCA. The main points raised in Options 1 and 3 were raised in 2011 when Council first discussed this issue.

Option 1 - Continue SCA Membership & Support Dues Increase

This option is the status quo where the City retains its SCA membership and supports the dues increase. As noted above, the increase pays for more staff support. The positives of membership are as follows:

- Regional Appointments - SCA appoints to regional committees on behalf of suburban cities in King County. While there is no mandate for SCA to appoint, as it represents a vast majority of King County cities (36), it has become the default organization to provide members to these regional committees.
- Strength in Numbers – SCA presents as a caucus on regional committees, as the caucus votes on one position within the committee. Voting as a bloc provides the SCA caucus greater leverage on issues. In addition, the executive director and board president meet monthly with the County Executive to present SCA issues and concerns.
- Public Issues Committee – the PIC allows for issues to be vetted early enough for PIC members to report back to their councils and receive policy direction from their council on a given proposed SCA policy position.
- Networking Opportunities – the SCA provides numerous networking opportunities for Shoreline Councilmembers to foster relationships with other city elected officials.
- It's Easier to Affect Change from Within – working within the caucus allows staff and elected officials to understand the positions of other caucus members and to be able to try and address those concerns.

Option 2 - Continue SCA Membership and Oppose Dues Increase

This option keeps the City as an SCA member, but provides direction to the City's voting delegate to vote against the SCA 2015 budget at its annual meeting on December 3, 2015. This option also assumes that Council is willing to remain a member of the SCA even if the membership of SCA approves the dues increase.

Option 3 - Oppose 2015 Dues Increase and Withdraw SCA Membership

This option withdraws the City's membership from SCA and requires Shoreline to act independently on regional issues, and raises the following considerations for how Shoreline affects change regionally:

- Representation on Regional Committees – since SCA appoints to most regional committees on behalf of suburban cities, Shoreline may lose the ability to have representation on regional committees in the short term. However, Shoreline may be able to still receive appointments from SCA (as Bellevue does for the Regional Transit Committee).
- Influence – without being an SCA member, Shoreline would have to advocate our position as an individual city. However, for issues where we disagree with SCA we are already working with other cities with the similar concerns.

Shoreline would be much more reliant on our elected officials at the County, and from other like-minded cities to advocate on our behalf at regional committees.

As noted above, Shoreline has a great deal in common with Seattle. We are in the same subarea for transit planning (Metro, Sound Transit), and we share much of the same geography. Staff already actively pursues partnerships with other cities around issues of agreement.

Additionally, Shoreline could consider repurposing the approximately \$30,000 for SCA dues to hire a consultant to advocate on our behalf regionally.

- Networking – Shoreline Councilmembers could still participate in SCA events (such as the quarterly dinner meetings) without being members.
- North End Cities – Shoreline would still connect with other north end cities through forums like the SeaShore Transportation Forum and the North End Mayor's monthly meetings.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

SCA dues for 2014 were \$30,044. Under the proposed 2015 dues, this amount would increase by \$2,290 to \$32,335.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council continue its membership in SCA and support the 2015 dues increase at the SCA Annual Meeting on December 3rd.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A - SCA August 29, 2014 Letter
- Attachment B - City of Shoreline SCA Committee Appointments
- Attachment C - City of Shoreline October 22, 2012 Letter and Proposed Bylaw Amendments Policy Paper
- Attachment D - SCA November 4, 2012 Letter



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

36 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

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Mayor
City of Redmond

Vice President

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City of Auburn

David Baker
Mayor
City of Kenmore

Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor
City of Shoreline

Jim Haggerton
Mayor
City of Tukwila

Dennis Higgins
Councilmember
City of Kent

VACANT
City Manager

Bernie Talmas
Mayor
City of Woodinville

Executive Director

Deanna Dawson

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6300 Southcenter Boulevard
Suite 206
Tukwila, WA 98188
(206) 433-7168
SCA@SoundCities.org
www.SoundCities.org

August 29, 2014

City of Shoreline
Mayor Shari Winstead
Debbie Tarry, City Manager
17500 Midvale Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133-4921

Dear Mayor Winstead and Ms. Tarry:

As summer winds down and cities dive into the budget process, I wanted to give you an update on Sound Cities Association (SCA) dues for 2015.

As you may recall, SCA has not increased its membership dues since 2008, and indeed lowered dues in 2009 to a rate of \$.5598 per capita, a rate that continues to this day. The SCA Board recently voted to send a proposal to the SCA membership to return SCA dues to the 2009 rate of \$.5989 per capita. If approved by the membership at the December 3, 2014 Annual Meeting, this would translate into 2015 dues of \$32,334.61 for the City of Shoreline. This represents an increase of \$2,290.15 over Shoreline's 2014 dues, and is based partly on Shoreline's population increase to 53,990.

This dues increase, combined with cost saving measures also approved by the Board, will provide revenue sufficient to fund adding an additional policy analyst on the SCA team. SCA currently has 3.5 staff members: an Executive Director, an Administrative Services Manager, a Senior Policy Analyst, and a part-time Policy Analyst. Over the past several years, we have raised our profile and our influence in the region. Through our efforts we have gained seats for our cities on a number of additional boards, commissions, and task forces. Bringing an additional policy analyst on board will enable us to stay on top of this growing work load, and enable us to continue providing a high level of support to the boards and committees that we staff. Having an additional staff person will also enable us to meet our goal of greater communication with our member cities, and increase our organization's accountability and transparency.

Our mission at SCA is to provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities. The issues we tackle include economic and community development, transportation, land use, health and human services, government operations, the environment, and public safety. Our vision is to be the most influential advocate for cities, effectively collaborating to create regional solutions. We hope you agree that we are living up to that mission and are well on our way to achieving that vision, and we hope that you continue to see membership in SCA as an excellent value for your city.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is a pleasure working with the City of Shoreline, and we greatly appreciate your continued membership in SCA.

Sincerely,

Deanna Dawson
Executive Director, Sound Cities Association

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ATTACHMENT B

2014 COUNCIL EXTERNAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS (updated 05-19-14)

Committee	Member
Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO)	Doris McConnell
Association of Washington Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Directors Legislative Committee Nominating Committee 	Will Hall Will Hall / Chris Roberts Chris Eggen
<i>Board of Health</i>	<i>Shari Winstead - alternate</i>
Evergreen Communities Partnership Task Force	Chris Eggen
<i>King County Domestic Violence Initiative</i>	<i>Doris McConnell</i>
<i>King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)</i>	<i>Chris Eggen</i>
King County Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC)	Chris Eggen
National League of Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Development Policy Comm. Human Development Steering Comm. First Tier Suburbs Council Steering Committee Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Local Official Board of Directors 	Shari Winstead Doris McConnell Chris Eggen / Doris McConnell Keith McGlashan
North King County Economic Summit	Keith McGlashan - alternate
Puget Sound Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem Coordination Board Regulatory Subcommittee Funding Committee 	Will Hall Will Hall Will Hall
Puget Sound Regional Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Transportation Policy Board</i> Growing Transit Communities Oversight Committee <i>Growth Management Policy Board</i> Transit Oriented Development Advisory Board 	<i>Chris Eggen - alternate</i> Chris Eggen <i>Chris Roberts – alternate</i> Will Hall / Chris Roberts
<i>Regional Law, Safety and Justice</i>	<i>Jesse Salomon</i>
<i>Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)</i>	<i>Doris McConnell</i>
Sound Transit North Corridor Leadership Group	Keith McGlashan / Chris Eggen
SeaShore Transportation Forum	Doris McConnell / Keith McGlashan - alternate
<i>Sound Cities Association (formerly Suburban Cities Association)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>General</i> <i>Board</i> <i>Education Committee</i> <i>Public Issues Committee</i> 	<i>All</i> <i>Chris Eggen</i> <i>Shari Winstead</i> <i>Chris Roberts / Chris Eggen - alternate</i>
WRIA 8 & WRIA 9	Jesse Salomon / Chris Eggen - alternate



**SHORELINE
CITY COUNCIL**

Keith A. McGlashan
Mayor

Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor

Will Hall

Doris McConnell

Chris Roberts

Jesse Salomon

Shari Winstead

October 22, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Dennis Law
President, Board of Directors
Suburban Cities Association
6300 Southcenter Blvd, Suite 206
Tukwila, WA 98188

Dear Mayor Law,

The Shoreline City Council would like to propose amendments to the SCA Bylaws as attached to this letter. The City's proposed amendments are submitted with the intent to strengthen the organization, and we request that you consider each amendment individually.

As you know, the Council agreed with your suggestion last year to have the Board address this issue over the next year; however, we feel these changes are still appropriate to bring forward this year to achieve the goal of strengthening the organization. We greatly value the vision and mission of SCA, and we believe that the annual meeting this year is the appropriate time to have these discussions.

Thank you for considering our proposal and for presenting these amendments at the annual meeting which allows for the broader membership of SCA to engage on these issues.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Keith A. McGlashan
Mayor

Cc: Shoreline City Council
Julie Underwood, City Manager
Scott MacColl, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

City of Shoreline

Proposed SCA Bylaws Amendments

Policy Paper

The Suburban Cities Association has been representing the suburban cities of King County since the 1970s. It has been a great asset to the suburban cities over the years. It has been very effective on many important issues.

From time to time, it is healthy for any organization to review its operations. SCA has a process in place to consider revisions to its bylaws. This provides an opportunity to consider possible ways to make SCA even more valuable for all of its member cities.

The statement of values reads: "SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership. SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking."

There may be opportunities to improve the alignment of the by-laws and operations of SCA with those values as follows:

Amendment 1 – Article 4: Board of Directors:

- **Vote Recording** – The Board shall record, retain, and report quarterly to all member city mayors and managers/administrators/clerks the vote tally for all votes of the Board of Directors.

Amendment 2 – Article 4: Board of Directors

- **Quorum & Voting** – For votes of the board, a vote must have a majority of those present representing a majority of the population to pass.

Amendment 3 – Article 4: Board Committees, Public Issues Committee:

- **Quorum; Manner of Acting** – ~~The vote of two thirds (2/3) represented in person at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the advancement of a public policy position to the Board.~~ Any member may request a weighted vote. Weighted voting requires a majority of those present representing a majority of the population to pass.

The weighted vote shall control. The PIC Committee shall record, retain, and report in the minutes the vote tally for all votes of the PIC and report quarterly to all member city mayors and managers/administrators/clerks the vote tally for all votes of the PIC.

Amendment 4 – Article 7: Spokespersons and Representatives of the Association:

- However, representatives may express their individual city's position in addition to the entire class of cities which they are charged with representing, but only if the representative's city council has adopted a position.

Rationale for Proposed Amendments:

We believe these amendments will improve transparency by tracking and reporting the city representatives voting for and against all motions, including subordinate motions, at the Public Issues Committee and the Board of Directors. This also has the potential to increase the involvement of elected officials who do not serve on those bodies, and it promotes greater accountability to the communities they represent.

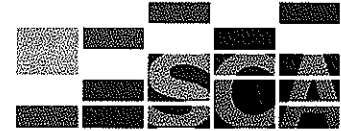
We believe these amendments will bolster the integrity and strength of SCA position statements by revising the voting rules to consider the population represented by the member cities supporting a position. SCA members and staff routinely point out that SCA represents nearly a million residents. However, if a vote at the PIC is passed by a majority made up of the smallest cities, those 18 cities represent only 112,090 people, or 12.5% of the 895,150 total population (2011) of member cities. If a vote requires 2/3, then it could still be passed at the PIC by 23 member cities representing only 219,600 people, or 24.5% of the population of member cities. While most policy issues are not controversial, by allowing a member to call for a weighted vote it ensures that SCA's position represents the majority of those served.

The percentages go down further if the positions are intended to also represent suburban cities who are not paying members of SCA. SCA has advocated, successfully, for additional seats (and therefore voting strength) on regional committees based on the population of suburban cities compared to other represented jurisdictions. This same policy position, applied internally, suggests using votes that are weighted by population within SCA. This would improve fairness to larger cities, who represent larger populations and pay larger shares of the SCA dues.

At the same time, the one city, one vote rule is important so that the larger cities do not dominate the important interests of the smaller cities. To avoid taking positions that deeply divide the membership, or create tension between the largest and the smallest cities, the voting rules could be revised so that a motion must pass based on the number of member cities voting for or against it as well as the total population of the member cities voting for or against

it. If a motion fails to gain the support based on the number of cities voting and based on their combined population, then it doesn't represent enough of the interests of the SCA member communities to merit adoption by SCA.

There are often too many regional policy issues to take before each city council; therefore, it is reasonable to provide the councilmembers representing their city with discretion when voting on various issues before the Board or PIC. Nevertheless, if a city should take the time to actually take an adopted position, that city should be allowed to voice that position, in addition to the adopted position of SCA. One of the reasons cities participate in SCA is to have a voice on regional issues. If they are not allowed to exercise that voice, it diminishes the purpose of SCA.



November 4, 2012

Mayor Keith McGlashan
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Avenue North
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Mayor McGlashan,

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 2012 regarding Shoreline's proposed amendments to the Suburban Cities Association (SCA) Bylaws.

The SCA Board of Directors has heard the concerns raised by Shoreline's Council, and we have taken a very serious look at the policies and bylaws of SCA in 2012. We have discussed the issues raised by Shoreline extensively as a Board, and the issues have also been discussed with members of the Public Issues Committee (PIC). The PIC Operations and Policies Committee has also given serious consideration to the issues raised by Shoreline.

At the October 31, 2012 SCA Board meeting, the Board took up a number of proposals to amend the SCA Bylaws. Some of these amendments were technical, some substantive. These proposals included those made by the City of Shoreline. Shoreline Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen advocated strongly and effectively for the proposed amendments brought forward by Shoreline. We had a very robust discussion at the Board meeting. The Board voted to adopt some proposed amendments, and declined to adopt others. At the SCA Annual Meeting, the membership will be asked to vote on the amendments to the SCA Bylaws as recommended by the SCA Board. The Board's recommended amendments are attached to this email.

In 2012, we conducted a membership survey to gauge SCA member opinions on a variety of topics, including but not limited to SCA's "one city, one vote" policy. The results of that survey are contained in the Executive Summary of the Membership Survey attached to this letter. As you can see from this document, SCA members have given very thoughtful consideration to the policies of SCA. Based on the feedback gained from this survey, the SCA Board voted unanimously at its October 31, 2012 meeting to maintain SCA's current voting policies at the PIC, Board, and Annual Meeting.

We appreciate Shoreline's suggestion to incorporate a provision in the SCA Bylaws regarding recording of votes. Although it is the current policy of SCA staff to record votes at both the meeting of the Board and the PIC, we agreed that it would be advisable

to incorporate this into the Bylaws. At the Board meeting, members noted that PIC members are voting on behalf of their city at the PIC, not based on their own personal opinions. The Board's recommended amendment to the Bylaws acknowledges this reality, and states that votes shall be recorded in the name of the city, rather than the individual representing the city.

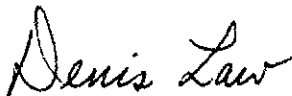
The Board also considered Shoreline's suggestion to provide a quarterly report of votes to city managers, mayors, and clerks. The Board noted that SCA already provides minutes of PIC and Board members to managers, mayors and clerks, and that the minutes of meetings are available on the SCA website. I would also note to you that we are in the process of updating the SCA website. One of our goals for the website update is to enable staff to more easily post organizational documents to the website, and members to more easily access all documents including board and committee agendas and minutes. We believe that this will be a major benefit to all member cities, and would welcome any feedback that Shoreline may have on features you would like to see in the new website.

Finally, the Board considered Shoreline's recommendations regarding committee members expressing viewpoints that conflict with SCA adopted public policy positions. While the Board understands the concerns raised by Shoreline in this regard, we all agreed that the strength of SCA is based on its ability to speak with one voice on behalf of all member cities, and felt that the proposed amendment would undercut the effectiveness of the organization. The PIC Operations and Policies Committee will be making recommendations to the PIC to further clarify SCA's position on "divisive" issues, and we are hopeful that this will help to allay some of the concerns raised by Shoreline in this regard.

We thank you and your Council for bringing these proposals to the SCA Board. Shoreline is one of the most active member cities in SCA, and your feedback is extremely valuable. The discussions we have had over the course of this year will no doubt make us stronger as an organization in the future. We will welcome your continuing feedback as SCA makes changes to better respond to member needs.

We appreciate Shoreline's membership in SCA, and we look forward to working with you in the coming year. Should you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, or SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denis Law".

Denis Law
President, Suburban Cities Association Board of Directors
Mayor, City of Renton

cc: Julie Underwood, Shoreline City Manager
Scott MacColl, Shoreline Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Shoreline Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, SCA Board Member
Shoreline City Council
Mia Gregerson, Chair, SCA Public Issues Committee (PIC)
Hank Margeson, Chair, PIC Operations and Policy Committee
SCA Board of Directors