## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



**Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region** 

**July 2009** 

FROM: Hon. Sharon Quirk, Representing District 21

## **RC Report**

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting

**JULY 2, 2009** 

## **ACTION** – RC Offers 10% Dues Waiver

In reaction to the current economic climate and its impact on SCAG's member agencies, the Regional Council voted to offer a one-time 10% waiver of member dues for FY 09-10. At the meeting, SCAG President Jon Edney said, "This is the least we can do to help ease the growing burden on our members' increasingly constrained budgets."

## **ACTION** – SCAG Scholarship Program

The Regional Council approved a Pilot Scholarship Program. The new program is intended to provide financial support to a select group of high school students and offer local planning experience that the students can use to develop their long-term career goals. The Scholarship Pilot Program includes a \$2,000 per student scholarship, a two-week externship, seminar, and recognition luncheon. Students will be selected based on their interests and essay by a designated selection committee.

# **ACTION** – Compass Blueprint Demonstration Projects Selected

Through the Compass Blueprint
Demonstration Projects, SCAG continues to
partner with cities and counties by offering
services to assist with local planning efforts
consistent with the Compass Blueprint
Principles. To date, Compass Blueprint has
resulted in partnerships on some 60 projects
throughout the region. This month, the
Regional Council selected an additional 25
new projects to move forward as funding
becomes available. For more information
visit compassblueprint.org.

## **From the Executive Director**

Additional News for the Month

### **SB 375 Implementation**

SB 375 (Steinberg) is California state law that became effective January 1, 2009 that requires California's Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regional reduction targets for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and prompts the creation of regional plans to reduce emissions from vehicle use throughout the state. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six Southern California counties, SCAG has been tasked with creating "Sustainable Community Strategies" (SCS) as part of the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Since the bill became law, SCAG has been very active on many fronts to ensure that implementation in Southern California reflects the unique challenges of our region. For more information, visit www.scag.ca.gov/sb375/index.htm.

#### **3rd Annual Blueprint Awards**

SCAG, in conjunction with Southern California Edison hosted over 150 awardees, sponsors and guests at the 3rd Annual Compass Blueprint Recognition Awards luncheon on Wednesday, June 24th at the Pasadena Convention Center. Compass Blueprint Awards were presented to 15 municipalities in recognition of projects that demonstrate excellence and achievement in the four key elements of Compass Blueprint planning: Livability, Mobility, Prosperity and Sustainability.



#### **AUGUST**

SCAG Regional Council and Policy Committees are dark in August

4th Legislative/Communications & Membership Committee Meeting

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**3rd** Regional Council and Policy Committee Meetings

**15th** New Member Orientation. Contact Linda Jones at jonesl@scag.ca.gov

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