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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***SCAG Honors El Centro Tiny Homes project with a 2022 Sustainability Award***

El Centro's Lotus Living Tiny Home project is being honored by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) as one of its 2022 Sustainability Award winners.

In all, seven innovative projects across the six-county region will take home the prestigious Sustainability Awards during ceremonies at SCAG's Regional Conference and General Assembly May 5 in Palm Desert.

El Centro is being honored in the category of Housing Innovation for the Tiny Homes project, which features 26 170-square-foot homes for local college students on an available infill site. The city was able to secure funding from the state to develop the project as an alternative to building more traditional – and more expensive – dorms.

By using available land owned by the city, and strategically relocating a transit stop to the project site, a community of students has been created that provides not just housing but access to other resources to support them and their educational pursuits. The neighborhood is within walking distance of grocery stores and other amenities.

"We're honored to receive this award as recognition for the vision and creative thinking that went into the Lotus Living project. We see this as a model for other innovative solutions to the housing crisis, not only here in the Imperial Valley but across the SCAG region," said Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro city councilmember and a Past President of SCAG.

Said current SCAG President Clint Lorimore, Mayor of Eastvale, "The El Centro Tiny Homes project is truly a groundbreaking effort. As all of our Sustainability Award-winning projects illustrate, Southern California leads the nation in integrating technology and creative thinking to build healthier, more vibrant communities."

Among the notable regional honorees is the Volvo LIGHTS (Low Impact Green Heavy Transport) project, winner of the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability award. The project – a partnership between the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Volvo and 12 other public and private entities – developed a blueprint to introduce zero-tailpipe emission battery-electric trucks and equipment into the market. During the project, which ran from 2019 to 2022, the partners demonstrated a range of innovations that over a 10-year period would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 30,200 metric tons.

"We congratulate all of our award winners, whose work represents the best of the best when it comes to meeting our sustainability goals and improving quality of life. Innovative projects such as these are

critical to the health, welfare and economic viability of our region,” said Kome Ajise, SCAG Executive Director.

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***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).