



UPDATE

SCAG ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO ADDRESS HOUSING CRISIS



The ever-worsening crisis of housing affordability in Southern California presents a substantial challenge for the region's economy. The policy issues around housing and the economy are tightly interconnected, a nexus that will be explored at length at the upcoming eighth annual Southern California Economic Summit: "The Cost of Not Housing."

SCAG, in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Council, will host the summit on Thursday, Nov. 9, at the L.A. Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, bringing together local civic and business leaders to explore how the state's record-high home prices and shortage of available housing units stands to impact the economic health of the region.

We invite you to join us for a discussion on the region's housing needs, and learn about the challenges that housing affordability poses to local, regional and statewide economies. Early bird registration is \$75 per person until Sept. 15. Please visit scag.ca.gov/economicssummit to register and reserve your seat. Additional program details coming soon.

SCAG INVESTIGATES STRATEGIES FOR CITIES TO HARNESS SMART TECH AND BIG/OPEN DATA

Seismic shifts have taken place in how many businesses and cities approach day-to-day operations. Technology has become smarter and data is now more important than ever in decision-making. To better prepare our local jurisdictions, SCAG has formed a new Open Data / Big Data – Smart and Connected SCAG Region Committee. The committee, launched in June, aims to both grow SCAG's current data initiatives and develop strategic recommendations for how we can support cities throughout the region in conducting effective data-driven decision making. The committee's members – among them elected officials, tech executives and partner agencies – will be meeting monthly through November to discuss the challenges and benefits of big/open data and to explore opportunities for productive cross-sector partnerships.

A survey to gauge the region's information needs has been distributed to public administrators and stakeholders throughout the region. The committee will use that input to produce a report summarizing big/open data prospects for the region and making recommendations for how SCAG can best add value for local governments as they institute policies and programs around smart technology. More information on the committee is available on the SCAG website: www.scag.ca.gov/committees.

SUMMER RECESS FOR STATE LAWMAKERS DOESN'T SLOW SCAG'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As California's legislators return to their home districts for a recess, SCAG continues work to advance policies that address the needs of Southern California. Most recently, we put our support behind the extension of the state's cap-and-trade program, while championing the need for regional equity in distribution of the program's revenues. SCAG will continue to work on advancing the regional equity discussion as well as working to implement the region's transportation priorities and finding solutions to alleviate the region's housing crisis.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 236-1800 | www.scag.ca.gov

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