



# SCAG MEMBERSHIP

S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A A S S O C I A T I O N O F G O V E R N M E N T S

## YOUR PARTICIPATION AFFECTS OVER **19 MILLION PEOPLE**

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to encourage a more sustainable Southern California now and in the future. Although 191 cities and six counties are situated within SCAG's borders, their individual boundaries provide no barrier to the issues and problems associated with such a large metropolitan area. Air pollution and traffic congestion know no borders and resources shared by all are stressed and depleted by the needs and demands of a steadily expanding population. There is a chronic shortage of housing and a lack of housing affordability throughout California and major institutions, employers and startups in the region cite lack of housing options as a serious impediment to recruiting and retaining talent.

With the recently-adopted Connect SoCal plan, the 25-year long-range transportation plan for the region, SCAG has an economic and job creation engine that will invest more than \$638 billion in the region's transportation infrastructure, generating substantial benefits

to the region with respect to mobility, safety, air quality, economic productivity and environmental justice. Through the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), SCAG is providing technical assistance tools and resources that local jurisdictions can use to accelerate housing production, but also meet the housing needs of future generations.

SCAG is working on these things—and more—for the betterment of our region. As the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, a membership in SCAG provides excellent value for minimal investment, including a forum to discuss regional issues, the ability to shape the legislative priorities of the region and the support of a staunch advocate in both Sacramento and Washington, and increased access to the knowledge and insight of ongoing federal, state and local activities. SCAG membership affords many opportunities to engage regionally and enhance policies and projects affecting constituents, benefiting Southern California now and for the future.

The average resident of Southern California loses over

**100 hours**  
IN TRAFFIC  
every year

More than

**61%**

of very low-income families  
**SPEND OVER HALF**  
**OF THEIR INCOME**  
on housing

Median household income is

**50%**  
**HIGHER IN**  
**THE BAY AREA**  
than it is in  
Southern California

### ABOUT SCAG

SCAG was formed on October 28, 1965, when local elected officials from 56 cities and five counties convened to begin regional planning for Southern California's future. Over the past five decades, SCAG has grown to become the largest council of governments in the nation, functioning as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura) and 191 cities, covering a land mass of over 38,600 square miles and over 19 million people.

### A REGIONAL VOICE

The 86 members of SCAG's Regional Council have the key responsibility of representing the Southern California region on issues such as transportation investments, growth strategies and the allocation of future housing needs. As a forum for local leaders to discuss common problems and develop solutions to shared regional challenges, SCAG facilitates and encourages coordination and cooperation among multiple levels of government for the benefit of all. SCAG members are guaranteed a seat at a table where solutions to regional problems are formulated and adopted.

# BENEFITS OF SCAG MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ **A Unique Regional Forum**  
One of SCAG's roles is to facilitate a forum to develop and foster the realization of regional plans that improve the quality of life for the region. SCAG helps bring to fruition many regionally significant projects and programs while serving as a place to introduce, test and nurture new ideas for the long-term benefit of the region.
- ▶ **The Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy** (Connect SoCal) is a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental and public health goals. Containing over 4,000 transportation projects, Connect SoCal embodies a collective vision for the region's future and is developed with input from local governments, county transportation commissions, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, local stakeholders and the general public.
- ▶ **The Southern California Economic Summit** brings together state and local elected officials, public and private sector CEOs, business and labor leaders, stakeholder agency representatives and city managers to look at ways in which we can build a stronger, more prosperous and sustainable Southern California. This annual event includes an assessment of the region's economy and discussions related to economic issues and trends facing the region.
- ▶ **Go Human** is a community outreach and advertising campaign with the goals of reducing traffic collisions in Southern California and encouraging people to walk and bike more. SCAG hopes to create safer and healthier cities through education, advocacy, information sharing and events that help residents re-envision their neighborhoods.
- ▶ **SCAG's Housing Program** assists jurisdictions in accelerating housing production, as well as administrate the RHNA, which is mandated by State Housing Law as part of the periodic process of updating local General Plan housing elements. The RHNA is used by communities in land use planning, prioritizing local resource allocation, and in deciding how to address identified existing and future housing needs resulting from population, employment and household growth. Currently in the 6th Cycle RHNA, SCAG is creating technical assistance tools that jurisdictions can use in their housing elements, along with a range of resources to help identify suitable sites to meet that need. SCAG also administers other programs that provide direct technical assistance for local jurisdictions such as the Subregional Partnership Program, which will dedicate \$23 million to projects and activities throughout the SCAG region that accelerate housing production.
- ▶ **Advocacy**  
Over the years, SCAG has been at the forefront of advocating for the region's fair share of federal and state funding for plans and programs and has been instrumental in delivering billions of dollars to the region, harnessing the power of the agency's membership—together as one region with one voice—to promote the region's interests. As part of the agency's advocacy efforts, annual legislative and advocacy trips are organized to both Washington, DC and Sacramento.
- ▶ **Assistance in Achieving Local Objectives**  
SCAG grant programs help provide local cities and counties with the resources they need to build a sustainable future for their communities. Members can also get help in finding and securing grant funding from federal and state agencies for local projects.
- ▶ **Tools, Data & Training**  
As a member-driven organization, SCAG prides itself on meeting the needs and requests of its membership. SCAG's Data Services Program was initiated and organized starting in the late 1980s with the goal of being the preeminent source of data and information for the Southern California region. Whether it is customized city profiles of economic and demographic data, free GIS training, data sharing or mapping assistance, SCAG aims to provide members with the tools, data and training they need to plan more effectively for the future.
- ▶ **Conferences & Events**  
Members have access to outside events sponsored by SCAG, as well as the ability to attend conferences and summits of regional significance hosted by SCAG such as the Regional Conference & General Assembly and Southern California Economic Summit.

# BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE REGION

Being a representative of SCAG provides members with direct opportunities to not only analyze and recommend policy positions, but define the issues shaping Southern California's future. If you're interested in guiding new policies that will impact millions of residents and future generations, then consider becoming a representative:

- ▶ **General Assembly**  
When a jurisdiction joins SCAG, a new seat is created on the SCAG General Assembly. Representatives to the General Assembly meet annually to elect officers, adopt SCAG's annual Overall Work Program and approve the study of specific problems, programs and other matters of concern for the region.
- ▶ **Regional Council**  
SCAG's 86-member governing board, known as the Regional Council, meets monthly to guide the agency's ongoing policy direction. Not all members automatically have a seat on the Regional Council, but all members have the opportunity of being chosen to represent their Regional Council district by fellow district members.
- ▶ **Policy Committees & Task Forces**  
All elected officials from member jurisdictions, whether or not they serve on the Regional Council, are encouraged to seek appointment to one of SCAG's policy committees (Transportation Committee; Community, Economic and Human Development Committee; or Energy and Environment Committee), which meet monthly on the same day as the Regional Council. Elected officials can also participate on task forces or working groups, which meet at varying intervals.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

For more information, please contact **Javiera Cartagena** at [cartagena@scag.ca.gov](mailto:cartagena@scag.ca.gov).

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