



*SCAG's Mission:  
Under the guidance of the Regional Council and in collaboration with our partners, our mission is to facilitate a forum to develop and foster the realization of regional plans that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.*

# SCAG GENERAL FACTSHEET

## WHAT IS SCAG?

“SCAG” stands for the Southern California Association of Governments. As a designated Joint Powers Authority (JPA) under California law, SCAG is an association of local governments and agencies who voluntarily come together on issues of common concern. Additionally, SCAG is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) representing six counties, six transportation commissions and 190 cities, assisting with regional transportation and land use planning. Under federal and state mandates, SCAG is tasked with developing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) every four years. Recently with the passage of SB 375 into law, SCAG has been given the added responsibility of developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to address greenhouse gas emissions as an element of the RTP.

### Background

SCAG was founded in 1965, when local elected officials from 56 cities and five counties convened to create a regional planning effort for Southern California's future. In 1992 SCAG expanded their 20-member Executive Committee to include a 70-member Regional Council, responsible for helping with new federal and state mandates, as well as to provide more broad-based representation of the region. Today SCAG encompasses six counties, 190 cities, six County Transportation Commissions, and representation from the region's Native American tribes.

### What does SCAG do?

Under federal and state law, SCAG is designated as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) but also serves as a Council of Governments (COG) and a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA). In these roles, SCAG is responsible for identifying Southern California's transportation priorities through development of Regional Transportation Plans. SCAG is also responsible for implementing the state Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) program on behalf of Southern California. SCAG also conducts extensive growth forecasting which is provided to local governments, including critical land use and demographic data to strengthen their planning efforts. SCAG also acts as an information clearing house, providing mapping, forecasting, regional statistics and data to members, stakeholders and the general public, upon request.

### How are decisions made at SCAG?

SCAG's governing structure is as follows:

**General Assembly (GA)** – SCAG is governed by the General Assembly, which annually brings together the official representatives of SCAG's membership and helps set the agency's course for the coming year. Amendments to SCAG's Bylaws also may be considered at the General Assembly. In addition, members of the General Assembly

consider adoption of SCAG's General Fund budget for the next fiscal year. Finally, SCAG's incoming President, Vice President and Second Vice President are elected.

**Regional Council (RC)** – Decision-making occurs through SCAG's Regional Council, a governing body comprised of elected officials representing the six counties and 190 cities in the SCAG region. The board may also include representatives from each of the County Transportation Commissions and the recognized tribal governments. SCAG's policy-making process is guided by the work of three Policy Committees: Transportation; Community, Economic and Human Development; and Energy and Environment and its operations are managed by the Executive/Administration Committee. Members of the Regional Council serve on one of three Policy Committees for two-year terms. Much of the discussion and debate on the “nuts and bolts” of an issue occurs in the Policy Committees and all issues considered by the Regional Council must first originate through one or more of the committees. In addition to Regional Council members, Policy Committees also include members from stakeholder organizations throughout the region.

### Organizational Responsibilities:

- ◆ Maintain a continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated planning process (the “3 Cs”) resulting in a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)
- ◆ Development of demographic projections
- ◆ Development of integrated land use, housing, employment, transportation programs and strategies for the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan
- ◆ Co-lead agency for air quality planning in the Central Coast and Southeast Desert air basin districts
- ◆ Responsible, via the federal Clean Air Act; for determining conformity and compliance with the Air Plan
- ◆ Authorized regional agency for intergovernmental review of proposed programs for federal financial assistance and direct development activities

## SCAG QUICK FACTS

### REGION-AT-A-GLANCE

- ▶ Six Counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura
- ▶ 190 Cities
- ▶ 38,000 Square Miles
- ▶ 19 Million People
- ▶ 15 Subregions
- ▶ 17<sup>th</sup> Largest Economy in the World

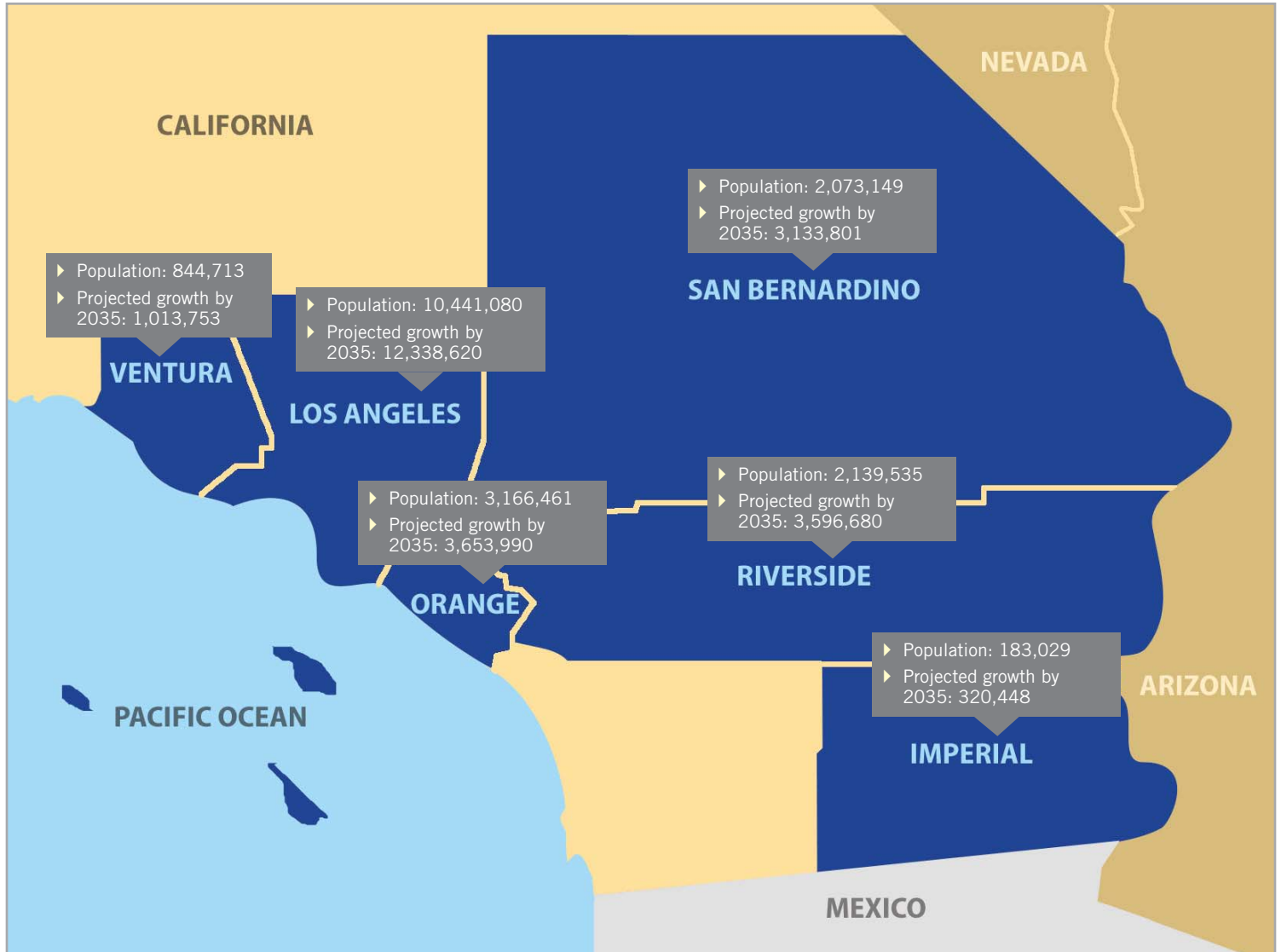
### BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ 48.8% of Total State Population
- ▶ 14.1 million Registered Vehicles / 11.1 million Licensed Drivers
- ▶ 10,457 Total Freeway & Carpool Lane Miles / 38,871 Road Lane Miles
- ▶ 5.9 million Total Households
- ▶ \$60,141 Median Household Income

- ◆ Review of environmental impact reports for projects having regional significance to ensure they are in line with approved regional plans
- ◆ Develop an area wide, waste treatment management plan
- ◆ Responsible for preparation of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- ◆ Along with the San Diego Association of Governments, and the Santa Barbara County/Cities Area Planning Council, SCAG is responsible for preparing the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan

For more information please visit the SCAG web site at: [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

To schedule presentations and for all media inquiries please contact [Angela Rushen, Manager of Media & Public Affairs](mailto:Angela.Rushen@scag.ca.gov) at (213) 236-1809 or [rushen@scag.ca.gov](mailto:rushen@scag.ca.gov).



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