# MEMO

**DATE:** March 2, 2005

**TO:** Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee (CEHD)

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Update

**SUMMARY:**
Staff is preparing a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for adoption in spring 2008. The RCP will consolidate the region's full body of current planning and policy work and will describe the activities required to meet specified performance outcomes. The CEHD Committee has purview over the development of the plan, and as such, staff provides the committee with periodic updates.

**BACKGROUND:**
The RCP is a major focus of SCAG work for the current and coming fiscal years. As such, the RCP Task Force, composed of Regional Council members, has been meeting monthly, guiding the efforts of a 15 member staff team preparing the plan. As the Committee is aware, the Regional Council took action on November 3, 2005 to expand and revise the approach for the RCP such that it can serve as a regional model for guiding growth, development, and environmental stewardship for the State.

At this time, the Task Force and staff are discussing and developing several key concepts for the plan in accordance with the newly approved approach. These concepts are described below.

**Performance Outcomes**

The organization of the RCP around performance outcomes is the most important aspect of the newly expanded approach. The purpose of the inclusion of outcomes is to provide a basis for plan accountability and monitoring going forward. To date, the Task Force has discussed the development of outcomes for the Land Use and Housing Chapter and the Open Space and Habitat Chapter. It should be noted that the development of these outcomes is in a preliminary stage and that the Task Force has provided input to the staff for further development. The actual incorporation of outcomes into an RCP will be subject to substantial public process and review.

Land Use and Housing Preliminary Discussion Outcomes –
1. Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled per Household of a specified amount
2. Identification of housing supply for all income groups
3. Overall regional increase in development density of a specified amount in the urbanized area of the region

Open Space and Habitat Preliminary Discussion Outcomes –
1. Specified density maximum in non-urban areas
2. Specified acreage of land to be protected from development
3. Park to population ratio at the regional scale
4. Habitat protection goals to be determined

**Process Update**

Currently the task force, staff, and others are pursuing various activities toward the completion of the plan, notably, as follows:

- Released 2 Requests for Proposals for assistance with the development of the Open Space and Habitat Chapter and the Finance component of the plan. Staff anticipates releasing an additional Request for Proposals for assistance on the Energy Chapter.
- In discussion with Orange County Council of Governments regarding a sub-regional working group to follow the RCP process and provide input.
- Forming an expert and stakeholder working group to advise on the development of the Energy Chapter.
- Taking preliminary steps to forming an Open Space working group.

**Overall Process Notes**

As the Committee is aware, the RCP is being developed on the same schedule as the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). As such, we currently anticipate adopting the RCP in April of 2008, with a draft ready for circulation in approximately November 2007. The CEHD, apart from having purview over the planning process, generally, has direct responsibility for the Land Use and Housing Chapter and the Economy Chapter. Those chapters will be brought forward periodically to the committee for input and approval. In particular, staff and the task force will seek an approval of completed draft chapters prior to releasing the draft RCP. There are currently preliminary drafts of all of the RCP chapters available on the program website – www.scag.ca.gov/rcp.