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# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***SCAG appoints Darin Chidsey as Chief Operating Officer; Will be responsible for driving the vision and strategies of the agency***

**Los Angeles** – Darin Chidsey has been appointed Chief Operating Officer for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents.

Chidsey is an 11-year veteran of SCAG, most recently serving as the Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs. Under his leadership, SCAG developed a successful State and Federal Legislative Program and has hosted many successful and highly regarded General Assemblies, Southern California Economic Summits, and War on Poverty Summits.

As COO, Chidsey will be responsible for driving the vision and strategies of the agency, as well as leading the implementation of new Regional Council initiatives. This includes updating SCAG’s Strategic Plan to ensure that the agency continues to support its member cities and work collaboratively towards regional goals.

His appointment followed a nationwide search.

“Throughout his time at SCAG, Darin has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the agency and passion for the work that we do here,” said Hasan Ikhata, SCAG’s Executive Director. “His experience and outstanding track record with the agency make him a perfect fit for this job.”

“We’re fortunate to have someone with Darin’s understanding of the region and the work SCAG does ready to move into this critical role,” said Michele Martinez, a Santa Ana Councilmember and President of SCAG. “Our staff is second to none. As we confront the challenges and opportunities our region faces, having this kind of internal capacity is a huge asset.”

Chidsey holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Southern California’s Marshall School of Business and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Energy Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. He is an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Senior Executive in State and Local Government program and was a fellow in the Southern California Leadership Network’s California Connections and Leadership Southern California programs.

“SCAG is a special organization,” Chidsey said. “The region that we are fortunate enough to represent is one of the most dynamic and diverse areas in the world, and we have an important role in shaping its future. I believe deeply in the mission of this organization and I am truly honored to serve as COO.”

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***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG, please visit: [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).