



Member Benefits

SCAG MEMBERSHIP HAS VALUE

As the largest metropolitan planning organization in the nation, SCAG takes very seriously its role as liaison among city and county elected officials, urban planners and community organizations. Elected officials from member agencies are eligible to serve on SCAG's Regional Council and Policy Committees. SCAG's 84 Regional Council members have the key responsibility for representing the Southern California region on issues such as transportation investments, growth strategies and the allocation of future housing needs. Regional Council members have an important voice in short and long-term planning and access to the insight provided on ongoing state activities affecting constituents. A rotating leadership structure allows access to prominent positions on the Regional Council and Policy Committees. Opportunities for leadership positions include policy committee chairmanships, and Regional Council Officer positions – President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Immediate Past President.

AN IMPORTANT VOICE

Through active participation, SCAG members get the satisfaction of knowing they're providing a voice for their community and their region. Since 1965, SCAG has conceptualized many regionally significant projects and programs, including the Alameda Corridor, Metrolink, Heal the Bay, the Salton Sea Authority and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV system). SCAG is a place to introduce, test and nurture new ideas.

INCREASED CLOUT

SCAG's staff closely monitors legislation in the state legislature and Congress, and informs the Regional Council about key legislative and administrative agency developments. SCAG also coordinates regular Regional Council member visits with elected and appointed officials of the executive and legislative branches of the federal and state governments.

KNOWLEDGE & INSIGHT

Members receive SCAG's e-alert, *SCAG Update* and the monthly e-newsletter, *SCAG Spotlight*. Members also receive free and/or discounted entry to SCAG-sponsored conferences and summits featuring the latest information and insights on issues of regional significance (e.g., Regional Economic Forecast Conference, Regional Housing Summit, etc.). In addition, Members receive a password to access the resources of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) through SCAG's primary membership. Members can learn from each other's policies and experiences through numerous networking opportunities, including the annual General Assembly and Regional Council Retreat.

VALUE FOR YOUR INVESTMENT

Dues paid to SCAG are equivalent to eight cents per capita, far less than those assessed for other Councils of Government locally and statewide (regional COG dues in other metropolitan areas generally range from 12-21 cents per capita).

For more information, contact the Regional Services staff in your county:

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SCAG RESOURCES

Funding

Members get help to find and secure grant funding from federal and state agencies for local projects.

Tools & Training

Members are provided the methodology, tools and training necessary to implement the strategies and principles of approved regional plans. SCAG can also perform site-specific performance analyses and transportation/land use benefits analyses.

Priority Response

Members receive priority response on requests for data, publications or planning support.

Custom Maps

Members can request the creation of customized maps for use on their jurisdiction's website.

Data Analyses

Members may access SCAG's website for jurisdictional data analyses; city general plan and land use maps; complete set of SCAG forecast spreadsheets and maps focusing on smaller levels of geography; selected transportation modeling data and modeling linked to the GIS street network; and easy-to-use census files, numerous publications and more.

Member Benefits – An Overview

1. Voice in Regional Planning

- Elected officials from member agencies are eligible to serve on SCAG's Regional Council and Policy Committees
- Regional Council and Policy Committees offer a seat at the table to develop policies to benefit the region
- Major plans include the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, (RHNA), and the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP)

2. Funding Opportunities

- Compass Blueprint
- Assistance in securing grant funding from federal and state agencies
- Regional planning studies to benefit specific areas

3. Transportation

- Collaborate to conduct corridor and area wide transportation planning studies
- Application of performance measures in evaluating transportation projects
- Special studies related to transportation issues such as Travel Demand Management (TDM), parking, pricing incentives
- Grant application for transportation projects
- Assistance with Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) submittals

4. Advocacy

- One region, one voice – SCAG harnesses the power of 190 cities and 6 counties to fight for Southern California's fair share of transportation dollars
- More clout in Sacramento and Washington
- Participation in the development of SCAG's annual Legislative Program
- Participation in SCAG's Washington DC and Sacramento trips

5. Data, GIS & Modeling

- Customized City Profiles
- Free GIS Training at all user levels on an annual basis
- Data sharing and mapping technical assistance
- Free access to SCAG's web-based Data/Information Repository
- Technical support as related to GIS training on an on-going basis
- Building technical capacity, including software, hardware, and application training in GIS
- Training on census-related data and processing
- Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) workshop to assist members with their compliance with the state's requirement, in conjunction with Caltrans
- Periodic surveys on data, information and service needs

6. Library of Regional Studies

Access to four decades of studies published by SCAG, including past Regional Transportation Plans, State of the Region, State of the Commute, and other studies such as goods movement, air quality and growth forecasts

7. Special Benefits

- Regional Council members receive stipends for attending meetings and appropriate reimbursement for mileage, parking and lodging
- Free or discounted entry to SCAG sponsored events, conferences and summits on issues of regional significance
- Members receive password to access the resources of the National Association of Regional Councils
- Members learn from each other's policies and experiences through numerous networking opportunities

- Members can benefit from Regional Offices in Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties, in addition to the Downtown Los Angeles Office

8. Community Development/Compass Blueprint

- Partnerships for Demonstration Projects & Local Technical Assistance – Financial resources to initiate local-regional partnerships that integrate land use planning and transportation investment decision-making critical to improving mobility, accessibility and air quality in Southern California
- Member Services: Tools, Training & Capacity Building – The development and application of new planning tools to expand the "Suite of Services" toolbox that assists local governments plan accordingly with the elements of the RTP and helps cities meet state law requirements under SB 375
- Data and Forecasting Technical Support – Growth Forecasting process to collect data useful to local governments for planning, forecasting, and economic development efforts. Data availability in easy-to-use formats disseminated via the web and directly upon request

9. Accomplishments

Over the past four decades, SCAG has been at the forefront of regional planning in Southern California working to find solutions to problems that affect everyone, such as Transportation, Housing, and Air Quality. Major accomplishments include:

- Alameda Corridor
- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) system
- Metrolink
- Heal the Bay
- Salton Sea Authority

