



Currently, 26 Orange County cities belong to SCAG. Organizations such as SCAG allow municipalities to have a larger voice when it comes to regional issues as well as State and Federal issues. The core functions of SCAG include:

- a. Exchange of objective planning information that affects local governments;
- b. Identification and study of problems and the making of appropriate policy or action recommendations;
- c. Review and/or develop governmental proposals and proposals creating agencies of regional scope, and the making of appropriate policy or action recommendations concerning the need for such units or agencies;
- d. Consider questions of common interest and concern to members of the Association and may develop policy and action recommendations of an advisory nature only; and;
- e. Act upon any matter to the extent and manner required, permitted or authorized by the joint powers agreements, State or Federal law, or the regulations adopted pursuant to any such law.

Under Federal and State law, SCAG is designated as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and a Council of Governments (COG).

As a designated MPO under Federal law, SCAG is responsible for developing and adopting a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four (4) years; and developing and approving a short-term Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) every two (2) years. The RTP serves as a basis for transportation decision making in the region.

Under State law as a Council of Governments (COG), SCAG is responsible for developing a portion of the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD); a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) to determine each jurisdiction's fair share of the region's future housing needs, as determined by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

When a jurisdiction joins SCAG, a new seat is created on the SCAG General Assembly. Representatives to the Assembly elect officers, adopt SCAG's annual work program, set the agency's planning and policy priorities, and approve the study of specific problems, programs and other matters that concern the region.

SCAG facilitates and encourages coordination and cooperation among multiple levels of government for the greater benefit of all. By joining SCAG, the City would

be guaranteed a seat at the table where solutions to regional problems are formulated and later implemented.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Based on the City of Garden Grove's population, the FY 2011-2012 annual dues are \$15,921. The membership fees will be funded from the General Plan fund with no impact to the general fund.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:


- Authorize the Community Development Director to submit the City's request for membership and pay membership dues to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); and
- Authorize the City Manager to sign the SCAG Joint Powers Agreement that is necessary for membership.



MARIA STIPE  
Deputy City Manager

- Attachment 1: SCAG Member Benefits  
Attachment 2: Mandatory Responsibilities of SCAG  
Attachment 3: Southern California Association of Governments Agreement

**Recommended for Approval**



**Matthew Ferial**  
City Manager



*Our Mission:*  
Under the guidance of the Regional Council and in collaboration with our partners, our mission is to facilitate a forum to develop and foster the realization of regional plans that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

### SCAG MEMBERSHIP HAS VALUE

As the largest metropolitan planning organization in the nation, SCAG takes very seriously its role as liaison among city and county elected officials, urban planners and community organizations. Elected officials from member agencies are eligible to serve on SCAG's Regional Council and Policy Committees. SCAG's 82 Regional Council members have the key responsibility for representing the Southern California region on issues such as transportation investments, growth strategies and the allocation of future housing needs. Regional Council members have an important voice in short and long-term planning and a greater influence in legislation and access to the knowledge and insight provided on ongoing State activities affecting constituents. Only elected officials from member agencies are eligible to vote in Regional Council elections. A rotating leadership structure allows access to prominent positions.

#### SCAG RESOURCES

SCAG membership gives you the benefit of pooled funding, special access and priority service.

- ▶ Members get help to find and secure grant funding from federal and state agencies for local projects. SCAG supplements the planning activities of members through the financial support and funding of their subregion.
- ▶ Members are provided the methodology, tools and training necessary to implement the strategies and principles of approved regional plans. SCAG can also perform site-specific performance analyses and transportation/land use benefits analyses.
- ▶ Members receive priority response on requests for data, publications or planning support.
- ▶ Members can request the creation of customized maps for use on their jurisdiction's website.
- ▶ Members may access SCAG's website for jurisdictional data analyses; city general plan and land use maps; complete set of SCAG forecast spreadsheets and maps focusing on smaller levels of geography; selected transportation modeling data and modeling linked to the GIS street network; and easy-to-use census files, numerous publications and more.

#### An Important Voice

Through active participation, SCAG members get the satisfaction of knowing they're providing a voice for their community and their region. Since 1965, SCAG has conceptualized many regionally significant projects and programs, including the Alameda Corridor, Metrolink, Heal the Bay, the Salton Sea Authority and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV system). SCAG is a place to introduce, test and nurture new ideas.

#### Increased Clout

SCAG's staff closely monitors legislation in the state legislature and Congress. It is at the forefront of advocating for Southern California's fair share of federal and state funding for plans and programs. It aggressively advocates on behalf of the region's interests to legislative delegations, other key legislators and members of the executive branch. SCAG also coordinates regular Regional Council member visits with elected and appointed officials of the executive and legislative branches of the federal and state government.

#### Knowledge & Insight

Members receive SCAG's e-alert, *SCAG Update* and the monthly e-newsletter, *SCAG Spotlight*. Members also have free and/or discounted entry to SCAG-sponsored conferences and summits featuring the latest information and insights on issues of regional significance (e.g., Regional Economic Forecast Conference, Regional Housing Summit, etc.) In addition, Members receive a password to access the resources of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) through SCAG's primary membership. Members can learn from each other's policies and experiences through numerous networking opportunities, including the annual General Assembly and Regional Council Retreat.

#### Value for Your Investment

Dues paid to SCAG are equivalent to eight cents per capita, far less than those assessed for other Councils of Government locally and statewide (regional COG dues in other metropolitan areas generally range from 12-21 cents per capita).

For more information, contact the Regional Services staff in your county:

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Linda Jones [jones@scag.ca.gov](mailto:jones@scag.ca.gov)

#### County Regional Offices

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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)

# SCAG MEMBER BENEFITS – AN OVERVIEW

## 1) Voice in Regional Planning

- a. Elected officials from member agencies are eligible to serve on SCAG's Regional Council and Policy Committees
- b. Regional Council and Policy Committees offer a seat at the table to develop policies to benefit the region
- c. Major plans include the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), and the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP)
- d. Only elected officials from member agencies are eligible to vote in Regional Council elections.

## 2) Funding Opportunities

- a. Compass Blueprint
- b. Assistance in securing grant funding from federal and state agencies
- c. Regional planning studies to benefit specific areas

## 3) Transportation

- a. Collaborate to conduct corridor and area wide transportation planning studies
- b. Application of performance measures in evaluating transportation projects
- c. Special studies related to transportation issues such as Travel Demand Management (TDM), parking, pricing incentives
- d. Grant application for transportation projects
- e. Assistance with Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) submittals

## 4) Advocacy

- a. One region, one voice – SCAG harnesses the power of 189 cities and 6 counties to fight for Southern California's fair share of transportation dollars
- b. Advocacy for local/regional transportation priorities
- c. More clout in Sacramento and Washington

- d. Participation in the development of SCAG's annual Legislative Program
- e. Participation in SCAG's Washington DC and Sacramento trips

## 5) Data, GIS & Modeling

- a. Customized City Profiles
- b. Free GIS Training at all user levels on an annual basis
- c. Data sharing and mapping technical assistance
- d. Free access to SCAG's web-based Data/Information Repository
- e. Technical support as related to GIS training on an on-going basis
- f. Building technical capacity, including software, hardware, and application training in GIS
- g. Training on census-related data and processing
- h. Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)-workshop to assist members with their compliance with the State's requirement, in conjunction with Caltrans
- i. Periodic surveys on data, information and service needs

## 6) Library of Regional Studies

Access to four decades of studies published by SCAG, including past Regional Transportation Plans, State of the Region, State of the Commute, and other studies such as goods movement, air quality and growth forecasts

## 7) Special Benefits

- a. Regional Council members receive stipends for attending meetings and appropriate reimbursement for mileage, parking and lodging
- b. Free or discounted entry to SCAG sponsored events, conferences and summits on issues of regional significance
- c. Members receive password to access the resources of the National Association of Regional Councils

- d. Members learn from each other's policies and experiences through numerous networking opportunities.

- e. Members can benefit from Regional Offices in Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties, besides the Downtown Los Angeles Office

## 8) Community Development/Compass Blueprint

- a. Partnerships for Demonstration Projects & Local Technical Assistance – Financial resources to initiate local-regional partnerships that integrate land use planning and transportation investment decision-making critical to improving mobility, accessibility and air quality in Southern California.
- b. Member Services: Tools, Training & Capacity Building – The development and application of new planning tools to expand the "Suite of Services" toolbox that assists local governments plan accordingly with the elements of the RTP and to help cities meet State law requirements under SB 375.
- c. Data and Forecasting Technical Support – Growth Forecasting process to collect data useful to local governments for planning, forecasting, and economic development efforts. Data availability in easy-to-use formats disseminated via the web and directly upon request.

## 9) Accomplishments

Over the past four decades, SCAG has been at the forefront of regional planning in Southern California working to find solutions to problems that affect everyone, such as Transportation, Housing, and Air Quality. Major accomplishments include:

- a. Alameda Corridor
- b. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) system
- c. Metrolink
- d. Heal the Bay
- e. Salton Sea Authority



## Mandatory Responsibilities of SCAG

### FEDERAL MANDATES:

Under federal law, SCAG as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for:

- Development of RTP: As a designated MPO under federal law, SCAG is responsible for developing and adopting a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four (4) years. The RTP serves as a basis for transportation decision-making in the region. The RTP includes projections for overall growth and economic trends in the SCAG region to provide strategic direction for transportation investments during the applicable time period. Major transportation projects of regional significance seeking federal or state funding must be consistent with the RTP. SCAG is also responsible for reviewing all Congestion Management Plans for consistency with the RTP.
- Development of RTIP: As the MPO, SCAG is responsible for developing and approving a short-term component of the long-range RTP, known as the Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The RTIP is updated every two (2) years and is a plan which determines and prioritizes how much federal funding state and local agencies in the region receive in a five-year time span.
- Maintenance of Federal Air Quality Standards: In developing the RTP and RTIP, SCAG is responsible for ensuring that the collection of projects included in these transportation plans help the region maintain conformity to federal air quality standards as required by the federal Clean Air Act. As these plans are developed, SCAG conducts a conformity analysis to determine whether the compilation of projects results in enough air emission reductions to keep the region in compliance with federal air standards. Failure to conform to federal air quality standards could result in the federal agencies rejecting the RTP and RTIP, and consequently, withholding funding for Southern California's critical transportation needs.

### STATE MANDATES:

Under state law, SCAG as a Council of Governments (COG) is responsible for:

- Development of a Portion of AQMP: Under state law, SCAG is responsible for developing a portion of the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Specifically, SCAG is responsible for developing the demographic projections and the integrated land use, housing, employment, transportation measures and strategies portions of the AQMP every three (3) years.
- Development of RHNA: State law requires that SCAG develop a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RHNA is generally developed every five (5) years and is the starting point for the local Housing Element update process. SCAG determines each jurisdiction's fair share of the region's future housing needs, as determined by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

- Compliance with CEQA: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SCAG undertakes the appropriate environmental review for the RTP and RTIP. In most cases, this involves the preparation of Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and amendments thereto. In addition, in accordance with CEQA regulations and Presidential Executive Order 12372, SCAG is the authorized regional agency for Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) of projects of regional significance for consistency with regional plans.
- Development of Waste Management Plans: Under state law, SCAG (along with the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) may prepare a regional hazardous waste management plan to serve as a resource document to identify hazardous waste management issues, needs and solutions at the regional level. This role is consistent with SCAG's responsibility under federal law to serve as the Southern California area-wide waste treatment management planning agency for the purpose of improving water quality in the region.

The roles and responsibilities of SCAG in a nutshell:

As a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), SCAG undertakes and/or develops:

- RTP
- RTIP

As a Council of Governments (COG), SCAG undertakes and/or develops:

- AQMP
- RHNA
- PEIR for RTP and RTIP
- IGR
- Regional Waste Management Plan

As a Joint Powers Agency (JPA), SCAG undertakes and/or develops:\*

- State of the Region
- Compass 2% Strategy
- Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP)
- Air Quality Resolution and other similar initiatives
- Legislative Program
- Various conferences: Housing Summit; Economic Conference; Transit Summit; Earthquake Preparedness Conference, Sustainability Conference, etc.

\*Please note that these activities are not mandated by law, but are consistent with SCAG's common power as a JPA "to study, discuss and recommend policies and procedures for the solution of area-wide problems of direct concern to the performance of their (members') constitutional and statutory functions and to join associations and expend public funds for these purposes."

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made and entered into by and between the county and city governments which on its effective date are, or thereafter become signatories hereto;

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, there is a demonstrated need for the establishment of an association of county and city governments within the Southern California Area to provide a forum for discussion and study of regional problems of mutual interest and concern to the counties and cities, and to facilitate the development of recommendations for the solution of such problems; and

**WHEREAS**, Title I, Division 7, Chapter 5 of the Government Code of the State of California authorized the joint exercise by agreement of two or more public agencies or any power common to them; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties hereto possess in common the power to study, discuss and recommend policies and procedures for the solution of areawide-problems of direct concert to the performance of their constitutional and statutory functions and to join associations and expend public funds for these purposes; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, in considerations of the execution of this agreement by other counties and cities eligible to membership in the association established hereby, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Association Established.** An association consisting of the parties to this agreement is hereby established to be known as Southern California Association of Governments. The association shall be subject to and shall be governed by the By-laws, a copy of which is attached hereto and by this reference made a part of this agreement.
2. **Parties. Eligibility.** Only those counties and cities eligible for membership in the Southern California Association of Governments pursuant to said By-laws may be or become parties to this agreement.
3. **Parties Become Members.** Each party to this agreement is a member of the Southern California Association of Governments and is entitled to the rights and privileges and is subject to the obligations of members, all as provided for in said By-laws.
4. **Additional Parties.** If the By-laws of the association are amended as therein provided to permit additional counties or additional cities to be eligible for membership in the association, such additional counties or cities may become parties to this agreement.



5. **Parties. Termination.** Any party to this agreement may cease to be a party hereto and may withdraw for membership in the association by the adoption by its legislative body of a resolution of intention to withdraw and by giving the executive director of the association and the other parties to this agreement written notice of its intention to withdraw at least thirty (30) days before the effective date thereof. Any party to this agreement which fails to pay any assessment or dues as provided for in the By-laws shall be considered to have withdrawn from the association and shall cease to be a party hereto. If at any time after the effective date of this agreement fewer than fifty percent (50%) of the eligible counties or fewer than fifty percent of the eligible cities are parties to this agreement, this agreement shall terminate.

6. **Agency to Administer Agreement.** The association established by this agreement shall be the agency to administer this agreement.

7. **Powers of Association.** The Association shall have the power, in its own name, to make and enter into contracts, to employ agents and employees, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, real and personal, to sue and be sued in its own name, and to incur debts, liabilities or obligations necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of this agreement. However, the debts, liabilities and obligations of the association shall not constitute any debt, liability or obligation of any of the public agencies who are parties to this agreement. The Treasury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the depository of the funds of the Association and the Treasurer of the County of Los Angeles shall be the ex-officio treasurer of the association. The Auditor-Controller of the County of Los Angeles shall be the disbursing officer of the Association and shall draw warrants against the funds of the association in the treasury when the demands are approved by the President, Vice President, or Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, or such other persons as may be specifically designated for that purpose in the By-laws.

8. **First Budget.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section B of Article VIII of said By-laws, the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 shall be adopted at the first meeting of the General Assembly and the assessments for said period shall be based thereon.

9. **Amendment.** This agreement may be amended at any time by the written agreement of all parties to it.

10. **Duration of Agreement.** This agreement shall continue in effect until it is rescinded by mutual consent of the parties or terminated in the manner provided herein or in the By-laws.

11. **Disposition of Assets of Termination.** Upon termination of this agreement any money or assets in possession of the Association after the payment of all liabilities, costs, expenses, and charges validly incurred under this agreement shall be returned to the parties in proportion to their contributions determined as of the time of termination.

12. Effective Date of Agreement. This agreement shall be effective upon its execution by fifty percent of the eligible counties and fifty percent of the eligible cities.

Executed by the undersigned cities and counties upon the respective dates set forth after their signatures.

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**Hasan Ikhata, Secretary, SCAG**  
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\_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
**City Manager**

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ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City Clerk**