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# Press Release

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## **SCAG ANNOUNCES COMPASS BLUEPRINT AWARD WINNERS At 2013 REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY *LA's Metro Takes Top Prize***

**PALM DESERT, Calif.** – The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) took top prize tonight at the Southern California Association of Governments' Seventh Annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards for outstanding planning and development work in the SCAG six-county region. California Senate Pro Tem Leader Darrell Steinberg introduced the evening's awards and congratulated the award winners.

Metro received the President's Award of Excellence for its Countywide Sustainability Planning Program, which promotes regional collaboration to increase mobility, foster walkable and livable communities, and minimize greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact. The President's Award goes to the jurisdiction or entity whose planning project best exemplifies all four of the Compass Blueprint planning principles: Mobility, Livability, Prosperity and Sustainability.

"It has been a pleasure to serve both Metro and SCAG boards in developing greener, sustainable and livable community policies that our 88 cities can consider implementing on a voluntary basis," said Pam O'Connor, Mayor of Santa Monica, Past President of SCAG and Metro Board Chair of the Sustainable Ad Hoc Committee. "I am proud of Metro's leadership that can be an example statewide and nationwide."

Individual winners also were announced in each of those categories:

**Mobility:** The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) for the Coachella Valley Parkway 1e11 project. "CVAG is truly honored to have Parkway 1e11 recognized with a Compass Blueprint Award from SCAG. This prestigious award belongs to the many people and partners who made this transformational pedestrian, bike and NEV trail possible and helped CVAG with the planning and funding of this project," said CVAG Executive Director Tom Kirk.

**Prosperity:** The Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) for its Highway 395 Corridor Study for Southwest Riverside County. "Having our project recognized for

excellence by SCAG is a validation that our efforts in Western Riverside County are both practical and visionary. We are honored to be among the many outstanding efforts underway in Southern California,” said WRCOG Executive Director Rick Bishop.

**Livability:** The City of Los Angeles for the Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan (CASP). “I am honored that the Cornfield Arroyo Seco Plan has been recognized as embracing the Compass Blueprint's vision for mobility, sustainability and elegant land use in an urban context,” said Los Angeles Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, who chairs the City's Planning and Land Use Management Committee. “The CASP, which furthers the City's goals to revitalize the Los Angeles River and neighboring communities, is the first of its kind in the City of Los Angeles, and hopefully a model for Southern California as we face land use and transportation challenges.”

**Sustainability:** The County of Los Angeles for the One Valley One Vision, Santa Clarita (OVOV) Plan. “Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita are thrilled to receive a Compass Blueprint Recognition Award for One Valley One Vision. SCAG’s valuable acknowledgment underscores the regional importance of this effort and highlights the positive contributions of numerous Santa Clarita Valley stakeholders,” said Mitch Glaser, Supervising Regional Planner with the County of Los Angeles.

“All of us at SCAG congratulate the winners,” said SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhata. SCAG is proud of the Compass Blueprint Recognition program and the opportunity it gives our member jurisdictions to showcase their outstanding projects and plans. The work these agencies are doing truly enhances the quality of life for residents in our great region and they deserve recognition.”

For a complete list of all the winners, including the Achievement Awards and Honorable Mentions, and more information about the Compass Blueprint program, visit [www.compassblueprint.org](http://www.compassblueprint.org) or [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

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***About SCAG***

*SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 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](http://www.scag.ca.gov).*