MEMO

Date: March 3, 2004

To: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

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Subject: Environmental Justice Review of 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

SUMMARY

At the direction of the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC), staff will convene a group of Environmental Justice experts to review SCAG's efforts for the recently completed 2004 RTP, and to provide suggestions for future processes.

BACKGROUND

As the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Southern California, SCAG is required by Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act, along with associated executive orders and regulations, to include Environmental Justice in its planning efforts. SCAG is required to ensure that the benefits and burdens of its programs are fairly distributed.

SCAG's Environmental Justice Program efforts are carried out in two ways:

1. SCAG endeavors to include minority, low income, and under-served communities in its planning efforts, and
2. SCAG conducts technical analysis of its plans in order to determine the presence or lack of equitable distribution of benefits and costs.

SCAG detailed its Environmental Justice Program in Appendix G of the 2004 RTP. The Energy and Environment Committee has asked staff to review its procedures and to consult with Environmental Justice experts on our practices. Staff has assembled a list of approximately 30 academics, activists and peers for this purpose and will convene a roundtable meeting within the next month. The meeting will be open to any interested attendees, and may continue into a series of workshops depending on EEC guidance.

Members of the EEC will be informed when meetings are scheduled, and staff will subsequently report to the Committee in order to seek additional direction.