



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SCAG SIGNS NATIONAL FREIGHT GATEWAY STRATEGY AGREEMENT
TO FACILITATE REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT INVESTMENT EFFORTS**

SCAG Board Also Votes To Support Infrastructure Bond Measures On November Ballot

LOS ANGELES – Southern California Association of Governments’ (SCAG) Regional Council bolstered efforts to address the region’s goods movement network today by authorizing SCAG’s participation in an unprecedented Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with area transportation agencies to develop a Southern California National Freight Gateway Strategy. This MOU represents an important step in developing the governance structures needed to implement a regional goods movement investment effort and positions Southern California as a global gateway region. In a related action, the Regional Council voted to support Propositions 1A, 1B, 1C and 1E.

“Development of a Freight Gateway Strategy is a critical step in Southern California’s efforts to work collaboratively on a truly regional goods movement investment plan,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and SCAG President Yvonne B. Burke. “This new Southern California partnership will be vital to ensure our entire region’s mutual goods movement needs, from the Ports to the farthest reaches of the Inland Empire.”

The National Freight Gateway Strategy MOU highlights Southern California’s critical role as the national gateway for the movement of goods as well as the associated challenges presented to communities throughout the region in terms of traffic congestion, air quality and other local impacts. The MOU establishes SCAG, Metro, the Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach as the “principle conveners” to develop a framework that addresses the region’s goods movement challenges. The signatories will work together to develop a Phase I Scoping Report that will be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the Governor by January 30, 2007.

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In a separate action, SCAG's Regional Council voted to support a series of November ballot measures that, if approved, will enable goods movement and infrastructure improvements for the state. These measures include Propositions 1A (preservation of gasoline sales tax revenues for transportation); 1B (bond funding for transportation, air quality and port security improvements); 1C (bond funding for housing and emergency shelter needs); and 1E (bond funding for disaster preparedness and flood prevention). After considering the each measure, SCAG's Regional Council, voted to support these ballot measures as a means of providing funds to critical infrastructure investments throughout Southern California and the state.

Coupled with the approval of the MOU and SCAG's support of goods movement ballot measures, Regional Councilmembers are preparing to participate in SCAG's Southwest Compact Mega Region 3rd Bi-National Hearing. This hearing will take place on October 25 in Yuma, Arizona, and will involve public and private leaders from the southwestern United States and northern Mexico discussing cooperative plans and priorities relating to goods movement and infrastructure.

For more information about SCAG's goods movement initiatives, please contact Jeff Lustgarten, Cerrell Associates (323/466-3445; Jeff@cerrell.com) or Don Rhodes, SCAG's Manager of Government Affairs (213/236-1840; Rhodes@scag.ca.gov).