REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPROVED: Directors approved the final Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for the 2005-2010 housing element cycle. The RHNA contains the total number of housing units (107,301) that the 18 cities and county government should plan for in their housing elements. The RHNA also allocates each jurisdiction’s housing need into four income brackets: very low, low, moderate, and above moderate. State housing element law requires that each jurisdiction identify enough multifamily zoned land or take other actions to accommodate their share of lower income housing. Directors also approved incentives for jurisdictions that plan for and produce lower income housing and submit an annual report verifying compliance with their adopted housing elements and housing production by income category. (Item #12: Staff contact, Susan Baldwin, (619) 699-1943; sba@sandag.org)

TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS REPORT: Highway Projects: Construction began on the TransNet-funded SR 76/Olive Hill Road intersection, scheduled for completion this summer....The SR 905/Siempre Viva Road Interchange project was opened to traffic in early December 2004. This initial SR 905 corridor project will improve traffic operations at Otay Mesa just north of the U.S.-Mexico border crossing by separating international traffic from local traffic....Arterial and Freeway Interchange Projects: Progress continues on the City of Carlsbad project to extend South Melrose Drive from Palomar Airport Road to the Vista city limit. Opening of the road is scheduled for April 2006....Traffic and Demand Management: Testing is complete for the Regional Automated Vehicle Location project, which provides for the automatic tracking of Freeway Service Patrol and Caltrans Traffic Management Team vehicles and select transit vehicles to enhance operations. “Next bus” message signs will be installed at the airport this month....During the second quarter of FY 2005, the Freeway Service Patrol assisted approximately 14,150 motorists, about four percent more than last quarter....Vanpool participation grew 12 percent in the last year, from 363 vanpools to 406 vanpools. Average ridership per vanpool was nine passengers, with 3,713 total passengers participating in the program. (Item #5, Staff contact: Jose Nuncio, (619) 699-1908; jnu@sandag.org)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: Directors approved funding for transit operators FY 2006 Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs). The CIPs will form the basis for updating the SANDAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program. SANDAG will use this information to apply for federal transit funding and rail modernization funds on behalf of the transit operators. (Item #7, Staff contact: Kimberly York (619) 699-6902; kyo@sandag.org)

STATUS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ENERGY WORKING GROUP: SANDAG approved the Energy Working Group (EWG) work plan and budget. The EWG was formed in December 2003 to implement the SANDAG adopted Regional Energy Strategy. The EWG’s top priority is the preparation of the 2006 Long-Term Resource Plan (LTRP). The plan will identify the energy resource needs and the approach to meet those needs during a ten-year period. Typically, the plan is prepared by the electrical utility with little input from the region’s stakeholders. The EWG wants to conduct a community-based energy planning process in cooperation with SDG&E. SDG&E still will be responsible for submitting the plan to the California Public Utilities Commission and has the legal responsibility for fulfilling the plan. (Item #13: Staff contact, Rob Rundle, (619) 699-6949 or rru@sandag.org)

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL RETREAT: Directors were presented with an informational synopsis of the retreat. More than 60 primary and alternate SANDAG Directors and member agency and public safety officials participated in the retreat, held February 9, 10, and 11 in the community of Borrego Springs. Primary retreat topics included: (1) integration of the Regional Comprehensive Plan with the update of the Regional Transportation Plan; (2) getting transportation projects built under the voter-approved TransNet Extension program; and (3) the work program for the Public Safety Committee. The report contains the key action items from the retreat. (Item#10: Staff contact Garry Bonelli, (619) 699-1960; gbo@sandag.org)

OTHER ACTIONS: Directors recognized Jess Van Deventer for his 26 years of public service as a member of the SANDAG Board representing National City and the San Diego Unified Port District. Mr. Van Deventer, the longest serving member of the SANDAG Board of Directors, was Chairman during 1984-1986. His leadership was instrumental during the initial development of the 1987 voter-approved TransNet half-cent transportation sales tax measure, and with the formation of SourcePoint, a nonprofit corporate subsidiary of SANDAG… For calendar year 2005, Chairman Cafagna appointed Imperial Beach Councilmember Patricia McCoy as the chair of the SANDAG Borders Committee. In addition, Board Chairman Cafagna reappointed Solana Beach Councilmember Joe Kellejian to chair the Transportation Committee, Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler to chair the Regional Planning Committee, and Chula Vista Mayor Steve Padilla to chair the Public Safety Committee. (Items 9 and 11: Staff contact Garry Bonelli, (619) 699-1960; gbo@sandag.org)

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Upcoming Meetings

March 11, 2005
North County Coastal Tour

March 25, 2005
Board Business Meeting
- Drug Use Trends
- Service Bureau Concept
- Conflict of Interest Policy

Employer Seminar
March 25, 2005
Help employees Survive the Drive. Learn the benefits of offering an employee transportation program.
8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Marriott Del Mar
11966 El Camino Real
Call 619-699-6988 or e-mail survivethedrive@sandag.org