



**2026**

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# SCAG LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



# THE SCAG REGION

18.7M

RESIDENTS



40%

NATION'S  
CONTAINER  
IMPORTS



\$1.6T

REGIONAL GDP



16

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS



15TH

LARGEST  
ECONOMY  
WORLDWIDE



6

COUNTIES

47.6%

STATE  
POPULATION



191

CITIES

5.7%

U.S.  
POPULATION



## SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Cindy Allen



**PRESIDENT**

Ray Marquez



**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Jenny Crosswhite



**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Curt Hagman



**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Patricia Lock Dawson



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

# SCAG'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## ACHIEVING THE REGION'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg, 2008) required California's 18 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to develop a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets related to the use of cars and light-duty trucks for 2020 and 2035, determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). While the law improved integration of housing, land use, and transportation planning, significant changes over the past 15 years have exposed limitations in the existing framework.

With 2035 nearing, state and regional leaders are focused on modernizing SB 375 to better align housing, transportation, and climate policies. As authors of the SCS for our respective regions, the state's four largest MPOs—the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and SCAG—have convened discussions about how to reform and strengthen the SB 375 program, leading to the introduction of SB 1087 by Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D-West Sacramento).

### Support SB 1087 to Modernize SB 375 Framework

SCAG respectfully requests passage of SB 1087 (Cabaldon) to implement the necessary changes to modernize the SB 375 framework, allowing regions not only to identify actions to help meet GHG reduction targets, but implement the strategies to achieve them.

To that end, the state should prioritize funding to ensure that regions can invest in projects with the greatest impact to implement these strategies.

## ADDRESSING THE REGION'S HOUSING NEEDS

California's housing crisis has made effective regional planning a critical tool for supporting communities to meet both current and future housing needs. Through the state's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process, SCAG adopted its 6th Cycle plan in 2021, which assigned 1.34 million homes across the region. The RHNA process, which has historically been an unfunded mandate, is highly technical and requires extensive data analysis, coordination with local governments, and public engagement.

In 2019, the \$125 million Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 1.0) grant program offered the first meaningful state investment in regional housing planning. With our \$47 million allocation, SCAG delivered direct assistance to jurisdictions, created tools that streamlined housing element preparation, supported ADU permitting, and advanced fair housing. The program also strengthened local leadership and expanded collaboration with community organizations.

These efforts produced measurable results, contributing significantly to jurisdictions submitting more than 450,000 units for permitting and authorizing permits for another 223,000 homes, including more than 43,000 affordable units, from 2020 to 2023.

### Support AB 2002 to Codify the REAP 1.0 Framework into State Law

SCAG respectfully requests passage of AB 2002, authored by Assemblymember José Luis Solache (D-Lynwood), to codify the successful 2019 REAP 1.0 framework. SCAG also supports Assemblymember Solache's \$125 million budget request for one-time funding, spread across several years, to implement the 7th Cycle RHNA. Continued state investments in housing planning will allow regions to deliver proven pro-housing programs, provide critical technical assistance, and meet new RHNA requirements.

# ABOUT SCAG

Founded in 1965, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a public agency established as a Joint Powers Authority under California state law that convenes local governments and agencies as a forum to address regional issues.

SCAG leads Southern California, serving as the unified voice of the region and empowering local jurisdictions to work toward regional solutions. The SCAG region encompasses six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura) and 191 cities in an area covering more than 38,000 square miles.

The agency develops long-range regional transportation plans, including the sustainable communities strategy and growth forecast components, regional transportation improvement program, regional housing needs allocations, and a portion of the South Coast Air Quality management plans.

SCAG is governed by an 86-member board of directors known as the Regional Council, whose membership includes city councilmembers, mayors, county supervisors, and representatives of the region's tribal governments, air quality management districts, and transit operators.

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