



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development  
Laurie B. Jester, Senior Planner

**DATE:** September 20, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Request by Councilmember Aldinger to Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Support to the Southern California Association of Governments Regarding the California Regional Blueprint Planning Grant Program.

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council **APPROVE** the request to authorize the Mayor to sign the support letter.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended action, although Grant funding will potentially become available through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

### **BACKGROUND:**

Governor Schwarzenegger is launching a new \$5 million competitive grant program for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. It is called the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program, and it is designed to help regions prepare and implement voluntary growth visioning plans, such as the SCAG Southern California Compass and its 2% Implementation Strategy.

On September 1, 2005, the SCAG Regional Council approved Resolution #05-466-2, authorizing SCAG staff to apply for, accept and manage a Regional Blueprint Planning Grant and to collaborate with other stakeholders in the grant program. The Regional Council also requested that SCAG staff secure letters of support from cities in the region.

Attachments:      A. Letter of support to SCAG  
                          B. Letter from the State of California – July 8, 2005  
                          C. Letter from SCAG- September 7, 2005



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Honorable Toni Young, President  
Southern California Association of Governments  
818 West Seventh Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Ms. Young:

The City of Manhattan Beach extends its support to the Southern California Association of Governments for their application for California Regional Blueprint Planning Grant funds.

We support the opportunity to secure additional State resources to assist our region and local governments as we work to implement the Compass Growth Vision through local plans and strategies. These funds will provide financially strapped communities with services, assistance, and resources.

Since 2001, SCAG and the communities in Southern California have established a regional growth vision and continue to work together on the 2% Implementation Strategy. Through existing and new implementation assistance programs that SCAG offers, we hope Blueprint funds will be available for local projects to implement the Compass Growth Vision and shared regional goals.

We look forward to the opportunity to work collectively on future projects that implement Compass as we strive to create a sustainable Southern California.

Sincerely,

Joyce Fahey  
Mayor City of Manhattan Beach.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Department of Corporations  
Department of Financial Institutions  
California Highway Patrol  
California Housing Finance Agency  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
Department of Managed Health Care



SUNNE WRIGHT MCPEAK  
Secretary

Department of Motor Vehicles  
Office of the Patient Advocate  
Department of Real Estate  
Office of Real Estate Appraisers  
Stephen P. Teale Data Center  
Office of Traffic Safety  
Department of Transportation

**BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY**

July 8, 2005

TO: DIRECTORS OF CALIFORNIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

On behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, I am pleased to announce the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program. The Regional Blueprint Planning Program is a complement to the Governor's "GoCalifornia" initiative to significantly improve the transportation system. This program will provide grants to help California's regions plan for future growth and quality of life through integration of transportation, housing, land use, economic development and environmental protection. This integration will result in a more efficient and effective transportation system and land use pattern to achieve the three outcomes (3Es) that define quality of life – prosperous economy, quality environment, and social equity (more equal opportunity) – for all Californians.

Governor Schwarzenegger has made \$5 million available per year in Fiscal Year 2005/2006 for the voluntary preparation of Regional Blueprint Plans. The funds will be awarded by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency in December 2005 with projects to start January 2006. The program will be administered by the Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Planning, in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

We anticipate working closely with you to further advance comprehensive regional blueprint scenario planning in California with new growth scenario models and mapping tools, innovative public engagement techniques, and better integration of transportation, housing, land use, jobs-housing balance, economic development and environmental protection. The two-year Regional Blueprint Planning Program should result in comprehensive plans for most of the urbanized areas and best practices for completing the process statewide.

DIRECTORS OF CALIFORNIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

July 8, 2005

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We welcome your applications and look forward to working with you in this exciting new program. If you have any questions please contact Joan Sollenberger, Chief, Division of Transportation Planning, California Department of Transportation, (916) 653-1818.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sunne Wright McPeak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SUNNE WRIGHT McPEAK  
Secretary

Enclosure

September 7, 2005

Dear Elected Officials,

Governor Schwarzenegger is launching a new \$5 million competitive grant program for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. It is called the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program, and it is designed to help regions prepare and implement voluntary growth visioning plans, such as our Southern California Compass and its 2% Implementation Strategy.

SCAG intends to apply for approximately \$3 million in order to support as many local and subregional program initiatives as it can through:

***Demonstration projects*** - additional projects to assist local implementation of the 2% Strategy, including using many of the Suite of Services and other assistance depending on type and scope of project.

***General Plan updates*** - assistance to local cities and counties to adopt General Plans consistent with Compass and 2% Strategy

***Housing Planning*** - assistance in developing future allocation forecasts, developing plans that promote infill and transit-oriented development

In order to meet our funding goals for local communities, we need your formal letter of support for our application and the Compass 2% Strategy and Implementation Plan, a sample of which is included in a following page. Demonstrating a commitment to partnering with SCAG by ensuring a local match of at least 20% will make our collective application stronger.

We are excited about this opportunity to help further our collective vision for Southern California and shared values of improving mobility, increasing livability and prosperity, and creating a sustainable environment. Demonstrating local support for the Compass Vision will help secure more Blueprint funds for the entire region.

Please send your letter of support to SCAG by Friday, September 23, as SCAG will be sending the application to meet a September 30 deadline. For questions about the opportunities to partner with SCAG and of the opportunities available to local governments, please contact Joe Carreras at 213.236.1856. Thank you for your continued participation with SCAG and the Compass 2% Strategy.

Sincerely,

original signed

HASAN IKHRATA  
Director, Planning and Programming Department