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**SCAG RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR
OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL PRACTICES SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**

LOS ANGELES – For the second consecutive year, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has received a national award recognizing its outstanding accounting and finance practices. SCAG received the award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), North America’s largest professional association of state and provincial finance officers, for its comprehensive annual financial report. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting that an organization can receive.

“We are particularly proud of the tremendous strides SCAG has taken in the past few years to enhance its accounting and financial practices and develop the tools we will need in the coming years to pursue federal and state funds and facilitate public/private partnerships to meet our transportation infrastructure needs,” stated Port Hueneme City Councilmember and SCAG President Toni Young.

SCAG was selected from 16,000 government agencies and individuals to receive a GFOA Award for Excellence in Finance for its financial management during FY2003/2004. SCAG received high marks in eight criteria to achieve this award: local significance and value, technical significance, transferability, documentation, cost/benefit, efficiency, originality and documentation.

As the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO) – representing the six-county, 187-city Southern California region – SCAG has undertaken a comprehensive “Best Practices” initiative involving a series of enhancements to SCAG’s accounting, contracting and financial operations.

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Throughout the past four decades, SCAG has evolved into the nation's largest regional planning organization, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. The Southern California region encompasses a population exceeding 16 million persons in an area of more than 38,000 square miles. SCAG develops short and long-term regional plans and strategies that provide for efficient movement of people, goods and information; enhance economic growth and international trade; and improve the environment and quality of life in Southern California.

For more information about the work of the Southern California Association of Governments, please visit the SCAG website at www.scag.ca.gov.