



2025

SCAG LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



THE SCAG REGION

18.7M

RESIDENTS

15TH

LARGEST
ECONOMY
WORLDWIDE

\$1.6T

REGIONAL
GDP

40%

NATION'S
CONTAINER
IMPORTS

6

COUNTIES



191

CITIES

47.6%

STATE
POPULATION

5.7%

U.S.
POPULATION

38,618

SQUARE MILES



ABOUT SCAG

Founded in 1965, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a public agency established as a Joint Powers Authority under California state law that convenes local governments and agencies to address regional issues.

SCAG leads Southern California, serving as the unified voice of the region and empowering local jurisdictions to work toward regional solutions. The SCAG region encompasses six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura) and 191 cities in an area covering more than 38,000 square miles.

The agency develops long-range regional transportation plans, including sustainable communities strategy and growth forecast components, regional transportation improvement program, regional housing needs allocations, and a portion of the South Coast Air Quality management plans.

SCAG is governed by an 86-member board of directors known as the Regional Council, whose membership includes city councilmembers, mayors, and county supervisors, and representatives of the region's tribal governments, air quality management districts, and transit operators.

SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL LEADERSHIP



Curt Hagman

PRESIDENT



Cindy Allen

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



Ray Marquez

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



Jan Harnik

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Patricia Lock Dawson

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

SCAG'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SCAG's State Legislative Platform consists of the Regional Council's positions on policies and legislative initiatives related to SCAG's core planning and policy areas—which broadly fall under the four pillars of mobility, communities, environment and economy.

The following are SCAG's priorities for the 2025 Legislative Year.

ADDRESSING THE REGION'S HOUSING NEEDS

Regional Housing Needs Allocation

Every eight years, the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) determines existing and projected housing needs. These needs are distributed to regions as a "RHNA determination," and then distributed among jurisdictions. In March 2021, SCAG adopted its 6th cycle RHNA allocation plan for October 2021 through October 2029, which distributed a RHNA determination of 1.34 million housing units among 191 cities and six counties in Southern California.

AB 101's (2019) REAP 1.0 program was the first time the legislature provided funding to councils of governments to administer the RHNA program, though this funding was one-time and concluded in 2024.

Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program – Part 1 (REAP 1.0)

SCAG received \$47 million in the state's first round of the Regional Early Action Planning grant program (REAP 1.0), which funded numerous strategies to accelerate housing development. These included technical assistance and resources for jurisdictions for housing element development and implementation, as well as model inclusionary ordinances for quick adoption, tools for housing site selection, and guidelines for expediting Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permitting.

SCAG also led capacity-building efforts with a "Housing Policy Leadership Academy," which trained 322 local leaders on the housing crisis and how to support new housing opportunities in their communities, and a "Call for Collaboration" to support new partnership models with community-based organizations to engage a wider range of stakeholders to advance the region's housing goals.

Housing Production in the SCAG Region 2020–23*:

- 450,000 total units submitted in pipeline.
- 223,000 total units have been permitted, of which:
 - 43,400 were deemed affordable.
 - 51,400 were accessory dwelling units.
- 140 local programs were adopted that increase access to fair housing.

*Data reflects housing production in the region due to a variety of efforts, enhanced by REAP 1.0.



Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program – Part 2 (REAP 2.0)

Building on the success of REAP 1.0, SCAG put our \$231 million REAP 2.0 allocation to work immediately in July 2023 by investing in projects confronting systemic barriers to housing production and complementary strategies for more sustainable transportation.

SCAG’s REAP 2.0 program implements the Connect SoCal 2024, the Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy, by supporting integrated and transformative projects that realize the region’s mobility, land use, housing, and environmental goals.

Projects explicitly target key barriers to housing production, including local programs to convert surplus and underutilized properties to housing, investment in utilities to serve housing development, transportation infrastructure, and investments in new financing options for affordable housing developments:

- Housing and land use strategies and plans: \$32.7 million
- Utility infrastructure to support housing production: \$35 million
- Housing finance strategies: \$45 million
- Realizing multi-modal communities: \$80 million

REAP 2.0 projects are currently underway with the expected impact on housing production*:

- 42,995 units to be created.
- 12,605 affordable units to be created.
- Expanded utility infrastructure to support more than 19,000 housing units.

*Data is from subrecipient agreements and may vary given refinements to grantee project scopes of work.

SCAG’s Housing Needs in this Legislative Session:

- Codify the REAP 1.0 program and provide stable financial support for regional housing planning and implementation to enable regions to continue to deliver pro-housing programs and expedite housing production in alignment with the RHNA program.
- Extend the REAP 2.0 expenditure deadline by 12 months to account for the delay resulting from last year’s budget uncertainty.

SCAG'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CREATING A MORE RESILIENT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Resilience in the Face of Regional Challenges

The January 2025 Palisades and Eaton Fires are a bellwether of a new era for natural disasters, with once in-a-century events now occurring every two to three years. As Southern California grapples with the historic levels of destruction, SCAG is committed to the collective work of recovery while also helping local agencies prepare for future climate disasters.

SCAG defines resilience as the capacity of the region's built, social, economic, and natural systems to anticipate and respond to changing conditions, acute shocks, and chronic stressors. This summer, we will release a Regional Resilience Toolkit to enable the region's 197 jurisdictions to assess their resilience and chart a course to mitigate future risks.

Even with tools available, many local jurisdictions lack the capacity to take critical steps toward resiliency. This includes measures such as updating pre-disaster plans and ordinances, developing strategies to harden utilities and infrastructure, and establishing new financing tools to create more resilient communities.

To address this capacity gap, SCAG aims to leverage our well-established Sustainable Communities Program to partner with local agencies, offering technical assistance and financial resources through a call for projects to support diverse resilience planning needs. With state support, more agencies can be served and a broader set of best practices and planning templates can be established to assist the region and state.

SCAG's Resilience Needs in this Legislative Session:

- Provide resources for SCAG to expand our successful Sustainable Communities Program to offer technical assistance for:
 - Resilience planning for our diverse local communities.
 - Establishment of financial tools, such as Climate Resilience Districts and Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts, in support of housing production, preservation, and affordability.
 - Infrastructure investments necessary to create more resilient communities.
- Consider a \$1.5 million earmark to develop a Wildlife Crossing Connectivity Masterplan, which will identify strategic locations for improving wildlife habitat connectivity for the SCAG region, which can enhance motorist safety and enable wildlife repopulation after natural disasters.

MAXIMIZING OUR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS

SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy

Every four years, the Southern California region updates its vision for the future, reassessing challenges and rearticulating goals through the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), known as Connect SoCal. Connect SoCal allows public agencies to implement transportation projects in a coordinated manner while achieving environmental goals, promoting quality of life, supporting economic growth, and ensuring access to federal and state transportation funding.

These important goals require focus and intention beyond the plan development cycle. Analysis by the California Air Resources Board reflects the need for a stronger focus on implementation in order to achieve SB 375 greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Most funding for plan implementation is from local sources, and SCAG seeks stronger partnership from the state in realizing the policy vision for an integrated, multi-modal, and sustainable transportation system to improve mobility and economic opportunity for all.

The Upcoming 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles

In July and August of 2028, Los Angeles will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This international event will challenge the Southern California region's transportation system to carry the influx of athlete and spectator traffic, while continuing to facilitate travel for the region's nearly 19 million residents, and moving one-third of the nation's containerized goods from international ports to the rest of the country.

SCAG is working on transportation demand management plans for both passengers and freight activity leading up to and during the 2028 games.

In addition, SCAG is deploying quick-build projects, which are flexible in design and require only minor construction activity.

SCAG's Transportation Needs in this Legislative Session:

- Support the Governor's current transportation budget commitments, including allocations of \$1 billion to the Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), \$100 million for the Active Transportation Program (ATP), and \$150 million for grade Separation Projects.
- Maintain regions' funding eligibility for SB 1 competitive grant programs while Metropolitan Planning organizations and CARB collaborate on SB 375 modernization.
- Consider a \$1 million earmark to support SCAG's work with cities to prepare for passenger and goods movement transportation needs during the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Support legislative efforts to expand quick build project implementation to achieve people-centered main streets and promote active transportation.

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