

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

January 2012

## RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting

January 5, 2012

### **ACTION – California High-Speed Rail Authority Business Plan Update**

The Regional Council received an update from California High-Speed Rail Authority Board (HSRA) Member Dan Richard. Member Richards briefed the Regional Council on the Authority's Draft Business Plan and took questions from Members. The Regional Council also heard from the Chief Executives from the County Transportation Commissions about the importance of upgrading existing infrastructure, (Metrolink, LOSSAN) as part of the Authority's Plan and authorized SCAG's Executive Director, with partner agencies, to submit a letter to HSRA requesting \$1 billion in upgrades to improve speed and comfort on Southern California's rail system. At its next meeting on February 2, 2012, the Regional Council will consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HSRA and Southern California Transportation Agencies regarding early implementation of the above improvements.



*pictured from left to right:* Larry McCallon (Immediate Past President, SCAG), Dan Richard (Board Member, CHSRA), Pam O'Connor (President, SCAG), Glen Becerra (1st Vice President, SCAG), Alan Wapner (Chairman, SCAG RTP Subcommittee), Ty Schuiling (Interim Executive Director, SANBAG), Hasan Ikhtrata (Executive Director, SCAG)

### **ACTION – RC Approves Recognition of San Fernando Valley Council of Governments**

The Regional Council unanimously voted to recognize the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG). The newest SCAG subregion, SFVCOG consists of the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and the portions of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles situated in the geographic San Fernando Valley within Los Angeles County. The aforementioned jurisdictions entered into a Joint Powers Agreement in May 2010, thus creating the new COG.

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## EVENTS RTP/SCS WORKSHOPS

January 6th – February 2nd

Workshops and Public Hearings on Draft RTP/SCS at various locations throughout Southern California. For more information and specific dates and locations, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

## From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month

### **Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS**

The Regional Council approved releasing the Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS for public review and comment on December 1, 2011. Accordingly, staff released the Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and associated technical appendices on December 20, 2011 for a 55-day public review and comment period. The Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and all of the associated technical appendices are now available online.

To improve the opportunity for public comment, SCAG has unveiled a highly interactive version of the Draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS called the iRTP, which allows the public and stakeholders to participate in the process in an unprecedented way. The iRTP can be accessed at [www.scagrtp.net](http://www.scagrtp.net).

Over the months of January and February, staff will conduct public workshops required by SB 375 for elected officials in each of our six counties. In addition, staff will also hold public hearings in each of the counties as required under the federal statute. The public comment period will end on February 14, 2012. Visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov) for a complete list of workshops and public hearings.

### **Sixth Annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards**

SCAG is now accepting nominations for its Sixth Annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards. Last year's Recognition Awards Program was well received and we hope to build on this momentum and enjoy another memorable program this year. The Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards are presented annually in recognition of projects that demonstrate excellence and achievement in the four key elements of Compass Blueprint planning: Livability, Mobility, Prosperity, and Sustainability. Visit [www.compassblueprint.org/awards](http://www.compassblueprint.org/awards).

### **2012 SCAG Scholarship Program**

Applications are now available for the 2012 SCAG Scholarship Program. The SCAG Scholarship is designed to provide seven high school and community college students a scholarship award of \$2,000 each and a two-week externship at a local government agency. Scholarship information will be sent to all of the high schools and community colleges in the SCAG region. Applications for the SCAG Scholarship Program are available at [www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship](http://www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship) and must be postmarked by March 9, 2012.

## FEBRUARY

**2nd** Regional Council and Policy Committee Meetings

**8th** Nominations Due for Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards

**14th** RTP/SCS Public Comment Period Ends

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**COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICES** Imperial | Orange | Riverside | San Bernardino | Ventura