
PRESS RELEASE

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July 12, 2007



SCAG BOARD ADOPTS REGIONAL HOUSING ALLOCATION PLAN

Action Marks A Critical Step In Southern California Meeting Future Housing Needs

LOS ANGELES – Earlier today, the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) approved the final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) plan after months of extensive policy deliberation and interaction with local governments throughout the six-county region. The plan calls for 699,368 housing units of all types (very low, low, moderate and above moderate income) to be addressed in local housing element updates between now and 2014.

“Today’s action represents an essential step in Southern California’s short- and long-term efforts to meet the housing needs of its residents,” said San Bernardino County Supervisor and SCAG President Gary Ovitt.

“The plan approved today would not have been possible without extensive coordination with cities and counties throughout the Southern California region,” said El Centro City Councilmember Jon Edney, Chair of SCAG’s Community, Economic and Human Development Committee who provided critical leadership on the development of the housing allocation plan.

Existing state law establishes the RHNA process as a key mechanism for both state and local governments to use in terms of establishing future housing needs. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 187 cities and six counties that make up Southern California, SCAG is responsible for developing a plan to allocate regional housing need to all local jurisdictions within its region in accordance with state housing law.

Today’s action represented the culmination of more than a year of technical analysis, policy debate and local interaction. Two major public hearings, interactive subregional workshops, surveys, numerous one-on-one meetings and many other forums were held to formulate the RHNA, as well as to get local input on the integrated growth forecast that

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ultimately guided the housing allocation plan. In accordance with state law, SCAG also offered subregions within Southern California the option of having the housing delegation authority allocated to them. Three subregions – City of Los Angeles, South Bay Council of Governments and Ventura County Council of Governments – opted to have that authority granted to them.

Adoption of the final RHNA allocation plan would have not been possible without the enactment of urgency state legislation sponsored by SCAG that greatly facilitated the housing allocation process for Southern California. Authored by Senator Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in April 2007, the measure established a new pilot program that streamlined the RHNA process. The measure also provided local governments with a process to request revisions or appeal the draft housing allocations that were released in February of this year, or propose alternative distributions of need.

With the adoption of the final housing needs allocation, SCAG will be transmitting the final RHNA plan to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for its approval. Local cities will then have until June 30, 2008, to make the appropriate updates to their respective housing elements and then submit the new housing elements to the state for its consideration.