



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**AGENDA**

Thursday, November 8, 2007

5:00 p.m.

City of Camarillo

Council Chambers

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda upon completion of a speaker card. Individual Board Members may briefly respond to Public Comments or ask questions for clarification.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Minutes** – Adopt the Minutes of the September 13, 2007 meeting.

B. **Workplan Update** – Receive and file update.

**MEMBERS**

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City of Camarillo  
Jan McDonald, Member  
Kevin Kildee, *Alternate*

City of Oxnard  
Thomas Holden, Member  
Tim Flynn, *Alternate*

City of Simi Valley  
Paul Miller, Member  
Steven Sojka, *Alternate*

City of Fillmore  
Steve Conaway, Member  
Cecilia Cuevas, *Alternate*

City of Port Hueneme  
Toni Young, Member  
Maricela Morales, *Alternate*

City of Thousand Oaks  
Tom Glancy, Member  
Jaqui Irwin, *Alternate*

City of Moorpark  
Patrick Hunter, Member  
Keith Millhouse, *Alternate*

City of San Buenaventura  
Carl Morehouse, Member  
Brian Brennan, *Alternate*

County of Ventura  
Linda Parks, Member  
John Flynn, *Alternate*

City of Ojai  
Carol Smith, Member  
Joe De Vito, *Alternate*

City of Santa Paula  
Gabino Aguirre, Member  
John Procter, *Alternate*

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. **Update on VCOG/Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County” Project** – 1) Approve co-sponsorship with the Ventura County Civic Alliance of an application for “2% Strategy” funds from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for Phase II of “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County.” VCOG is not obligating any of its funds at this time to the project; and 2) direct staff to work with Civic Alliance on project.
- B. **2040 Population Forecast** - Receive oral report on status on 2040 population forecast to be considered at the VCOG Board’s January 10, 2008 meeting.
- C. **VCOG Graffiti Summit** - Receive oral report on December 5, 2007 Graffiti Summit, 8:30 AM to 12 Noon at the Camarillo Library.
- D. **Presentation by Community Environmental Council on Community Choice Aggregation for the Purchase or Construction of Energy Facilities by Local Governments** – Receive staff report, receive presentation by Community Environmental Council and provide direction to staff.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS**

- A. Southern California Association of Governments
- B. Ventura County Transportation Commission
- C. League of California Cities
- D. Other Agencies

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Any Board Member may propose items for placement on a future agenda. Members may discuss whether or not the item should be agendized and the description of the agenda item.

12. **ADJOURNMENT TO JANUARY 10, 2008**

***NOTE 2008 VCOG MEETING SCHEDULE – January 10, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11 and November 13, 2008.***

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on this agenda are on file in the City of Santa Paula City Manager’s Office and are available for public inspection. If you have any questions regarding any agenda item, contact the Interim Executive Director at (805) 933-4200.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Interim Executive Director. Notification 48 hours before the meeting will allow VCOG to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35, 102-35.104 ADA Title II).



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

***Draft* MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 13, 2007**

**5:00 p.m.**

**City of Camarillo**

**Council Chambers**

**601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**: Chair Morehouse called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
  2. **FLAG SALUTE**: Member Holden led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  3. **ROLL CALL**:

Alternate Member Sharkey	City of Port Hueneme
Member Jan McDonald	City of Camarillo
Member Patrick Hunter	City of Moorpark
Member Carl Morehouse	City of San Buenaventura
Member Tom Holden	City of Oxnard
Member Miller	City of Simi Valley

**Absent:** Member Cities: Fillmore, Ojai, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, and County of Ventura.
  4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.
  5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**: None.
  6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA**: Member Miller moved to approve. Member Holden seconded.
  7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
    - A. **Minutes** – Adopt the Minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting.
    - B. **Minutes** – Adopt the Minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting.
    - C. **Legislative Position Letters** – Receive and file letters sent by VCOG in support or position to state legislation.

Alternate Sharkey, Port Hueneme, indicated that he would be abstaining on A and B.

Member Miller moved to approve Items 7A – D. Member McDonald seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. **Introduction of VCOG Assistant Executive Director Debra Varnado**

Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director, introduced Debra Varnado to the meeting and invited her to speak. She will be the primary contact for SCAG as the liaison to VCOG and will be attending all SCAG Meetings (i.e., CEHD; EEC; Subregionals; and board meetings). She will keep VCOG informed of the activities at SCAG and indicated that she will leave her contact information should any member have any questions they would like answered or issues of inquiry.

B. **Update on VCOG / Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) “Compact for a Sustainable County” Project:** Rebecca Evans, Executive Director of VCCA provided an update that VCCA was nearing the completion of Phase I and the amended part of Phase II. The data results from the Workshop of June 7, 2007 (mapping exercise), which was being translated into more understandable descriptive language of what the input from the residents was that night on the maps. Trends that are seen reveal that Ventura County residents have more consensus—more than from many other regions—in terms of people wanting the same trend lines of future development and how to accommodate population growth and ways to adjust housing or development or transportation lines to accommodate that growth in the future.

Ms. Evans indicated that they were working on getting the language into the development of potential scenarios for the future and scenarios related to jobs housing balance, housing types, transportation and other environmental issues. A write-up of those potential scenarios will be forthcoming.

Open Houses are planned for both ends of the County to present the information back to the public, to invite an opportunity for them to ask questions and give input on the results. The plan for these Open Houses will take place near the end of October, over the course of two evenings. This will open the door for more people to attend.

In nearing the completion of the first phase, Ms. Evans stated that VCCA would have to be within SCAG’s timeline to apply for support in terms of dollars or in terms of dollars for consultant time to move forward. SCAG’s timeline is approaching in November 2007 for application of those resources for funding that will not be available until July 2008. VCCA would like to put the next phase of the compact work group into a proposal that VCCA would bring to VCOG, to take to SCAG. The essence of this next phase would be to take the results from the workshops and the upcoming Open Houses. The next phase is to do a closer outreach with all ten cities and other key communities in the unincorporated areas of the county to do outreach and get the next level of

input from residents and talk about how these plans and scenarios might look at a local level. That would be the next step for a region wide blueprint for the future.

Member McDonald inquired as to Ms. Evans' comment that it will be necessary to apply for funding in November, and then asked if VCCA was still in Phase II, to which Ms. Evans replied that it was part of Phase II that current allocations have taken VCCA part of the way into Phase II of which there are remaining items, and there would be parts of Phase III that would be put into the next proposal. Member McDonald inquired as to what has been approved by VCOG as partnering in this. Mr. Bobkiewicz responded that all that VCOG has agreed to was the first two phases; therefore, anything that would be brought to VCOG would be new for consideration. This will be on the November 8, 2007 VCOG agenda, in time for a submittal to SCAG, especially subsequent to the upcoming Open Houses.

Ms. McDonald indicated that it will be important for her to have that discussion with her Council before the November 8, 2007 VCOG meeting, and to have the information available for them about Phase III. Ms. Evans responded that it would be possible to get that information very quickly and will have them ready prior to the proposed Open Houses.

- C. **Graffiti Summit:** Interim Executive Director Bobkiewicz indicated that Charlotte Cravens, Camarillo Vice Mayor, had contacted him regarding graffiti and asked if the VCOG Board would consider graffiti issues subsequent to her attending the recent Contract Cities meeting which was held in May. She requested that VCOG discuss collaborative efforts in Ventura County. The Administrative Committee discussed this at their June meeting and asked to have it placed on the agenda.

Member McDonald offered that she was relaying information from Vice Mayor Cravens as she (Cravens) had a prior commitment. Member Holden indicated that mitigation strategies in Oxnard include a Graffiti Task Force that has had participation from neighboring cities such as Camarillo and Ventura.

Mr. Bobkiewicz asked for direction as to a possible Saturday workshop effort from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and inventory what some next steps might be. Member Holden suggested a Study Session, as there is a lot of information available. The City of Oxnard benefited by visiting the City of San Jose on numerous occasions. In a period of a year and a half, they (San Jose) reduced their graffiti by 75%. Oxnard has seen a huge impact, but the problem doesn't respect boundaries, so as Oxnard has reduced their issues, graffiti has filtered to the neighboring cities.

Chair Morehouse indicated that this should happen sooner than later and Mr. Bobkiewicz will work to organize near the first part of November.

- D. **Update on Implementation of 2007 Workplan:** Mina Layba, City of Thousand Oaks addressed the Board. The Legislative Committee advocated for SB 375 (Steinberg), which was a climate bill that integrated miles traveled and zoning. The Committee asked that the League change the wording to a 2-year bill and to consider local input. It has been made a 2-year bill. The second bill is ACA 8 Eminent Domain, which recently failed. The League and co-authors are collecting signatures by November to place this as a ballot measure in June. Other areas of discussion were Proposition 1A and the Budget Impasse. As of August 24, 2007 the Governor signed the budget about 50 days late into the process. The Assembly left on July 20, 2007. The Impasse was Senate republicans and they came to a conclusion of passing the budget in exchange for \$703 million worth of line item cuts to the \$145 billion plan, including \$5,023 million for health and human services, including Medi-Cal; \$70 million in State worker raises and \$39 million in funding for correctional facilities. Ms. Layba indicated that their committee usually doesn't meet when the Legislation is not in session; however, the Legislative Committee would be having a special meeting with Dave Mullinax on October 11, 2007 so he could provide updated highlights on what happened post session.

At the session that ended September 11, 2007, out of 2,800 bills, only 960 were approved during the 9-month session. Two overarching areas not resolved were the State Healthcare Coverage and Expanding the State's Water System. Ballot Measures to look for are: Term Limits and Eminent Domain for a future June election, and right now this redistricting issue may be put on a June or November ballot depending on number of ballots received.

Chair Morehouse commented on SB 375 and ACA 8 and recent League Conference hearings on both.

Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Bruce Feng, Assistant City Manager in Camarillo, who is staff to VCOG's Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee. Mr. Feng indicated that the subcommittee has been working on regional emergency planning with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, specifically with Laura Hernandez, Assistant Director, Disaster Services. On August 23 a Strategic Planning Participative Workshop was held that stressed a collaborative partnership with governmental agencies, private sector and local non-profit emergency preparedness organizations.

Ms. Hernandez prepared a summary of this workshop and on October 4, 2007. Mr. Feng indicated that he would be providing an email to the subcommittee inviting them to the follow-up to that workshop to take it to the next step.

Ms. Hernandez provided a PowerPoint presentation to the group. She passed out a *Home Safety Emergency Plan*, and anecdotally offered that unless they receive more funding, they are reaching the end of their quantities.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Hernandez commented that she hoped to come back to VCOG after the next workshop to seek input.

- E. **Stormwater Quality Funding and NPDES Permit Compliance:** Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Gerhardt Hubner from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District who spoke regarding next steps on the topic of Stormwater Quality and this impending permit compliance. He reiterated that the City Managers have been meeting weekly (via conference call) to discuss, because of the importance of this issue, and the prescriptive nature of this permit, the number of requirements that are in it and the cost implications. There was a Board of Supervisors Study Session on September 11, 2007, to raise awareness in the community of the importance of the issue. They plan to have future workshop sessions. The Regional Board will be meeting September 20, 2007, at the City of Ventura and open to the public and other stakeholders to present their concerns. Subsequently, while there will be a written comment period on September 28, 2007, the Ventura County Watershed Protection Group will also be submitting comments on that and wait for the outcome of the workshop of September 20, 2007. Hopefully, there will be some positive movement for them to facilitate further discussions with us so that our concerns can be addressed. They will issue the tentative order late Fall. There will be a formal, 45-day comment period, staff report, response to comments, and then an adoption hearing in 2008.

Chair Morehouse asked for questions from the board. Member Miller commented that he thought the City Managers were doing a good job coordinating and that he had attended the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2007, and thought that the cities would incur tremendous expenditures should the permit compliance be implanted as it is set up now. Simi Valley figured that it would cost them \$16.5 million annually to do what they want to do, and he will discuss this at the upcoming Regional Board meeting.

Holly Schroeder from the Building Industry Association of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties spoke and reiterated Mr. Hubner's concerns. She further commented that her organization shares a lot of the same concerns about the permit and have been actively participating with the Board, Gerhardt and the City Managers' staffs. She also indicated how important it is to Ventura County and so many of the requirements, because they are so prescriptive in the permit, conflict with a lot of the policy priorities in Ventura County making it very difficult in land development to do infill projects, a general priority in most cities with the SOAR initiative. She had attended a conference on Affordable Housing and mentioned that costs will dramatically increase if grading is restricted significantly over half of the year and other types of requirements for low impact development. There are a lot of implementation problems, and she stressed that her organization's general sense is that they, like the County and the individual cities, submitted significant comments to the regional board, met with board staff over the course of summer and do not feel that the BIA's concerns have been heard. The amount of change between the first and second drafts is not significant and she respectfully asked that as many representatives as possible be present at the upcoming Board meeting on September 20, 2007,

and contact as many lead board staff to express your concerns. BIA wants to be part of the solution to work together and be creative to work on solutions that make sense.

Member McDonald asked if VCOG could add its name to the list of engaged parties. Mr. Bobkiewicz responded that in the 5 years since his arrival there has never been a time when the City Managers have been so engaged as to meet weekly to discuss a topic until this one.

Since this item was agendaized, VCOG will be added to the list of interested parties for any future written correspondence that VCOG has taken a position. Mr. Bobkiewicz also responded that since Chair Morehouse would be present at the hearing it would be a good way to express that.

- F. **Status Report on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development:** Warren Whiteaker, SCAG staff on the RCP provided a PowerPoint presentation. There will be an increase of approximately 6 million people in the next 25 years, which is a 33% increase in population. This will have an impact on traffic, housing, open space, energy, demand and movement of goods, water quality and quantity, waste management, air quality. SCAG is looking at the 6-county region and the development of a sustainable vision and ultimately the framework to get there. They need plans that have measurable goals, outcomes, objectives and strategies to get on track to create a desirable future. Additionally, those plans need to meet the funding requirements above the state and federal regulations so that we can get those funds. More information on the RCP is available at: [compassblueprint.org](http://compassblueprint.org). The comprehensive plan builds on the State of the Region in that it wants to get on the right track and steer it towards the correct direction. Ventura County is already doing that and indicated that SCAG could use that example and start working on the rest of the region. Sustainability doesn't happen by accident. Ventura County has always been proactive, whether through SOAR or through its own Compact.

John Asuncion, SCAG staff member spoke on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is a document that brings together policies, strategies and projects that will serve the long-range transportation action plan for the region. It is a multi-modal plan that will integrate the best transportation system to integrate with the best possible transportation plan for the region in the year 2035.

Mr. Bobkiewicz reported that draft documents would be available after VCOG's November 8, 2007 meeting, and he would ask Ms. Varnado to come back with a staff review and work with appropriate staff members in the individual cities and involve the Planning Directors in the RCP, and he would also take a look at Ventura County and the RTP. He inquired of the board if it would be appropriate if it came back at the January meeting and indicated that there would still be time for VCOG to submit coordinated regional comments if VCOG were to come back with some staff thoughts on the draft in January.

Chair Morehouse responded that it would be prudent to do so.

- G. **Nominations for VCOG Representative on SCAG's Transportation and Communications Committee:** Chair Morehouse indicated that he had a hand-delivered letter to his attention from Tom Glancy from Thousand Oaks, which indicated his interest in that seat.

Member Holden moved to appoint. Member Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:**

- A. **Southern California Association of Governments:** None.
- B. **Ventura County Transportation Commission:** Mary Travis welcomed Debra to Ventura County. Did not meet the past week due to the League of California Cities Conference. VCTC is submitting an application for funding of a Farmworker Van Pool program, which was set up by Assemblymember Pedro Nava to coordinate efforts to get farmworkers to and from the fields, rather than their having to drive individually in whatever shape or form of vehicle. Also VCTC will be having a presentation by Councilmembers from the City of Santa Barbara about some type of commuter hour train service between Ventura and Santa Barbara, and finally discussion was taking place regarding the appointment of a new Executive Director to the Commission.
- C. **League of California Cities:** Dave Mullinax could not be present as his father was ill.

Chair Morehouse spoke about the division meeting to be hosted by Ventura on October 12 in conjunction with the Scottish Highland Games.

- D. **Other Agencies:** None.

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** None.

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. to November 8, 2007 at Camarillo City Hall.



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Update on Implementation of 2007 Workplan**  
**DATE:** November 8, 2007

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**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file this update on implementation of the 2007 Workplan.

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**Discussion:** The following is an overview of the status of the implementation of the 2007 Workplan.

1. AB 939 Task Force: There are no issues pending on this subject.
2. Regional Housing Needs Assessment: There are no issues pending on this subject.
3. Future Governance Models: There are no issues pending on this subject.
4. Legislative Agenda: Mina Layba, Senior Analyst, City of Thousand Oaks, has provided a written report from the Legislative Committee's October 18, 2007 meeting and will be present at the meeting to answer any questions.
5. Informal Gatherings of Ventura County Officials: The Board held its annual meeting dinner at the Camarillo Library in June.
6. Emergency Preparedness: There is no status report from the Board's subcommittee on this subject at this time.
7. Homeless Services: There are no issues pending on this subject.

**Attachment:**  
Notes – October 18, 2007 Legislative Committee Meeting

**VCOG Legislative Committee**  
**October 18, 2007**  
**Meeting Notes**

1. **League of California Cities Report:** Dave Mullinax, Grassroots Coordinator reviewed legislative year. Overall, the legislative year was not too productive. Many bills have become 2-year bills.

One hot issue is Term Limit Initiative. The initiative frames limits to 12 years of service in either or a combination of both houses. Proponents of the initiative have approximately \$10 million to launch their campaign.

ACA 8- The Eminent Domain Bill failed because Republicans did not vote. The Jarvis tax group worked with the apartment association to develop a voter initiative that would help eliminate rent control. Like Prop 90, the initiative is wrought with regulatory takings. An opposing initiative is being launched by the CitiPac and a coalition involving the League of California Cities (LCC) called the Homeowners Protection Act to counter the Jarvis Initiative. For either initiative to pass, it will need a simple majority.

A list of priority bills and actions taken by the Governor was also reviewed. (See attached.)

2. **Channel Counties Division Meeting:** The Channel Counties dinner was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Ventura on Friday, October 12. Guest Speaker was LCC Chair Jim Maddaffer. Chair Maddaffer reviewed Eminent Domain Initiatives.
3. **Roundtable-** Review of current legislative issues cities have taken positions on or monitoring.
  - a. Traffic initiatives were introduced in both the Cities of Oxnard and Thousand Oaks which would require a traffic impact before a new development over 1000 square feet (Thousand Oaks) and 5000 square feet (Oxnard) can be approved.
4. **Upcoming Events:**
  - a. LCC Legislative Briefing November 28 at the Pasadena Hilton. Most Legislative Committee liaisons will be attending.
  - b. National League of Cities Conference of Cities, November 13-17 in New Orleans. Cities of Thousand Oaks and Oxnard will be sending representatives.
5. **Committee Recommendations for Board Advocacy-** A presentation of Eminent Domain Initiative sponsored the LCC was suggested for presentation to VCOG during the next board meeting. Dave Mullinax, Grassroots Coordinator will make the presentation to the board.
6. **Next Meeting:** December 16; 3:30 p.m. Camarillo City Hall.
7. **Announcements:** none

## Legislative Session: How Cities Fared on Priority Bills

### Land Use

**AB 414 (Jones). VETO.** Restricts how local agencies can count sites for housing designated on non-residential land and imposes these conditions for all local agencies regardless of size, circumstance, or performance. **VETOED by Governor 10/13/07**

**AB 1542 (Evans). SIGN.** Continues to allow local rent control ordinances to keep mobile homes at an affordable rate for those on fixed incomes. **VETOED by Governor 10/12/07**

### Economic Development

**SB 103 (Cedillo). VETO.** Requires local agencies to generate a hold a public hearing before granting any economic subsidy (include reduced revenues), post the information on the agency's Web site (if applicable), and then generate a report on all economic development subsidies that remain in effect every two years. The bill is also applicable to redevelopment agencies. **VETOED by Governor 10/5/07**

### Infrastructure

**SB 586 (Dutton). SIGN.** This bill implements the \$100 million innovation fund authorized by Prop. 1C (the provisions of which requires a two-thirds approval by the Legislature). Appropriations include \$35 million for local housing trust funds, \$50 million for a land acquisition loan fund, \$10 million for innovative home ownership programs, and \$5 million for a pilot construction liability insurance reform program. **SIGNED by Governor 10/13/07**

### Flood Package

**SB 5 (Machado). SIGN.** This bill is a comprehensive planning proposal to improve development practices in flood plains. While it requires 200-year protection in the most vulnerable areas of the Central Valley it also provides relief in the form of "adequate progress" provisions that will allow cities and counties to continue to grow during the interim period until they reach the 200-year level of protection.

This bill is part of a package of flood bills (SB 5, AB 5, SB 17, SB 162) that are the result of extensive stakeholder negotiations and are supported by a coalition of cities, planners, business and environmental groups. AB 70 (Jones) is **not** part of this answer. **SIGNED by Governor 10/10/07**

**AB 5 (Wolk). SIGN.** This bill is a technical clean-up vehicle to the package of flood bills (SB 5, SB 17, SB 162) that are the result of extensive stakeholder negotiations and are supported by a coalition of cities, planners, business and environmental groups. **SIGNED by Governor 10/10/07**

**AB 162 (Wolk). SIGN.** This bill expands the requirements for flood management in city and county general plans. **SIGNED by Governor 10/10/07**

**SB 17 (Florez). SIGN.** This bill reforms and renames the State Reclamation Board to improve proficiency, and requires development of State Plan of Flood Control for the Central Valley. **SIGNED by Governor 10/10/07**

### Flood Liability

**AB 70 (Jones). VETO.** This bill shifts millions of dollars in potential legal liability from the state to local governments in the event that state-maintained levees fail. It is extremely flawed policy to attempt to saddle local governments with liability for the failure of levees over which they have no control. This bill is not part of the consensus package of flood bills supported by the League and passed by the Legislature this year. **SIGNED by Governor 10/10/07**

## Transportation

**AB 193/AB 196 (Committee on Budget). SIGN.** The bills contain the League-sponsored cleanup language to SB 88 (Budget Committee) to clarify allocation and oversight for Prop. 1B local streets and roads funding. AB 196 is especially important to cities because it clarifies the split of the \$950 million for local streets and roads funding between cities and counties so cities receive \$550 million and counties receive \$400 million as per their budget request. This clarification is supported by both the League and CSAC. **SIGNED by Governor 10/8/07**

**AB 945 (Carter). SIGN.** Requires the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to develop an assessment of the unfunded costs of programmed state projects and federally earmarked projects in the state, as well as an assessment of available funding for transportation purposes and unmet transportation needs on a statewide basis.

CTC would be required to work with regional transportation planning agencies, California Transit Association, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the League to develop the reports with the first report due by July 1, 2008. **VETOED by Governor 10/11/07**

**SB 717 (Perata). SIGN.** Continuously authorizes sales tax revenue derived from the sale of motor vehicle fuels to be transferred to the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) beginning in FY 2008-07 (Prop. 42). It also maintains the current distribution formula of the tax revenues at 20 percent to the Public Transit Account (PTA), 40 percent to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and 40 percent to cities and counties (20 percent to cities and 20 percent to counties) for street and road purposes.

A permanent shift of sales tax on gasoline for transportation purposes and the agreed upon formula under Proposition 42 will ensure that cities and counties can preserve, maintain, and rehabilitate the local street and road system. **SIGNED by Governor 10/14/07**

## Labor Relations

**AB 220 (Bass). VETO.** Duplicates the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights and permits firefighters to engage in special political activities and provide procedures and conditions for the investigation and interrogation of an employee that could lead to a punitive action. **SIGNED by Governor 10/13/07**

**AB 553 (Hernandez). VETO.** The bill would authorize the Public Employees Relations Board to determine, under the Meyers Milius Brown Act, whether to seek from a court jurisdiction injunctive relief involving employee strikes, work stoppages, or lockouts. **VETOED by Governor 9/26/07**

**SB 942 (Migden). VETO.** Requires an employer to reinstate an employee to their pre-injury job within five working days upon release of the treating doctor or reimburse the worker for lost wages and work benefits. **VETOED by Governor 10/12/07**

## Public Safety

**AB 81 (Torrico). SIGN.** Allows a local fire agency, upon approval of the appropriate governing board, to designate safe-surrender sites for accepting physical custody of a minor child seven days old or younger. It would also create greater awareness of options other than child abandonment and reduce the likelihood that public safety personnel will have to go through the experience of responding to a call to retrieve an abandoned baby. **VETOED by Governor 10/13/07**

**AB 1291 (Mendoza). Anti-gang Violence Parenting Classes. SIGN.** Allows for court-ordered anti-gang classes for parents or guardians of minors involved with a first time gang-related offense. The anti-gang classes proposed in the measure would help increase parental and guardian understanding about the impact of their child's actions, and will also provide the tools and resources to help prevent future gang involvement. **SIGNED by Governor 10/11/07**

**SB 67 (Perata). SIGN.** Provides law enforcement agencies with an additional tool to address "sideshow" activities and the safety concerns associated with these dangerous actions by enabling law enforcement to impound involved vehicles. **SIGNED by Governor 10/14/07**

**SB 839 (Calderon). SIGN.** Provides for the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop a model ordinance permitting local jurisdictions to adopt a streamlined enforcement and administrative fine procedure related to the possession of 25 pounds or less of dangerous fireworks. It also helps establish a funding source to offset the costs incurred by the safe collection and disposal of these fireworks by public safety agencies. **SIGNED by Governor 10/12/07**

### **Revenue and Taxation**

**AB 1222 (Laird). SIGN.** Implements a number of reforms to the procedures involving processing claims to establish the existence of a reimbursable state mandate, including parameters and guidelines for mandate determination and procedures for development of statewide cost estimates. **SIGNED by Governor 10/8/07**

**AB 1260 (Caballero). SIGN.** Provides helpful guidance to local government agencies on the process for handling the notice and protest requirements contained in Article XIII D (established by Prop. 218 of 1996) to address issues raised in the recent court decision *Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency v. Verjil and Kelly*. **SIGNED by Governor 10/5/07**

**AB 373 (Wolk). SIGN.** Expands the authorized use of Mello-Roos districts to include lighting maintenance, street and road maintenance, and plowing and removal of snow; makes other clarifying and technical changes to address outdated code sections and cross-references. **SIGNED by Governor 10/13/07**

**AB 969 (Eng). SIGN.** Improves the collection of use tax revenues owed to state and local government by consumers and businesses through clarifications made to state income tax return forms. **VETOED by Governor 10/14/07**

**SB 38 (Battin). SIGN.** Provides income and property tax relief to individuals, businesses and local governments that suffered losses resulting from the wildfires in Riverside County in October 2006. **SIGNED by Governor 9/21/07**

**AB 62 (Nava). SIGN.** Provides income and property tax relief to individuals, businesses and local governments that suffered losses resulting from specific wildfires in Ventura, El Dorado, and Santa Barbara County during the past two years. **SIGNED by Governor 9/21/07**

**SB 114 (Flores/Hollingsworth). SIGN.** Provides income and property tax relief to individuals, businesses and local governments that suffered losses resulting from the 2007 freeze. **SIGNED by Governor 9/21/07**

### **Miscellaneous**

**AB 701 (De La Torre). SIGN.** Increases city council member compensation in general law cities for the first time since 1984. **VETOED by Governor 10/10/07**

**AB 1294 (Mullin). SIGN.** Allows "ranked voting" as an election method in which voters rank the candidates for office in order of preference, and the ballots are counted in rounds. **VETOED by Governor 10/14/07**



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** **FY 2008/09 Request for “2% Strategy” Funds from the Southern California Association of Governments for “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County”**

**DATE:** November 8, 2007

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**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Directors 1) approve co-sponsorship with the Ventura County Civic Alliance of an application for “2% Strategy” funds from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for Phase II of “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County”. VCOG is not obligating any of its funds at this time to project; and 2) direct staff to work with the Civic Alliance on project.

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**Discussion:** At its July 13, 2006 meeting, VCOG approved co-sponsorship with the Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) on a proposed “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County.” This civic engagement process is identifying key regional challenges, develop a shared vision for the region and create a roadmap for achieving this. VCOG agreed conceptual with Phase I and II of the proposed project at that time and authorized co-sponsorship of funding application to SCAG for Phase I. The initial Compact project description is attached.

The Compact project was awarded an in-kind consulting services grant from SCAG of \$150,000 to begin the project. In the last sixteen months, VCCA has worked on the implementation of Phase I of the project. VCCA anticipates spending the next nine months continuing work on the implementation of Phase I of the project. VCCA is planning now for the implementation of Phase II and is working on an application to SCAG for funding for FY 2008/09 to assist in this effort. A draft of this funding application to implement Phase II is attached.

**Attachments:**

1. “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County” June, 2006 Initial Proposal
2. Draft FY 2008/09 Funding Proposal

## **PROPOSAL TO BECOME A 2% STRATEGY DEMONSTRATION COMMUNITY**

### **Project plan/location**

This project involves Ventura County, California and all cities within.

### **Assistance required**

The attached project summary document outlines the *Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County*, a joint proposal by the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) and the Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA). This proposal covers Phase 1 of the project to be conducted during the first nine months of a projected three-year effort. The project has three basic components, or phases:

- Phase 1: Data Collection and Scenario Development.** Collect data, update the 2002 Ventura County Vacant Land Study, identify goals and policy options, and develop and analyze a preliminary set of alternative scenarios for Ventura County's future.
- Phase 2: Identification of Preferred Regional Future.** Refine the preliminary scenarios and develop and conduct a process utilizing media and public education, community workshops, and leading-edge visualization, consensus-building and decision-making tools and procedures to identify a broadly supported "Preferred Regional Future."
- Phase 3: Implementation.** Develop and begin executing an implementation and monitoring plan to work toward achieving the Preferred Regional Future.

The assistance requested at this time is support from SCAG's consultants, Fregonese Calthorpe Associates, in Phase 1 activities as identified above. Funding for later phases of the project will be sought from SCAG, local governments, businesses, foundations, individuals, and organizations such as the Urban Land Institute and the Local Government Commission.

### **How this project implements the Compass Vision and 2% Strategy**

Ventura County has, over the years, largely constrained development within urban boundaries and avoided the sprawl-type development that has consumed most of the land in other southern California counties. But Ventura County faces growth pressures similar to those of these counties and must decide where to place such growth. Most SOAR initiatives sunset in 2020 and it is not too soon to begin planning for what will follow. An overall regional plan, or vision, for the future of Ventura County will undoubtedly favor mixed-uses, infill and development close to transportation corridors. Thus, in effect, Ventura County already is in a good position to implement the Compass 2% Strategy, and the project should have the end result of a regional vision that reflects Compass Strategy. The plan must also, of course, deal with numerous issues including affordable housing, workforce education, open space preservation and a host of other quality-of-life issues.

In addition to the Compass data and analysis, the project will build on numerous previous efforts supported by SCAG, VCOG, the Ventura County Transportation Commission, and the Ventura County Planning Division, including:

- Agricultural/Open Space Resource Management as a Transportation Land Use Impact Mitigation Strategy (1997)
- Transportation Center Study (2002)
- Economic/Transit/Mixed Use Strategies for Housing Rich Communities (2004)
- Ventura County Vacant Land Study (2002)
- The State of the Sub-region Ventura County – Measuring Progress in the 21st Century (2002)
- Strategies for Livable Communities (1998)
- Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction (1995)

The project will also build on work by the Ventura County Civic Alliance on promoting livable communities and sustainability in our region; previous city, county and regional visioning and planning efforts in Ventura County; and lessons learned from similar efforts in other regions, including the Sacramento Blueprint, the Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area, Envision Utah, and others.

### **Larger agency efforts**

This project is proposed by the Ventura Council of Governments and the Ventura County Civic Alliance. The county and ten city governments have been invited and strongly encouraged to partner with VCOG and VCCA in this effort, though participation is voluntary and non-binding. VCOG, VCCA and their partners will agree on a joint leadership and decision-making structure for managing the project. Partners will have the opportunity to review a draft report of results and submit comments before a final report is produced.

### **Anticipated start date**

The anticipated start date under this proposal is September, 2006. The entire project including follow-on phases covers the period 2006-2009, followed by implementation.

### **Estimated expense of services**

Services under this proposal would support tasks carried out in the first nine months of the work plan. It is anticipated that services in the \$100,000-\$150,000 range would cover Phase 1 activities.

### **Source for 20% local match**

VCCA will provide staffing, coordination and member support for the project. VCOG members and/or city and county planning staff will also provide in-kind support and data for the project. Additional financial and in-kind support will be sought from local governments in Ventura County, businesses, foundations, individuals, and civic institutions – and, in fact, is currently being sought by the Civic Alliance. It is anticipated that such support, including that provided by VCCA, VCOG, and their members, will significantly exceed the 20% match level.

### **Type of product**

The product of the first phase of the project, to be covered by the services under this proposal, will be a report that will update information in the Ventura County Vacant Land Study, a preliminary set of alternative future scenarios with associated land use maps, and preliminary analysis of the impacts and implications of those scenarios.

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County** A Proposal of the Ventura County Civic Alliance

**Project Definition:** The **Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County** project encompasses a civic engagement process that would identify key regional challenges, develop a shared vision for the region's future rooted in common values, and create a blueprint embodying this vision along with a roadmap for achieving it. The anticipated timeframe for the project is 2006-2009.

**Project Objectives:** The Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) is a non-governmental regional body that has identified quality-of-life indicators for Ventura County that point to several major problems that must be addressed to establish a sustainable future for our region. VCCA is embarking upon a three-year program to advance regional planning in the county with the aim of establishing a **Preferred Regional Future** – a blueprint for our region's future that embodies the common values and aspirations of our communities and that has widespread support from county residents, businesses, civic leaders and policymakers. VCCA supports smart growth and the “three E” principle of ensuring that economic, environmental and social equity interests are brought together in all land use, resource management, community and economic development, and related decision-making processes.

The project will address four key questions about Ventura County's future in a three-phase project:

- I. Where we are now? (Phase 1)
- II. Where we are going? (Phase 1)
- III. Where do we want to be? (Phase 2)
- IV. How do we get there? (Phase 3)

### **Project Milestones**

#### **Phase 1: Data Collection and Scenario Development**

**Milestone 1 - Inventory of data:** Develop baseline data by collecting and organizing *State of the Region* indicators and other relevant countywide and regional data related to population, land use, housing, transportation, water demand/supply and quality, energy supply and demand, air quality, and relative environmental and social equity information.

**Milestone 2 - Goals:** Compile and synthesize existing city and county goals - employ “Faulkner House Compact” goals as appropriate, prepare draft of Preferred Goals.

**Milestone 3 - Vacant Land Study 2006:** Update the 2002 study, collect new vacant land information from cities, revise GIS maps, trend analysis and findings.

**Milestone 4 - Policy options:** Compile policy recommendations from VCOG, VCTC, SCAG livable communities studies, city and county general plans and studies; develop preliminary policy options that most effectively alleviate identified problems, emphasizing the “3E” perspectives of economy, environment and social equity, SCAG 2% Strategies for mobility, sustainability and prosperity, and smart growth and “new urbanism” principles (e.g., infill, land recycling, walkable communities, transit-oriented development, and preservation of open space and historic areas).

**Milestone 5 – Preliminary alternative scenarios:** Develop scenario methodology and a range of preliminary future scenarios along with assumptions, constraints, and impact analysis (e.g., population, housing mix, economic development, jobs/housing balance, traffic congestion, air quality, open space and farmland acreage).

## **Phase 2: Identification of Preferred Regional Future**

**Milestone 6 – Refine alternative scenarios:** Finalize a set of three or four future scenarios from the options identified in Phase 1 and complete impact analysis with input from planners and community leaders.

**Milestone 7 – Identify Preferred Regional Future:** Develop and conduct a process utilizing media and public education, community workshops in all ten cities in the county, and leading-edge visualization, consensus-building and decision-making tools and methodologies to identify a broadly supported **Preferred Regional Future**, along with land-use maps, supporting data and final policy options.

## **Phase 3: Implementation**

**Milestone 8 – Implementation requirements:** Identify implementation needs and requirements, including monitoring techniques, development of urban form techniques and tools, model ordinances and intergovernmental agreements, zoning revisions, etc.

**Milestone 9 – Implementation plan:** Assess and select those implementation tools and techniques that will best implement the Preferred Regional Future; define implementation plan and begin execution and monitoring.

**Need for Inclusiveness:** The VCCA recognizes that, for the **Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County** project to have any chance of success, the cities in the county, along with the county itself, must be vested in the project. We welcome and strongly encourage their active involvement. As the process unfolds and financial resources are assembled, we seek partnership, participation, assistance, input and support from the broadest possible array of city and county governments, regional governing bodies and special districts, businesses and civic institutions.

**Southern California Association of Governments  
Overall Work Program FY 2008-09**

**Proposal Elements**

**Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County -  
Integrating Transportation and Land-Use Planning for Sustainable  
Communities  
Implementation of Phase 2: Identification of Preferred Regional Plan**

**Budget:**

**Estimated expense of services:**

Services under this proposal would support those tasks under Phase 2 of the *Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County* (Attachment A) to be carried out during 2008 and 2009. It is anticipated that consultant services in the range of \$100,000 to 150,000 are required, plus approximately \$10,000 for VCCA and VCOG for expenses incurred in doing regional workshops.

**Sources for local match**

VCCA will provide staffing, coordination and member support for the project. VCOG members and/or city and county planning staff will also provide in-kind support and data for the project. Additional financial and in-kind support will be sought from local governments in Ventura County, businesses, foundations, individuals, and civic institutions – and, in fact, is currently being sought by the Civic Alliance. It is anticipated that such support, including that provided by VCCA, VCOG, and their members, will meet or significantly exceed any required match level.

**Previous/Objectives:**

**Previous Accomplishments:**

The partnership of VCCA, VCOG working with SCAG and Fregonese Calthorpe Associates and Solimar Research Group has accomplished Phase I of a multi-phase project *Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County (attachment A)*. In 2007 we achieved the milestones outlined in Phase 1 of the Compact (Attachment A) and convened over 130 residents of Ventura County at a countywide workshop on June 7, 2007 at California State University Channel Islands. We will present the results of the workshop to the public in two open house events on October 24 & 25, 2007. A final report on Phase 1 will be completed by December 2007.eff

The proposed project builds on work by the Ventura County Civic Alliance to promote livable communities and sustainability in our region; previous city, county and regional visioning and planning efforts in Ventura County; and lessons learned from similar efforts in other regions, including the Sacramento Blueprint, the Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area, Envision Utah, and others.

This project is proposed by the Ventura Council of Governments and the Ventura County Civic Alliance. The county and ten city governments have been invited and strongly encouraged to partner with VCOG and VCCA in this effort, though participation is voluntary and non-binding. VCOG and VCCA have set up a joint leadership and decision-making structure for managing the project, which worked well during Phase 1. All partners will have the opportunity to review a draft report of results and submit comments before a final report is produced.

## **Objectives:**

**The objective of the proposed project is completion of Phase 2 of the *Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County* - a multiphase effort for achieving a regional blueprint for land use and transportation in Ventura County.**

This proposal builds on the work completed during Phase 1 and covers Phase 2 of the project to be conducted during 2008 and 2009. The overall project has three basic components, or phases:

- Phase 1: Data Collection and Scenario Development January 2007- June 2008).** Collect data, update the 2002 Ventura County Vacant Land Study, identify goals and policy options, and develop and analyze a preliminary set of alternative scenarios for Ventura County's future
- Phase 2: Identification of Draft Preferred Regional Future and Draft Compact (July , 2008 – December 2009).** Refine the preliminary scenarios and develop and conduct a process utilizing media and public education, community workshops, and leading-edge visualization and consensus-building tools and procedures to identify a Draft Preferred Regional Future and Draft Compact.
- Phase 3: Implementation (2010-2011).** Develop a Final Preferred Regional Future and Compact. Develop an implementation strategy and begin implementation and monitoring.

We may need a paragraph here giving more detail on how we will accomplish project objectives.

### **Anticipated start date**

The anticipated start date for Phase 2 under this proposal is July, 2008. This phase covers the period 2008-2009, followed by Phase 3 implementation.

## **STEPS and PRODUCTS:**

### **PRODUCTS:**

The products of Phase 2, to be covered by the services under this proposal, will consist of the following elements of the *Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County* that build on and expand the work of Phase 1.

1. Draft Preferred Regional Future – This will consist of a mapped and written vision document. The draft will be based on further refinement of the Phase 1 scenarios and associated policy options; it will emphasize integrating transportation and land use planning, including transportation accessibility and mobility; it will consider city boundary control options that could follow after expiration of the SOAR initiatives; it will consider additional parameters relating to sustainability such as AB 32 compliance, water availability and distribution, and wildlife habitat and corridor protection.
  
2. Draft Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County – This document will be based on a refined set Guiding Principles and policy options selected for the Preferred Regional Future; it will be aimed at achieving an eventual broad range of regional consensus and “sign-on” groups.
  
3. Compact Road Show – This will consist of a powerpoint and map presentation outlining the Compact issues and process. It will be suitable for use in general public education and community workshops.
  
4. Website update and email newsletter.



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** **Presentation by Community Environmental Council on Community Choice Aggregation for the Purchase or Construction of Energy Facilities by Local Governments**

**DATE:** November 8, 2007

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**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive this report, receive presentation by Community Environmental Council and provide direction to staff.

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**Discussion:** VCOG Chair Carl Morehouse requested that this item be placed on today's agenda for consideration. The Council provided the following information to Chair Morehouse:

"The Community Environmental Council would like to present information on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a new law that allows local governments to buy or build energy facilities for themselves and their residents. We are interested in Community Choice as a way of developing local renewable energy resources and saving money over utility electricity because of the financial advantages governments enjoy that private utilities don't, such as: no taxes, no profit requirement, and access to very cheap money. Furthermore, CCA allows local governments to invest in renewable energy like wind, biomass, and geothermal that cost less, on an apples to apples basis, than natural gas-fired electricity and have less volatility. Local renewable energy projects will also generate jobs in the community. There are, of course, risks in becoming a CCA. For this reason, we are suggesting a feasibility study as a relatively easy and risk-free first step. A feasibility study will flesh out the costs, benefits and risks and give you a better idea of the potential renewable energy sources in the county.

VCOG is uniquely suited to head this feasibility study because a VCOG study would require less time and effort than each city conducting a separate feasibility study. Additionally, this study would facilitate long term energy planning for the region. The County of Los Angeles has stated its interest in a feasibility study, as has the County of Santa Barbara, so there may be an opportunity to work with the County of L.A. and the County of Santa Barbara in conducting a feasibility study. "

VCOG staff has not had an opportunity to investigate Community Choice Aggregation since Chair Morehouse asked on October 31, 2007 that this item be added to the agenda and has no recommendation at this time on this issue.

Each month I establish, with input from the Directors, the priority issues on which management and the staff focus. This report summarizes the work that was accomplished during the month as well as other items I feel will give the Council a better understanding of what the staff and I are doing to accomplish our performance objectives.

### **I. Improve the efficiency and accountability of management within the organization**

- Best Practices

SAP Consulting services have been contracted to perform a financial management information system assessment. The scope of work will include determining whether our current system setup optimized the current SAP version's functionality and whether or not our configuration can easily upgrade to the next version of the SAP software.

The Accounting and Budget and Grants staffs have completed all budget, appropriation, and funding assessment requirements for fiscal year 2008 and are completing testing of a new consolidated budget development system. The new system will extend the existing OWP development system capability to general fund, indirect cost budgets, and improve our analytical capability during the budget process. It will also support realignment of some of our projects and tasks to reduce the administrative costs of project oversight.

### **II. Provide support to the Regional Council in providing direction and leadership to SCAG**

- On September 19th, I, Hasan Ikhata, Joe Burton and staff met with representatives of the Union Pacific and BNSF railroads to discuss and explore additional mitigation measures regarding locomotive emissions and railroad operations that could contribute to meeting the South Coast District's PM<sub>2.5</sub> emission reduction target. The parties agreed to additional meetings to discuss the issues.
- On September 20th, staff and SCAG's Compass consultant met with Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti to review the Compass Demonstration Project exploring the feasibility, land use and urban design implications of a proposal to "deck" the below-grade portion of the Hollywood Freeway and create a new public park and neighborhood centerpiece. SCAG's local partners on the project are the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the Hollywood office of the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles. Council President Garcetti's office has been an active supporter of the project as well.
- On September 25th, I and Dan Griset participated in a panel discussion on water supply, comprehensive planning and sustainability. Attending this roundtable convened by the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy were members of the Legislature, environmental advocates, industry leaders and various others with public interests. A number of legislators expressed interest in the presentation, reflecting their interest in finding better ways to invest state bond funds and other public monies in regions with growth and infrastructure challenges. We will meet with these legislators to clarify their concerns before we go further to build local support for comprehensive planning and the kind of coordination that better supports sustainable outcomes.
- On September 27th, Jim Gosnell gave a presentation on SCAG's High Speed Regional Transit System to OCTA's Transit Planning and Operations Committee.

- On September 28th-30th, I attended and participated in NARC's 6th Annual Mega Regions Forum in Atlanta. The Forum was co-sponsored by the Regional Plan Association and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and hosted by the Atlanta Regional Commission. The Major Metro discussed a proposed policy paper for ISTEAs reauthorization and progress in implementing a Southwest Alliance.

- Member Relations

Member Relations staff had an active month. They attended the SANDAG Committee on Bi-National Regional Opportunities (COBRO) representing the Bi-State Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and volunteered to serve on the Annual COBRO Event Planning Subcommittee. Planning & Policy and Member Relations staff worked in partnership to give numerous RTP/RCP presentations to Subregions, Chamber and community organizations, City Managers, the City of Indio and the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN). They participated in the Imperial County Centennial Celebration with Information Technology staff. Member Relations is also meeting with new members to review the information presented at the New Members Orientation event last month.

### **III. SCAG Operations**

- Personnel. Joe Burton started as SCAG's new Chief Counsel on September 17th. The final interviews for Director of Government and Public Affairs are scheduled for October 11th. Recruitment continues for other staff positions.
- Training and Development/Professional Pathways. CPR Training was offered in September along with wellness screenings for blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol at the annual open enrollment benefits fair. Training is ongoing for internal processes, preventing harassment/discrimination, the Leadership/Management training series. The Wellness theme for October is Stress Management. The staff committee planning the next annual SCAG staff retreat has been meeting regularly to finalize the theme and activities. The retreat is scheduled for November 15th and will be held at the Universal Sheraton in Universal City on the North Hollywood Red Line route. The theme is centered around Connecting, Collaborating and Change.
- Organizational Changes. As I discussed with the Executive Committee at the Retreat in June 2007, there were three shifts in the organization that I was going to make. We have accomplished two of them. We have moved the Business Operations division from Information Services to the CFO's Department. We have also created a new division in Government and Public Affairs. This division will address two general objectives. The first is to pursue special projects that the systems planning process as led to a strategy or program but the institutional arrangements need further refinement and/or development (e.g. the decentralization of the aviation system, High Speed Rail, the Southwest Alliance). The second objective is to enhance and better integrate our monitoring and Intergovernmental Review functions with the communications to our members and partners. The last organizational change has been on hold until we are further along in the current plan process.

### **IV. Implement Adopted Regional Plans**

- Maglev High Speed Rail Update. Planning staff and SCAG legal counsel continue to work with staff from the Cities of Los Angeles, West Covina and Ontario regarding changes to the proposed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement for the Maglev/High-Speed Rail Initial Operating Segment (IOS). There was a meeting held on August 10th with all member jurisdictions and SCAG to further discuss the terms of the JPA agreement. The draft of the JPA language will be discussed at the October 11th Maglev Task Force.

SCAG staff has met three times with Tony Morris, president of American Maglev Technologies (AMT) of Atlanta to discuss AMT's interest in the IOS private sector consortium. SCAG staff traveled to AMT in Atlanta to tour the working Maglev test-track. Staff is still reviewing Mr. Morris' proposal and is evaluating certain assumptions regarding financial returns, engineering specifications, operational certification, system controls and integration, environmental issues and proposed timeline for construction.

There will be a field trip to General Atomics in San Diego for Maglev Task Force members on Friday, October 11th to tour the General Atomics facility and Maglev test track.

## **V. Develop Additional Planning Efforts**

- Air Quality. Mayors Loveridge and Sykes, and I and key staff met on September 14, 2007 with Board and staff representatives from the ARB and SCAQMD in an effort to reach an agreement on additional emission reductions from already proposed control measures or new measures to help meet the SCAQMD's PM2.5 emission reduction target. The result is a revised proposal that meets the emission reduction target developed by the SCAQMD. At the same time, the three agencies acknowledge that significant efforts will be needed to identify specific control measures or strategies/mechanisms to achieve the emission reductions associated with the long-term ("black box") measures to meet the 8-hour ozone standard by 2024. In addition, early identification of specific control strategies will play an important role to help address the federal 24-hour PM2.5 ambient air quality standard and potentially a more stringent proposed federal 8-hour ozone air quality standard. Thus, the three agencies are committed to work together to develop a discussion paper within four months from the date of ARB's adoption of the 2007 State Implementation Plan (scheduled for September 27, 2007). The discussion paper will explore potential strategies for the black box and future ambient air quality standards, including new or transformative strategies, such as state-of-technology zero and near-zero transportation systems, other mechanisms such as fee-based incentives, and availability of public funding assistance programs. The three agencies will also work together to implement the actions agreed upon and educate the public and other stakeholders of these efforts.
- RHNA. In a letter dated September 7, 2007, the State's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) approved SCAG's final Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) Plan, adopted by the Regional Council on July 12, 2007. The RHNA Plan will be used by jurisdictions within the SCAG region to update local housing elements, respectively due to HCD by June 30, 2008. HCD noted its commitment to continue to work with SCAG and its local jurisdictions through the housing element update process, and acknowledged SCAG's leadership role in addressing the region's housing and community development needs.
- Regional Transportation Plan Workshops. On September 19, 2007, SCAG held the first Environmental Justice Workshop for the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) at the main office in downtown Los Angeles, with videoconferencing available at the Inland office. The intent of the Workshop was threefold: 1) present general information on SCAG's EJ Program; 2) review the previous EJ analysis in the 2004 RTP; and 3) obtain input from the public on the EJ analysis for the 2008 RTP. There were approximately 17 participants in attendance representing various stakeholder groups. On September 20th we had a workshop on Goods Movement issues. About 75-100 participants were in attendance. The comments received will be recorded, considered, and written responses prepared in the analysis for the 2008 RTP.
- During the last few weeks SCAG staff attended meetings of the West Coast COG/MPOs, the West Coast Corridor Coalition, CALCOG, the Regional CALTRANS Coordinating Group and the Blueprint Learning Network. It was beneficial

to attend all these meetings to gain insight on what other groups are doing and to get ideas for the draft legislative program on which we are working.

- Blueprint Learning Network. The Blueprint Learning Network (BLN) Fresno Workshop focused on the challenges and opportunities of blueprint planning in the Central Valley, including agriculture, water, public health, high speed rail and economic (goods movement) planning integration. A status update about the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program was also provided. How to involve more elected officials in Regional Blueprint initiatives was also discussed. The Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary's Office announced that a third round of Blueprint Grants was approved and that \$5 million will be made available this fall.

## **VI. Data and Planning Methods**

- Development of the 2007 State of the Region Report Card. At its September 17, 2007 meeting staff briefed the Benchmarks Task Force on the draft findings for the 2007 State of the Region Report. Members of the Task Force then discussed and developed the Report Card for issue areas including income, employment, housing, transportation, environment, education and safety. Staff is currently completing a draft 2007 State of the Region Report for review by the Benchmarks Task Force and SCAG Senior Management during the month of October 2007. Upon completion of the respective reviews, staff plans to brief the Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Policy Committee and Regional Council on the draft findings of the 2007 State of the Region.
- Data/GIS Analyses and Services. The Data and Monitoring Division recently completed a comprehensive and comparative analysis of the socio-demographic changes between the zip code 90022 (East Los Angeles) and the LA County. The analysis was conducted upon request from Los Angeles County Supervisor's Office. The results of this study are expected to further support grant funding opportunities.

The division also completed the organization (into GIS) and standardization of parcel data for all counties (except Orange County) inside the SCAG Region. This data will be the backbone of SCAG's Regional Data and Information Repository (RDIR), a web-based GIS application that will enable efficient data sharing, analysis and visualization. Moreover, it is anticipated that this data will provide critical support to the Compass and Blueprint projects.

Finally, the Data and Monitoring Division acquired, organized and made available to city members the latest American Community Survey (ACS) data that is expected to further support the understanding of the socio-economic changes within the SCAG region.

- GIS Automation and Enhancement. The Data Monitoring Division staff has developed several GIS automation tools to further enhance its efficiency in data sharing and analysis. The latest and most significant one includes the socioeconomic growth distributions for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas. It is currently supporting the planning and policy analysis in evaluating development around transit stations. The results of this study will be incorporated into the Compass and Blueprint projects.

In addition, work was completed on the agency-wide upgrade to the GIS software which will have additional functionalities. The new software will be used to produce more products that can be posted on the SCAG website.

- In conjunction with the Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC), SCAG is sponsoring a one-day Municipal Wireless Initiatives Conference. The conference will be held at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles on

Thursday, November 8th from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The speakers include Anne Neville, providing an update on the recommendations of the Governor's statewide Broadband Initiatives Task Force, and a representative from Southern California Edison with new information regarding pole attachment rules. The state of wireless technology, wireless applications, and cost of ownership will be covered in the program. Online registration will be available on SCAG's web site on Wednesday, October 10. The event is no cost to SCAG and MISAC members and includes continental breakfast and lunch in the exhibitor area.

## **VII. Legislative and Communication Programs**

- Legislative Update. As indicated in SCAG's End of 2007 Legislative Session Report, SCAG has begun the process of preparing the 2008 SCAG State & Federal Legislative Program. This document, containing the Regional Council's positions on policies and legislative initiatives that need the leadership and support of Congress and the California State Legislature to successfully meet the major transportation, housing, and environmental challenges facing the SCAG region, is scheduled to be adopted by the Regional Council in December 2007.

SCAG-sponsored AJR No. 40, introduced by Assembly Member Kevin De Leon on August 23, 2007, has been assigned to the Assembly Transportation Committee where it will be considered when the Legislature convenes for the 2008 legislative session. SCAG will work during the legislative recess to obtain additional support for AJR 40 from local health and environmental organizations in order to assist swift passage of AJR 40 in early 2008.

SCAG continues to work with Senator Lowenthal on SB 974, the measure requiring the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland to collect a user fee to fund congestion management and air quality improvement projects. SB 974 was amended on September 5, 2007, to provide for much greater local control on fee allocation, including a consulting role for SCAG in the process. SB 974 is a two-year bill and resides in the Assembly 3rd Reading file where it will be taken up in 2008. SCAG will continue to monitor and support the measure.

SCAG continues to monitor and recommend language to the legislation designed to implement the housing, transportation and water bonds approved by voters in November, 2006. The Governor signed State Budget trailer bills SB 86 & SB 88 on August 24, 2007. SB 86 contained language that is consistent with regional blueprint and/or regional transportation plans. SB 88 addressed the transportation bond, where SCAG has advocated for an appropriate share from the transportation improvement fund to be allocated for projects in the SCAG region and requested that SCAG be identified among the agencies to develop a corridor plan in the SCAG region.

On a matter related to the bond implementation legislation, Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Dale Bonner instructed the California Transportation Commission in a letter dated September 19, 2007, to adopt a program of Trade Corridors Improvement Fund by December 31, 2007, that will begin to fund goods movement projects. This development may effect how the Legislature proceeds with the allocation of bond funding and the outcome of bond implementation bills, such as SB 9 & SB 19, that are scheduled to be considered when the Legislature convenes for the 2008 legislative session.

- Staff Completed the Public Participation Plan Amendment No. 1 and have included on the October 4th Regional Council agenda. This Plan addresses comments received from FHWA, EPA, Caltrans and others, and includes a summary of our online survey results on public participation efforts and how they impact the RTP and the RTIP as well as a matrix of the comments and responses received on the Public Participation Plan.

- Staff within the Planning and Policy department as well as the Member Relations section within the Government & Public Affairs department continued the major outreach effort for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Comprehensive Plan and other SCAG initiatives. During the month of September, 32 formal presentations were conducted.
- During the month, SCAG hosted a delegation of college students from Taiwan, a delegation of highway engineers from Yunnan, China, a delegation of members of Parliament from India, a delegation of government officials from Guangzhou Province, China, and a delegation of government officials from Inner Mongolia.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

## NOVEMBER 2007

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Each month I establish, with input from the Directors, the priority issues on which management and the staff focus. This report summarizes the work that was accomplished during the month as well as other items I feel will give the Council a better understanding of what the staff and I are doing to accomplish our performance objectives.

### **I. Improve the efficiency and accountability of management within the organization**

- Field work on the annual financial audit by Vasquez & Co., LLP is complete and a draft financial report will be issued by October 31, 2007. Accounting has implemented data tracking procedures to provide performance measurement statistics on SCAG's payment processing cycle. These statistics will be used to develop benchmarks for acceptable performance standards. Revised invoicing instructions on all contracts were issued to eliminate any ambiguity in the current contract language requiring all invoices for payments to be submitted directly to Accounts Payable. Staff will also be requesting the Administration Committee to reconstitute the Contracts Committee to help provide policy guidance on increasing competition, reviewing consultant contract implementation issues and provide oversight to the contracting process.
- Grants staff has identified two new grant opportunities that are under review by agency staff. One sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry provides funding support for conferences related to environmental health topics. The other grant sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency funds multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation planning.
- The sub-regional OWP audits scheduled by SCAG's internal auditor for fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are scheduled for completion by the end of the calendar year. We are waiting for the final sub-region, North Los Angeles County, to schedule an entrance interview. Caltrans is scheduled to audit the Imperial County Association of Governments in the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

### **II. Provide support to the Regional Council in providing direction and leadership to SCAG**

- On October 2nd, I participated in a "Beyond Visioning Panel" at the CCAPA (California Chapter American Planning Association) Annual Conference in San Jose. I spoke on the Compass Blueprint 2% Solution. The panel included Bob Leiter, Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning, SANDAG, Ken Kirkey, Planning Director, ABAG, Mike McKeever, Executive Director, SACOG, Michael Teitz, and Elisa Barbour, Public Policy Institute of California.
- On October 3rd, I was a featured speaker for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council. I gave my perspectives on how the expected population growth and economic development will impact the Los Angeles region's needs for additional transportation infrastructure, water supply, air quality, public school accessibility, housing and density management.
- On October 5th, I gave a presentation on SCAG's High Speed Regional Transport System to the OCTA Board. The Board was particularly interested in the status of Maglev projects that would be included in the draft RTP.
- On October 5th, I met with Councilmember Glen Becerra and other representatives of Southern California Edison and briefed them on Goods Movement, 710 Freeway Expansion, and other transportation and planning issues. There was a specific discussion of the alternative fuel options that are being considered in the RTP.

- On October 8th, I and Dan Griset met with Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod to discuss concerns she has regarding groundwater contamination and the need for watershed actions on water quality in the Santa Ana River basin. A commitment was made for SCAG to work with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's "One Water One Watershed" and its groundwater cleanup efforts. Additional discussions included SCAG's efforts to get state support for comprehensive and integrated planning by local and regional entities. As Chair of the Local Government Committee, the Senator expressed a willingness to work with Senator Steinberg (Chair of the Water and Natural Resources Committee) to find opportunities for cooperation.
- On October 17th, Council Member Harry Baldwin and I participated in an SB 375 discussion meeting in Sacramento, coordinated by Chris McKenzie, League of California Cities. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss opportunities and issues presented by SB 375, and to improve ties between the League and MPOs/COGS. There were participants from ABAG/MTC SACOG, SANDAG, League SCAG, Councilmember Harry Baldwin and myself, and Senate staff, Bill Craven, Senior Consultant, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.
- On October 17, I participated as a panelist at the World Presidents' Organization, (WPO) at their 2007 Symposium, "L.A. Traffic: Harsh Realities and Real Solutions." I gave a presentation on Goods Movement. Other speakers included Roger Snoble, MTA; Hon. Linda Briskman, Chair of Westside Cities COG; Allyn Rifkin, Traffic Engineer and Dr. Paul Sorensen, Rand Corp.
- On October 29th, I and Hasan Ikhata met with President Ovitt and his staff on High Speed Alternative Systems & RCP Options. The Supervisor indicated that he will contact the leadership to discuss the next steps in moving the RCP forward.

- Member Relations

Member Relations represented SCAG at the border committee meetings at SANDAG, U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein's Washington Report in Santa Clarita, the first joint meeting of the League of California Cities - LA Division, Contract Cities Association & the Independent Cities Associations in Pico Rivera, and at the League of California Cities - OC Division Installation of Officers reception where Brea Council Member John Beauman was sworn in as the President.

SCAG congratulates Eric Haley on his retirement from the Riverside Transportation Commission after nine years of service and welcomes Anne Mayer as the new Executive Director. We also congratulate Ginger Gherardi on her retirement after 18 years as Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission. Darren Kettle has assumed that post.

### **III. SCAG Operations**

- Personnel. An offer has been made to the final candidate for the Director of Government and Public Affairs position. An announcement will come out shortly. Recruitment continues for other staff positions.
- Training and Development/Professional Pathways. Mandatory preventing harassment and discrimination training is being held on-site for all employees who are due for training. Training on the Microsoft Software products, Presentation and Delivery, and Media and Public Relations are being held in November. SCAG offered flu shots on-site to all staff in October to promote workplace wellness. The Wellness theme for November is Outsmart Winter Bugs. The staff retreat

originally scheduled for November 15th has been postponed until later in the fiscal year. In lieu of a retreat, the committee is planning several on-site activities in November and December to promote teambuilding and collaboration.

- SAP Feasibility Study. The Finance and Information Services Departments have begun assessing updates to SCAG's financial information system configuration and process flows to conform to financial best practices and to better serve SCAG's current needs. The first phase of the project will define the specific changes required for SAP improvements, including work breakdown structure field changes, implementation of multi-year encumbrances, invoice modifications, human resources module implementation, and reporting modifications. The second phase will include approval and prioritization of modifications and license purchases, funding requests, and development of project scope, resource requirements and schedule for the future financial information system.

#### **IV. Implement Adopted Regional Plans**

- Maglev Followthrough. On Friday, October 12th, a group of 16 representatives traveled via Amtrak to General Atomics in La Jolla, California to view GA's Maglev test track. The group included Maglev Task Force members, other SCAG Board members, staff members for the elected officials, and SCAG staff. Seven members of the Maglev Task Force made the visit. After viewing the test track and watching the Maglev test vehicle levitate and propel down the track, General Atomics representatives presented future plans for their Maglev program. These plans include possibly moving container cargo to/from the San Pedro Ports.
- Southern California National Freight Gateway Collaboration. On October 9, 2007, Gary Ovitt, President, SCAG, participated in a signing ceremony for the Southern California National Freight Gateway Cooperation Agreement. The agreement, among federal, state, regional, and local agencies, supports a cooperative framework for the Southern California National Freight Gateway area that concurrently addresses growing freight throughput capacity balanced with environmental and community concerns. California Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, Dale E. Bonner, joined Julie Nelson, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation, Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other local, state, and federal officials in the Collaboration. The group hopes to better facilitate cooperation, coordination, and collaboration on critical goods movement issues in the Southern California National Freight Gateway area, which encompasses five counties in Southern California and extends from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to the border with Nevada and Arizona.
- Compass Partnership. The Compass Partnership met on October 22nd to review the updated policies incorporated in the Draft Policy Growth Forecast Alternative for the 2008 RTP. The Partnership had previously offered a number of ideas and suggestions for this portion of the RTP. This month's meeting provided an opportunity to review the changes and discuss the various growth alternatives and their benefits. The Partnership meeting also included a presentation on the Housing and Transportation Affordability Index that SCAG is developing as part of its Blueprint Cost Index study. This was the first opportunity to garner the Partnership's insights on that project, which is sure to benefit from their expertise as it progresses.
- Regarding the status of the draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the regional high speed rail system. SCAG staff submitted comments to the draft JPA and has been in discussions with staff from the City of Los Angeles regarding the matter. It is anticipated that the terms of the JPA will be finalized shortly.

## V. Develop Additional Planning Efforts

- Draft 2008 RTP. Following policy directions adopted by CEHD Committee on August 30th and consistent policies reaffirmed at the 2008 RTP growth forecast workshops on October 18th and 25th, growth forecast staff/consultant team successfully completed all socioeconomic data sets required for the Draft 2008 RTP/EIR. These data sets include:
  - Draft 2008 RTP Baseline Growth Forecast
  - Draft 2008 RTP Policy Growth Forecast
  - Envision Growth Forecast Alternative
  - Workshop Growth Forecast Alternative
  - 2004 RTP Growth Forecast Update

In addition, in calibrating with Transportation Analysis and Modeling staff, Forecasting staff completed the preliminary assessment of transportation benefits from land use strategy for the 2008 RTP. Following are the highlights of land use benefits:

- Due to principles of Compass Blueprint land use strategies, relatively robust TOD stations, centers, and existing transit facilities, costal counties—Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura—will have higher growth in population, household, and employment under policy growth forecast than levels under baseline growth forecast .
- The region and every county shows reductions in both per capita VMT and VMT per household.
- Every county also benefits from reductions in VMT, VHT, and delay.
- Regionwide, it is estimated that the draft policy growth forecast will reduce VMT from baseline growth forecast by 20.8 million, or 3.6%; VHT by 882,417, or 4.4%; and delay by 436,916, or 6.1%.
- The draft policy growth forecast is estimated to increase transit boarding by 124,207, or 3.9%.
- For the overall RTP - combining network investment and land use strategy - it is estimated that the draft policy growth forecast accounts for all VMT reductions, 48% (882,400 out of 1,822,600) reduction of vehicle hour traveled, and 30% (436,900 out of 1,448,900) of total reductions in delay.
- Minor negative impact on arterial speed during PM peak (-1.6%)

Finally, initial assessment from 4-D analysis of mobility benefits at intrazonal level - those cannot be captured by SCAG's Regional Transportation Model - due to Compass Blueprint land use strategy could add additional 2.3%, or about 12 million VMT reductions from baseline in 2035.

Currently, Forecasting staff is in the process of completing the Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis required for the release of the Draft 2008 RTP.

- Between August and October of 2007, SCAG hosted seven RTP Workshops led by Alan Wapner, TCC chair, for both policymakers and the general public to discuss and receive input on several issues of importance to our region's transportation future: finance, goods movement, corridors, transit, high-speed regional transit, aviation, and growth. These workshops were based on the premise that this region lacks sufficient funds to implement many regionally

significant projects that can improve our mobility and air quality. Therefore, Workshop discussions were held as to which projects this region is willing to commit funds to and include in the financially constrained portion of the RTP. The workshops saw outstanding policy discussions in which many ideas were brought forward in a collaborative effort to find regional solutions to our regional challenges. These ideas also brought to light the importance of conformity and energy impacts in the transportation planning process, and how SCAG has a responsibility to monitor the programming in this region. A final special workshop will be held on November 27th to wrap up the policy discussions.

- On October 18th, SCAG hosted a meeting/teleconference between SCAG representatives and counsel, and representatives and counsel of the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG), and the cities of Lake Forest and Mission Viejo. The purpose of the meeting/teleconference was to further review and discuss the preparation of a joint PEIR for the RTP and the RCP. OCCOG and the specified cities have questioned whether the RCP requires the preparation of an EIR, and if so, whether a joint PEIR for both the RTP and RCP was the correct manner of proceeding. All parties explained and expressed their opinions regarding the necessity for conducting an EIR for the RCP, and the joint PEIR for both the RTP and RCP that SCAG was proceeding with.

## **VI. Data and Planning Methods**

- Application Development. In collaboration with the Finance Department, the Information Services Department completed development of the Comprehensive Budget Development System (CBDS). This application improves the organization and analysis of budget submittals and promotes efficient budget, contract, and project management by consolidating the previous Overall Work Program (OWP), General Fund, and Indirect Cost budget input processes. The CBDS has been developed to enable future Internet access by SCAG Sub-Regions during their budget input to SCAG's OWP.

Enhancements to the RTIP database were performed to enable County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) to enter in the database the 2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects more efficiently. Additional functionality tools were added to enable automated upload of the TIP projects to the Caltrans' database (CTIPS). The enhanced RTIP application has already received compliments by the CTCs who have been utilizing it since the beginning of the month.

Staff attended training in ArcGIS Server which will facilitate the development of web applications related to GIS. This activity is designed to promote SCAG as a central source of data and information for the Southern California region.

- State of the Region. The division led the effort to collect and provide data from the American Community Survey to the State of the Region (SOR) report. Also in the data collection was wage and salary employment data from the California Employment Development Department. In addition, division staff provided input and editorial comments for the completion of the SOR report.
- GIS Support. The section provided numerous mapping activities to support the Blue Print grant, Transit Oriented Development, RTP and member relations activities. The Division also handled numerous external requests for data/information from public agencies like the California Air Resources Board, Caltrans, City of Palmdale, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and other regional and local entities.
- On October 10th, staff participated in the California Inter-Agency Modeling Forum meeting in Sacramento. The CIA Modeling Forum involving staff of metropolitan planning organizations and Caltrans district offices, discussed topics related to methods for the simulation and forecasting of travel as well as potential collaborations among the agencies

to improve the quality and cost of data collection activities. Topics in this meeting included updates from each region, Caltrans Statewide Model, land use modeling data needs, federal household survey data collection activities, and the use of GPS transponders in household travel surveys.

## VII. Legislative and Communication Programs

- Legislative Update. The primary focus of the draft 2008 State and Federal Legislative Program being reviewed on November 1, 2007 by the policy committees is the air quality crisis and the movement of goods in the SCAG region. Contained in the program is reference to SCAG's application for grant funding for advance planning, alternatives analysis, EIS and preliminary engineering work for a new, comprehensive regional goods movement infrastructure system pending consideration by US DOT. As I reported to you previously, SCAG submitted the proposal after a visit to Secretary Peter's Office in June by Council Members Baldwin, Edney and Washburn.

On Thursday, October 25th, I met with Tyler Duvall, Assistant Secretary for Policy of the US DOT, to discuss several potential methods to address the SCAG region's air quality crisis. I referenced the application SCAG submitted to the USDOT and reminded Assistant Secretary Duvall of the need for federal funding for new clean burning locomotive engines to reduce emissions.

The State's ability to reduce emissions from locomotives is impacted by jurisdictional issues, the cost of controls, and the availability of clean engines to meet the lowest emission standards. U.S. EPA, by virtue of its ability to establish engine emission standards, holds the key to the introduction of the cleanest engines needed to meet federal air quality standards in California.

We will be providing Assistant Secretary Duvall with additional information on this topic to enable a quick decision on the SCAG request.

- The Regional Council unanimously approved SCAG's Public Participation Plan Amendment No. 1 at their October 4 meeting. This Plan addresses comments received from FHWA, EPA, Caltrans, the subregions, and others, and includes a summary of the online survey results on public participation efforts and how they impact the RTP and the RTIP as well as a matrix of the comments and responses received on the Public Participation Plan. The Public Participation Plan outlines the strategies, goals, procedures and techniques for conducting public participation activities for the RTP, RTIP and OWP.
- SCAG staff within the Planning, Government Affairs and Executive Management departments conducted over 30 formal presentations during the month of October on the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Comprehensive Plan and other SCAG initiatives.
- Outreach Efforts. Several RTP workshops were hosted during the month in an effort to solicit on-going input from local governments in the preparation of the 2008 RTP. The division supported this effort by developing maps that were shared with SCAG member cities and other stakeholders. Moreover, the division supported SCAG's outreach initiative by leading the translation of the RTP outreach survey to Spanish. This last activity is required under Federal mandates.
- The SCAG-sponsored Municipal Wireless Initiatives Conference will be held at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles on November 8th. In addition to reports from the State of California Broadband Initiatives Task Force and Southern California Edison, the conference will feature real-world experiences with planning, funding, and installing wireless systems. Wireless applications have the potential to change the economic and social landscape of our communities. All

participants will be provided a municipal wireless planning toolkit. Register at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/wifi>. The event is free of charge for elected officials and staff of SCAG member agencies and for members of the Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC.)

- On October 10, 2007, California United States Senator Barbara Boxer, Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee held an EPW field hearing in San Bernardino to address the air quality crisis in the region and, particularly, in the inland empire. SCAG President Gary Ovitt testified before the Committee, and both President Ovitt and I attended a press conference held by Senator Boxer to address questions from the media following the hearing. Senator Boxer pledged her active assistance to communicate with the Environmental Protection Agency their need to regulate mobile source emissions sufficient to enable the region to meet attainment or, alternatively, to provide such authority to state and local agencies to control these sources.
- On November 5th, SCAG is co-sponsoring Mobility 21's Sixth Annual Southern California Transportation Summit. The Summit will be held at the Ontario Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A SCAG Regional Council Member will present the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan at one of the four breakout sessions entitled, "Southern California's Transportation Funding: A Plan for the Future."