



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.

TDA FACTSHEET

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE

Delete clause as underlined below in Section 99233.2 (b) (2)

99233.2.(a) Except as provided in subdivisions (b) and (c), there shall be allocated to the transportation planning agency, if it is statutorily created, such sums as it may approve, up to 3 percent of annual revenues, for the conduct of the transportation planning and programming process, unless a greater amount is approved by the director.

(b)(1) In those areas that have a county transportation commission created pursuant to Section 130050, up to 1 percent of annual revenues shall be allocated to the commission in Los Angeles County, and up to 3 percent of the annual revenues shall be allocated to the commissions in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties for the transporta-

tion planning and programming process. Of the funds allocated to the commission in Riverside County, one-half shall be allocated for planning studies within the Western Riverside County and the Coachella Valley areas, as determined by the commission.

(2) In the area of the multicounty designated transportation planning agency, as defined in Section 130004, up to three-fourths of 1 percent of annual revenues, **but not more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year**, shall be allocated by the appropriate...

JUSTIFICATION

Under the current Transportation Development Act (TDA) statute, SCAG would be apportioned $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% of revenues from four counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. The TDA allocation for the four counties for FY09 is \$612,768,000 million. Without the \$1 million cap, according to the statutory formula, SCAG's share for FY09 would be \$4.6 million. Removal of the cap would not impact the formula allocation and or any other part of the statute.

SCAG's TDA funding allocation is for transportation planning and programming purposes and matching federal funding. Of the other 16 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) or County Transportation Commissions (CTC) across the state, SCAG is the only one subject to a revenue cap. The current \$1 million cap on SCAG's TDA allocation has prevented funds from increasing with inflation and restricted resources which would allow more proactive and progressive outreach and data collection tools to be implemented.

As the largest MPO in the nation, SCAG's region encompasses 189 cities and six counties. Since 1979, when the \$1 million cap was put in place, SCAG's federally designated duties as a MPO and state transportation planning agency have significantly increased. Today, TDA funds are used for developing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), which serve the entire region. SCAG has tried to rely on federal funding to complete the functions required under both federal and state laws but

with continued growth and the costs of technological advances, the effect of the TDA revenue cap becomes increasingly problematic.

In an effort to ensure that all eligible transportation projects in the region proceed smoothly, it is critical for SCAG to continue its core planning work. Lifting the cap would not only provide SCAG with the necessary funds to meet its federal and state mandates but would also allow SCAG to continue to enhance existing programs that serve local jurisdictions and transit operators throughout the region.

Additional TDA funds would benefit SCAG's current programs and activities, improve its ability to partner with local governments and provide greater flexibility to set priorities according to current local and regional concerns. A reliable and sufficient source of flexible local funds is essential to SCAG's continued ability to successfully carry out its regional planning and programming mandates and serve its membership.

Status

This amendment is at the initial stages. An Assemblyman has been identified to carry the legislation and ...

For more information visit our Web site at www.scag.ca.gov or contact Sharon A. Neely, Director of Legislation, (213) 236-1992 or e-mail at neely@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG QUICK FACTS

- ▶ Only MPO or CTC in the entire state to be restricted by a revenue cap.

REVENUE ALLOCATION FOR FY09

- ▶ AS IS: \$612,768,000 million
- ▶ WITH AMENDMENT: \$4.6 million

REGION-AT-A-GLANCE

- ▶ 6 Counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura
- ▶ 189 Cities
- ▶ 38,000 Square Miles
- ▶ 18 Million People
- ▶ 15th Largest Economy in the World

INCREASED FUNDS TO BE USED FOR

- ▶ Support for regional planning through grants
- ▶ Outreach for SB 375
- ▶ Development of Sustainable Communities Strategy
- ▶ Development and enhancement of technical tools
- ▶ Improved tools for Data collection
- ▶ Enhancement of technical tools for Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- ▶ Enhancement and development for air quality conformity
- ▶ Enhancement of RTIP database