# ANNUAL SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

**RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN GREEN REGION, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & INTEGRATED PLANNING**

2014 NOMINATION PACKET
DEADLINE: **MARCH 21, 2014**

sustainability PROGRAM

a project of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA **ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS**

**2013 PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Visionary Planning for Mobility, Livability, Prosperity & Sustainability

*Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy*

The Metro Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy is a complement to efforts that have been underway for more than two decades to improve air quality and increase transportation choices in Los Angeles County. The Policy broadens Metro's approach to sustainability from focusing on a particular project or transportation mode to developing a more holistic and system-based framework for sustainability analysis and planning.

# ANNUAL SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

This year, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) makes an important transition in its recognition of projects that best exemplify the core planning principles of mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability. SCAG's awards program for exemplary integrated land use, transportation and environmental planning, formerly known as the Compass Blueprint Awards, is now the SCAG Sustainability Awards. While SCAG's commitment to acknowledging and honoring the great planning and development work occurring throughout the region remains unchanged, the new name better conveys the overall goals and benefits outlined in SCAG's landmark 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) that the entire region had a role in developing and is now working to implement through outstanding planning projects.

Starting in February 2014, SCAG will begin accepting nominations for projects that coordinate land use and transportation actions to improve the mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability of our region. More information on the types of projects SCAG is looking for can be found below. The Sustainability Awards Program is open to all parties, including local governments, non-profits, developers and others. Partnerships are welcome; public agencies, in combination with other public or private organizations or individuals may jointly submit an entry. Eligible submittals include plans, projects, and programs completed or adopted after January 1, 2009 and prior to April 1, 2014.

The deadline for nomination submittals is
**Friday, March 21, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.**

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

This year, SCAG is introducing three categories to the Awards Program: Integrative Planning, Green Region Initiative, and Active Transportation, which also make up the three branches of SCAG's Sustainability Program. SCAG is requesting applicants choose a category to submit their nomination under. Submissions will be evaluated and selected based on standards relevant to each category as well as their overall strength in implementing the goals and benefits of the RTP/SCS. The specific criteria for each category are outlined below:

## AWARD CATEGORIES

### *Integrated Planning*

- Integrates land use and transportation planning.
- Promotes infill, Transit Oriented Development, and other forms of sustainable development.
- Promotes a sustainable land use mix, including new housing.
- Locates new housing near existing jobs and/or new jobs near existing housing.

### *Green Region Initiative*

- Addresses climate change through GHG emission reduction of adaptation planning.
- Preserves rural, agricultural, recreational, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Promotes energy and/or water efficiency and savings.
- Ensures environmental justice regardless of race, ethnicity, or income class.
- Promotes overall sustainability on various resource issues.

### *Active Transportation*

- Promotes active (bicycle and pedestrian) transportation planning.
- Promotes physical activity, safety, education, and outreach.
- Promotes linkages within existing active transportation and transit networks.
- Promotes shift from cars to active transportation.

**2013 EXCELLENCE AWARD**
Visionary Planning for Livability
*City of Los Angeles, Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan (CASP)*

The Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan (CASP) revises traditional grid zoning and introduces new building form, urban design, open space, parking, conservation, performance and street standards. The arrangement and mix of land uses within the proposed Plan are intended to reduce both mobile and stationary source GHG emissions through increased transit ridership, facilitating the development of new businesses and requiring that the operation of residential, commercial and industrial buildings is conducted in an energy and water-efficient manner.

# 2014 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS GOALS & BENEFITS OF THE 2012/2035 RTP/SCS

1. ***Better*** Placemaking
   "Placemaking" is the process of developing options for locations where people can live and work in a pleasant and convenient walking environment that reduces reliance on the car. Communities that promote walkable environments and alternative transportation create more opportunities for an active lifestyle, improve safety and accessibility for marginalized communities, and help preserve natural areas and resources. The strategies outlined in the 2012–2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) promote the development of better places to live and work through measures that encourage more compact development, varied housing options, bike and pedestrian improvements, and efficient transportation infrastructure.

2. ***Lower Cost*** to Taxpayers & Families
   The cost of building the roads, water and sewer lines, and other infrastructure required for low density communities is very high, and taxpayers usually pay at least part of the bill, especially for ongoing maintenance. By including options that create more compact neighborhoods and placing everyday destinations closer to homes and closer to one another, the 2012–2035 RTP/SCS strategies can reduce the cost of development for taxpayers and reduce the everyday costs of housing and transportation.

3. ***Benefits*** to Public Health & the Environment
   Public health and environmental protection have long been linked to the way our region is planned and the way public services are delivered. Many strategies in the 2012–2035 RTP/SCS will provide widespread benefits for public health and environmental protection. Better placemaking will allow people to walk and bicycle more regularly in their daily lives, and promotes the development of urban parks, thus providing more opportunities for recreation and exercise. Reducing the footprint of new development protects farmland that provides food for the region, maintains wildlife habitat, decreases air pollution, and improves opportunities for green stormwater solutions that will improve water quality.

4. ***Greater Responsiveness*** to Demographics & Changing Housing Market
   The demographic profile of the region is changing and the market for housing is changing with it. The number of parents whose children have grown and left home is significantly increasing, and many are looking for smaller housing and a more manageable, walkable lifestyle. In addition, residents will be looking for a "value lifestyle" in which both housing and transportation costs are minimized even as they maintain a high-quality of life. Strategies focused on high-quality places, compact infill development, and more housing and transportation choices provide a response to these newly emerging market forces.

5. ***Improved*** Access & Mobility
   Southern California congestion is ever present and additional road construction cannot solve all of the region's mobility challenges. The transportation strategies contained within the 2012–2035 RTP/SCS will focus on "the most bang for the buck" solutions by improving critical road connections in the region and increasing public transit capacity. Land use strategies in the 2012–2035 RTP/SCS will improve mobility and access by placing destinations closer together and decreasing the time and cost of traveling between them.

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***www.sustain.scag.ca.gov***

**2013 EXCELLENCE AWARD**
Visionary Planning for Mobility
*Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), Coachella Valley Parkway 1e11*

The Coachella Valley Parkway 1e11 project is an innovative multi-modal path that will accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEVs). Following the Whitewater River in the heart of the Coachella Valley, this project provides an alternative form of transportation and will reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by over 12 million vehicle miles by 2035. The economic benefit an overall economic impact of almost $1 billion through jobs, added events, health benefits, safety, tourism, increased property values, increased business opportunities and consumer savings associated with improved air quality.

# 2014 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS APPLICATION PACKET

The Sustainability Awards Program rewards those projects, programs, and actions (e.g., policy or ordinance) in the SCAG region that demonstrate the goals and benefits of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. The application packet and information on past years' award winners is available at www.sustain.scag.ca.gov.

For questions, contact Christopher Tzeng at (213) 236-1913 or ***tzeng@scag.ca.gov.***

## A. Application Procedure

1. Review the Eligibility and Evaluation Process and Criteria.
2. Select a category that best fits the submitted project.
3. There are four parts to the Sustainability Awards application:
   a. Submittal Form: PDF copies of the form are available online at www.sustain.scag.ca.gov.
   b. Evaluation Criteria Response: Responses should be 2,000 words or less. Keep in mind that the application will be reviewed by a panel of judges, and judges will favor entries that are persuasive and concise. PDF copies of the form can be completed electronically; you must have Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard to save changes to the form.
   c. Images: Include up to ten graphics to represent and demonstrate the quality of the project, program, or action. Images should be submitted in PowerPoint, as well as one of the following formats: TIFF, JPG, or PDF. Photographs that showcase the community surroundings and community involvement are encouraged.
   d. Letters of Support: Applicants are encouraged to include letters of support from organizations and individuals involved in the project indicating why the project is worthy of an award.
4. The four parts of the application should be submitted via SCAG's FTP site. To ensure all submittals are properly processed, please include the following information:
   a. name of the submitting agency and project title in the subject line of the e-mail
   b. each part of the four-part application is clearly titled when uploading onto SCAG's FTP site

Please e-mail Christopher Tzeng at ***tzeng@scag.ca.gov*** for instructions and permission to upload onto SCAG's FTP site before nomination packets are due on Friday, March 21, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. If you have further questions, please contact Christopher Tzeng at (213) 236-1913.

There is no application fee for project submittals.

**Nomination packets must be uploaded onto SCAG's FTP site no later than 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 21, 2014.**

## B. Eligibility

The program is open to all projects, programs, and actions taken within the SCAG region. Nominations are welcome from cities, counties and subregions, in combination with individual developers, consultants, builders, and others who strive to implement the goals and benefits of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. Eligible submittals must have been completed or adopted after January 1, 2009, and prior to April 1, 2014.

Submittals must clearly describe and demonstrate how the project, program, or action addresses the goals and benefits of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and other evaluation criteria. Eligible submittals should also demonstrate significant contributions to the community and excellence in planning and design.

## C. Evaluation Process and Criteria

Projects will be evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of experts in the fields of planning and development. In an initial review, each entry will be scored based on the goals and benefits of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. Projects that score a minimum point total will qualify for a second review consisting of a group evaluation by the full panel of judges, who will ultimately determine the winning entries for each category.

## D. Awards

The awards will be presented at the Sustainability Awards Program on May 1, 2014 at the Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells Resort & Spa during SCAG's Regional Conference & General Assembly.

**Top winners will receive a short video highlighting their winning project.**

**2013 EXCELLENCE AWARD**
Visionary Planning for Sustainability
*County of Los Angeles*

The One Valley One Vision, Santa Clarita (OVOV) plan was a joint effort by the City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles to develop consistent long-range planning documents for the entire Santa Clarita Valley. This innovative collaboration resulted in the adoption of an updated City General Plan, which replaced an outdated document adopted in 1991, as well as the adoption of an updated County Area Plan, which replaced an outdated document adopted in 1984.

# 2014 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS
## SUBMITTAL FORM (FILL OUT ALL THAT ARE APPLICABLE)

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*Provide contact information for the individual submitting this application.*

**Select a Category that Best Fits Your Project:**

○ Active Transportation ○ Green Region ○ Integrated Land Use & Transportation Planning

Name: Phone: E-mail:

Submitter's Organization Name & Address:

*Provide contact information for an individual to act as liaison for all correspondence to/from SCAG regarding this application.*

Contact Person: Phone: E-mail:

Primary Contact's Organization Name & Address:

Additional Contact Person (other than the nominator):

Address: Phone: E-mail:

Owner/Developer: Phone: E-mail:

Organization Name & Address:

Project Name & Address:

Project Adoption, Construction, or Completion Date:

Key Statistics (to the extent possible or applicable; e.g. number of units, commercial square footage, office square footage, open space square footage, etc):

Description (maximum 500 words) (Note: You may submit a separate sheet of paper instead of completing the electronic form.):

SCAG may use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction by others the information on this form and any supporting materials and graphics provided, for the purpose of publicizing the Sustainability Awards or the applicant project.

Name: Date:

**2013 EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Visionary Planning for Prosperity

*Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), Highway 395 Corridor Study for Southwest Riverside County*

The Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) Highway 395 Corridor Study is a collaborative effort between the cities of Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Temecula and Wildomar and stakeholders within the participating communities. The purpose of the study is to develop a comprehensive transportation and land use plan which will enable these four cities to accommodate future growth by utilizing a range of transportation options and reducing transportation demand through better community design.

# 2014 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS
# EVALUATION CRITERIA RESPONSE

Basis for a project or plan receiving an award: in bullet format, list up to five special innovative, and/or distinguishing reasons why the project should receive an award.

Describe how the project implements the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and how it meets the goals and benefits of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. ***(Response cannot exceed 2,000 words. Note: You may submit a separate sheet of paper instead of using the electronic form. If saving electronically, you will need Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard.)***

**2013 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Visionary Planning for Livability
*City of Fontana - Senior Apartments*

The Fontana Senior Apartments are four-phased, aesthetically pleasing, residential developments: "Fountains at Sierra," "Gardens at Sierra," "Village at Sierra" and the "Plaza at Sierra." The City of Fontana renewed and revitalized its once dilapidated, crime-ridden downtown area, transforming it with the addition of affordable senior housing complexes.

# 2014 SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS
## IMAGES

Please submit up to 10 supporting graphics in two formats: (1) PowerPoint; and (2) TIFF, JPG, or PDF at a minimum resolution of 150 pixels per inch. The graphics should be numbered, and a brief, one-sentence description of each image should be completed for each PowerPoint slide below, corresponding to the image number, as well as on the notes page for each slide in the PowerPoint presentation. Photographs are encouraged. You may combine image descriptions with a color "contact sheet" showing thumbnails of included images. Please keep in mind that the project images are instrumental in helping the jury reach its decision. In addition, they may be used to make a video to be presented at the Awards Program and SCAG's Regional Conference & General Assembly, on SCAG's website, and in case studies and articles; therefore, the higher the quality, the better.

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**2013 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Visionary Planning for Mobility

*South Bay Bicycle Coalition/LA County Bicycle Coalition*

*South Bay Bicycle Master Plan*

The South Bay Bicycle Master Plan is the result of a partnership between bike advocacy non-profit Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) and local grass-roots bike advocates the South Bay Bicycle Coalition (SBBC). The plan recommends Class I bike paths, Class II bike lanes, Class III bike routes and bike-friendly streets.

# ANNUAL SCAG SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Mark Your Calendars for these Dates:

- Nomination Packet Deadline: **March 21, 2014**
- Sustainability Award Winners Notification: **Late March, 2014**
- Sustainability Awards Program: **May 1, 2014**

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