REPORT

DATE: January 4, 2007

TO: Regional Council
Administration Committee

FROM: Don Rhodes, Manager, Government Affairs, (213)-236-1840

SUBJECT: Sponsorship of the 2007 California Congressional Delegation Reception

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

SCAG to co-sponsor the 2007 California Congressional Delegation Reception in Washington, D.C. during the annual APTA Legislative Conference in March, 2007, in a maximum amount of $5,000.00.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG has been asked to co-host a California reception during the annual APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 6:00 pm in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Room, Rayburn House Office Building.

The reception will follow on the heals of the Surface Transportation Commission Hearing (the SAFETEA-LU '1909' Commission) held in Southern California on February 21-22, and SCAG's federal consensus trip to Washington, D.C. on February 27-March 1. The Mobility 21 trip to Washington, D.C., will shortly follow on March 26-29. Thus, the event is well-timed and is an excellent opportunity not only to initiate direct contact with key decision makers of the 110th Congress regarding California's complex transportation and infrastructure challenges, but also to deliver a consistent, repetitive message of regional consensus on the needs and solutions to meet those challenges.

All current and new California Congressional members and their transportation staff are invited to the reception, as well as the Chair and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations and Reauthorizing Committees. On the House side, the Democratic California Congressional membership on the important Appropriations Committee has expanded from two to five, with Reps. Barbara Lee (Oakland), Adam Schiff (Burbank), and Mike Honda (San Jose) joining Reps. Sam Farr (Carmel) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (Los Angeles), on this key money-spending panel. Representatives Honda, Millender-McDonald, and Roybal-Allard have attended this reception in prior years and we expect large attendance from the new majority members this year, including the incoming Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. James L. Oberstar (D-MN), with whom SCAG has enjoyed a good working relationship in the past. On the Republican side, we are indeed fortunate that Rep. Jerry Lewis (Redlands) from our region will remain the Ranking Republican in the 110th Congress, and Rep. John Doolittle (Granite Bay) will sit on the Committee as well.

The reception is tentatively scheduled at the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Room, 2165 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, from 6-8 pm. The suggested sponsorship donation is up to but no more than $5,000.00 per agency, however, the actual amount will be based upon the cost of the event and will be determined at a later date. Other than the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which donates $25,000.00 to sponsor this reception, the remaining cost is borne among the transportation agencies. All participating agencies are requested to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which sets forth their shared responsibility to co-sponsor the event. Other large transportation agencies in addition to SCAG that have sponsored this reception in the past include LACMTA, OCTA, RCTC, SANBAG, SCRRA, VCTC, and SANDAG.

At the January 2006 meeting of the Administrative Committee, members authorized SCAG to co-sponsor the 2006 California Congressional Delegation Reception in the amount of $6,000.00. Thus, this request for co-sponsorship of the 2007 reception is consistent with the SCAG's past practice of co-sponsoring this event.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All funds related to co-sponsorship of the California Congressional Delegation Reception is contained within the adopted FY 07-08 budget and does not require the allocation of any additional financial resources.

Reviewed by: *Division Manager*

Reviewed by: for *Department Director*

Reviewed by: *Chief Financial Officer*