
Press Release

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\$2.1 Billion Construction Related Jobs on Hold: Southern California Association of Governments Urges State Leadership to Approve State Budget

LOS ANGELES – September 21, 2010 – The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is working with 190 cities, 6 counties, and business leaders to find ways to spur economic growth for 19 million Southern California residents. "Southern California businesses have lost over 700,000 jobs since the recession began," said SCAG Chief Economic Advisor Jack Kyser, who has come on board to work with top economists from the region to develop a set of recommendations for state leaders at a planned Summit December 2nd in Los Angeles.

"The SCAG Regional Council has established the development of a Southern California Economic Development Strategy as a top priority," said SCAG President Larry McCallon. "Because the construction industry has been one of the hardest hit industries in the Southland during the recession, the approval of the state budget to maintain \$9 billion for existing construction work and the release of \$2.1 billion for ready-to-go construction work would have an immediate positive impact, as almost 188,000 jobs are at stake," Kyser said.

"These critically-needed transportation infrastructure projects are already funded by our 19 million residents through state and federal gas tax monies. There should be no reason why these projects cannot move forward since so many Californians are out of work during these tough economic times," Kyser said. The detailed list of projects can be found at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/paffairs/news/pressrel/10pr48.htm>

The Regional Council has planned a December 2nd "Southern California Economic Road to Recovery" Summit with the Governor-elect and state leaders to discuss specific actions needed in the next

legislative session to remove or reduce economic impediments to economic growth in the Southern California region.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 190 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.