



INFORMATION BROCHURE

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BACKGROUND

The California Association of Council of Governments (CALCOG) is a statewide association representing 38 regional planning agencies and was established in 1977. Most were formed as councils of governments, meaning that they represent joint powers agreements of cities and counties. The others were created as transportation commissions by the State Legislature. All have mandated state planning responsibilities. All councils of governments are responsible for identifying the share of the region's housing need for each community. Nearly all transportation commissions and councils of governments have transportation planning responsibility under both state and federal law. All councils of governments and transportation commissions are governed by city council members and county supervisors chosen by their peers.

While most of our members are single-county organizations, those representing three of the four largest metropolitan regions - Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)/Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in the Bay Area and Sacramento Area Councils of Governments (SACOG), as well as Monterey/Santa Cruz area (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) - are multi-county. In these multi-county regions there are also sub-regional organizations in transportation. In the Southern California region there are also 14 sub-regions for all regional planning, not just transportation but also including housing and other non-mandated regional planning issues.

With a few exceptions in specific transportation operations, our member agencies do not have service delivery responsibility. Their role with regard to transportation funds (and limited other funds that they distribute) is as a policy planning body that guides allocations of funds to other organizations without regulatory or service delivery authority or responsibility.

CALCOG FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Association include:

- 1) Providing advocacy and liaison in the State Capitol and with administrative agencies.*
- 2) Reviewing or proposing statewide legislation, plans, and policies, on subjects agreed upon by members.*
- 3) Coordinating policy development and legislative effort, when appropriate, with the league of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, the National Association of Regional Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.*
- 4) Promoting more effective planning at the regional level.*
- 5) Conducting statewide workshops and conferences which provide members with an ideal opportunity to discuss key issues, and to learn from recognized experts in various fields.*
- 6) Providing an informational clearinghouse on issues of concern to the regions and the state.*

COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (COGs)

Councils of Governments were formed recognizing that there are issues which transcend local boundaries and must be dealt with by local government working together and planning a unified local response to regional concerns

Councils of Governments are associations of cities and counties. They cover much of the state and are formed generally through joint powers agreements. Their governing boards are composed of locally elected members of city councils and county boards of supervisors.

Their regional role is to serve as a forum for local governments to: prepare regional plans, deal with regional issues, set regional policy, strengthen the effectiveness of local government, and develop and maintain regional databases. Traditionally, this has been in the areas of transportation, housing, water and air quality, growth management, and environmental protection. They also serve as the area wide clearing house for reviewing and assuring consistency between federal and state plans, projects and grants, and carry out various federal and state mandates. The roles of each regional council vary, based on the local needs of the region. Other major roles can include serving as the Airport Land Use Commission, Local Transportation Commission, Congestion Management Agency, Local Transportation Sales Tax Authority and administering agency for roadside emergency call boxes.

COG DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The COG Directors Association of California (CDAC) is composed of executive directors from each member council. The group meets on a regular basis to examine and discuss relevant regional issues, and serves as a staff resource and advisory body to the CALCOG governing council

Current CALCOG Members	# of Counties	# of Cities	2000 Census Population
Amador County Transportation Commission	1	5	35,100
Association of Bay Area Governments	9	99	6.9 Million
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	2	18	710,598
Butte County Association of Governments	1	5	203,171
Calaveras Council of Governments	1	1	40,000
Contra Costa Transportation Authority	1	19	972,150
Council of Fresno County Governments	1	15	799,400
Council of San Benito County Governments	1	2	53,234
El Dorado County Transportation Commission	West Slope of El Dorado Co.	1	156,299
Humboldt County Association of Governments	1	7	128,419
Kern Council of Governments	1	11	661,645
Kings County Association of Governments	1	4	129,461
Madera County Transportation Commission	1	2	125,800
Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles	1	88	9.8 Million
Mendocino Council of Governments	1	4	86,265
Merced County Association of Governments	1	6	210,000
Metropolitan Transportation Commission	9	101	6.8 Million
Orange County Council of Governments	1	34	2,846,289
Orange County Division League of California Cities	1	34	2,846,289
Orange County Transportation Authority	1	34	2,846,289

Current CALCOG Members	# of Counties	# of Cities	2000 Census Population
Placer County Transportation Planning Agency	1	6	230,060
Riverside County Transportation Commission	1	24	1,545,387
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	6	19	1,936,006
San Bernardino Association of Governments	1	24	1,709,434
San Diego Association of Governments	1	18	2,813,833
San Joaquin Council of Governments	1	7	563,598
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments	1	7	246,681
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments	1	8	399,347
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	1	4	255,602
Shasta County RTPA	1	3	165,000
Southern California Association of Governments	6	185	16,516,006
Stanislaus Council of Governments	1	9	447,000
Transportation Agency for Monterey County	1	12	401,762
Tulare County Association of Governments	1	8	368,021
Ventura County Transportation Commission	1	10	753,197
Western Riverside Council of Governments	1	14	1,200,000



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