June 27, 2003

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOPS UPDATE: Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler updated Directors on the second round of public involvement workshops on the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The workshops will be held in September and will update participants about the regional planning process, describe the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan, and allow participants to provide input on draft goals and policy concepts that will be recommended in the Plan. SANDAG is coordinating with local jurisdictions and interest groups to assist with co-hosting the workshops to reach as many residents as possible. More information is featured on the RCP Web site at www.sandag.org/rcp. (Item #19: Staff contact, Carolina Gregor, (619) 595-5399 or cgr@sandag.org)

TransNet ORDINANCE CHANGE: At the request of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB), SANDAG amended the ordinance pertaining to the transit portion of the TransNet program. The amended ordinance increases the maximum share of TransNet transit funds that can be used for operating purposes to 40 percent from the current 20 percent during the program’s remaining five years. The ordinance change is intended to help address MTDB’s projected multi-year operating budget. Sufficient capital funds would remain to allow MTDB to complete current project commitments such as the Mission Valley East trolley line through San Diego State University. It also would allow the transit agency to continue project development work on the Mid-Coast light rail extension, and on its Transit First Showcase and bus rapid transit (BRT) projects. The North San Diego County Transit Development Board (NCTD) would not be impacted by the proposed change but would have the same flexibility to shift more of its share of TransNet funds from capital to operating purposes should circumstances change. (Item #17: Staff contact, Craig Scott, (619) 595-5326 or csc@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS: The widening of Interstate 5 between Mission Bay Drive and State Route 52 was completed and opened to traffic in early June. This Caltrans project added an additional lane in the northbound direction...The environmental document for the widening of I-5 between Mile of Cars Way (24th Street) in National City and Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego was approved in late April. This Caltrans project will add auxiliary lanes in both directions. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2004 and be completed in Winter 2006...The design of the I-15 Managed Lanes between El Camino del Norte and Duenda Road in the Rancho Bernardo area is complete. The overall Managed Lanes project between SR 56 and Escondido is scheduled to open to traffic by 2007...The City of Oceanside has completed design work on the Oceanside Transit Center Parking Structure. The parking structure is scheduled to open by late 2004... Participation in SANDAG’s Vanpool Program continues to increase growing 38 percent in the last year. Currently 268 vanpools carry more than 2,600 commuters to work each day. (Item #6: Staff contact, Jose Nuncio, (619) 595-5619 or jnu@sandag.org)
UPDATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES: Directors were updated on the activities and accomplishments of SANDAG’s Criminal Justice Research Division. The report included information on analysis of crime and arrest trends in the San Diego region, and an update on local, state, and federal grant projects such as the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program funded with a National Institute for Justice grant, and evaluation of the effectiveness of an adult literacy program coordinated through the District Attorney’s Office. (Item #18: Staff Contact, Cynthia Burke, (619) 595-5361 or cbu@sandag.org)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (KEHOE) – REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: SANDAG Directors voted to support AB 361 if the bill is amended. Those amendments include a better link between the adopted Regional Transportation Plan and the preparation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, enhanced public outreach and involvement in the RCP’s development, and assurance that the bill does not usurp local land use control. Directors also want updates to the RCP to be contingent on funding, and an adjustment to the timing of a state Legislative Analysis Office progress report on consolidation. Directors emphasized the requirement for a public vote to make changes to the current SANDAG regional governance structure. (Item #15: Staff contact, Gary Gallegos, (619) 595-5332 or dhe@sandag.org)

BOARD OF OFFICERS: National City Councilman Ron Morrison has been unanimously elected to a second term as chairman of the San Diego Association of Governments Board of Directors for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Poway Mayor Mickey Cafagna also was re-elected unanimously to serve as Vice Chairman for a second term. (Item #14: Staff contact Garry Bonelli, (619) 595-5360 or gbo@sandag.org)

UPDATE ON WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT: Bob Campbell, of the San Diego County Water Authority, updated Directors on the status of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The QSA involves the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the San Diego County Water Authority, the Imperial Irrigation District, and the Coachella Valley Water District. It contains eight long-term water supply programs that will maximize California’s basic annual apportionment and reduce the state’s reliance on surplus Colorado River supplies. The QSA is critical to helping the region provide a sustainable and reliable water supply for the future. The state and the four water agencies reached agreement on the QSA in March 2003. (Item #20: Staff contact, Shelby Tucker, (619) 595-5316 or stu@sandag.org)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)/SANDAG MEETING: On May 8, 2003, policy officials and staff from SCAG and SANDAG held an informational exchange public meeting in the City of Temecula in southwestern Riverside County. The meeting covered a number of interregional topics encompassing: strategic regional plans; transportation projects; regional governance; border items, including Native American outreach; air transportation; and water availability. Officials agreed to hold public meetings every six months. The next joint meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2003 (in Temecula) and April 8, 2004. (Item #16: Staff contact, Garry Bonelli, 619/595-5360 or gbo@sandag.org)