REPORT

DATE: December 6, 2007

TO: Administration and Regional Council

FROM: Lynn Harris, Manager of Community Development 213-236-1875, harris@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Resolution #07-492-1 to Apply for 3rd Year Regional Blueprint Planning Grant Funds

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Adopt Resolution 07-492-1 to apply for Year Three Blueprint Planning Funds and accept the funds if awarded.

SUMMARY:
Caltrans requires current recipients of Blueprint Planning Grant Year One and Two funds to apply for Year Three funding. SCAG is currently conducting Blueprint Planning funded by a $1,258,450 Year One grant award, based upon an application submitted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006, and $975,000 Year Two funding, based upon an application submitted in FY 2007-2008. Staff is preparing the Year Three application for approximately $1,500,000 in additional Blueprint grant funds. The Year Three application will focus on additional Compass demonstration projects showcasing innovative Blueprint strategies, planning for a carbon neutral growth scenario that addresses greenhouse gas emission targets, identifying strategies to leverage other funding sources or infrastructure planning frameworks, and developing guidelines for commuter rail parking demand and transit oriented development. The SCAG Blueprint third-year application will again stress our continued commitment to public engagement throughout our processes, including environmental justice communities and tribal governments.

BACKGROUND:
In FY 2005-2006, the State made available $5 million per year for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to conduct regional planning activities aimed at improving statewide mobility and conducting intensive comprehensive scenario planning. SCAG was awarded a $1,258,450 Blueprint Grant in January 2006 and began conducting the project in spring 2006.
Work has been completed or is nearing completion on the following Year One Blueprint Grant activities: transit oriented development (TOD) and general plan update demonstration projects with various cities and subregions in the region; Housing Summit and Blueprint Recognition Awards program; developing an integrated growth forecast; numerous regional workshops focusing on housing allocation and development suitability between jurisdictions; quantifying the effects of Blueprint Planning on travel; modeling the benefits of Blueprint Planning; developing and implementing performance measures.

In December 2006 SCAG was awarded a $975,000 Year Two Blueprint Grant based upon a competitive renewal application process conducted by the State for MPOs and funded with approximately $4 million. After amending the Year Two project funds into the FY 2006-2007 OWP in April 2007, as required by Caltrans, SCAG began the Year Two grant project work. Year Two activities include additional transit oriented development (TOD) and general plan update demonstration projects, expansion of public outreach

efforts to include working with local government to develop a long-range housing/transportation blueprint that integrates regional transportation investment decision-making with local land use, expanding, and developing Blueprint growth scenarios in support of the 2008 RTP.

As with the previous Blueprint grant applications, the third- year application requires a resolution by the MPO's governing body. Awards are anticipated to be announced in February and work can commence once Caltrans approves an amendment adding the Year Three funding to the SCAG Overall Work Program (OWP).

FISCAL IMPACT:
As with the Year One and Year Two Blueprint funding, SCAG will be required to provide a 20% cash or in-kind match, to be financed with non-federal funds. SCAG will continue to meet this requirement through the documentation of in-kind services provided by the cities, subregions, and transportation commissions that are our partners in Blueprint planning.

Reviewed by: Lynn Harris
Division Manager

Affirmed by:
Department Director

Affirmed by:
Chief Financial Officer

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RESOLUTION #07-492-1 OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT YEAR THREE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL BLUEPRINT PLANNING GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 134 et seq.; 49 U.S.C. 5303 et seq., for six counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial;

WHEREAS, SCAG was awarded $1,258,451 in Blueprint Planning Grant funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006 (Year One) and $975,000 in Blueprint Planning Grant funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007 (Year Two);

WHEREAS, the FY 2007-2008 (Year Two) California State Budget includes approximately $4.5 million in statewide funding available only to MPOs for California Regional Blueprint Planning Grant Program designed to support related statutory requirements, programs and guidelines that address the need for integrated planning;

WHEREAS, Caltrans requires a Grant Application Renewal for Year Three Blueprint Grants (Grant Application);

WHEREAS, each Blueprint Planning Grant awarded by the State will require at least a 20% cash or in-kind match financed with non-federal funds. SCAG intends to apply for up to $1,500,000 in grant funds, which will require a 20% match, equaling up to $ 375,000; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Blueprint Planning Program is a voluntary, competitive grant program that will initiate or augment existing efforts of MPOs and Councils of Government (COGs) to conduct comprehensive scenario planning that results in consensus by regional leaders, local governments and stakeholders on a preferred growth scenario for a twenty-year planning horizon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments to authorize SCAG to apply for, accept and manage a Year Three Regional Blueprint Planning Grant, to collaborate with other stakeholders in the grant program, and to implement the grant through the FY 2007-2008 OWP, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Council approves and authorizes submittal of the Grant Application and related documents for approval to the State, and if the grant is approved, include the Blueprint Planning Grant funds in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 OWP;

2. That SCAG pledges to secure cash or in-kind services, or both, for the matching funds necessary to receive Blueprint Planning Grant funds; and

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