

OCCOG INFORMATION SHEET

The OCCOG was established as a joint powers authority through an executed joint powers agreement that was entered into by thirty (30) founding Member Agencies between April 1996 and January 1998.

These member agencies recognized the public interest, convenience and necessity in creating a separate legal entity – known as the OCCOG – to establish a unified Orange County position in performing its charge as an official subregion of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

As a joint powers authority, OCCOG serves to monitor, analyze and provides Orange County technical and policy recommendations on all SCAG plans and programs, on behalf of its current forty members. Members include all Orange County cities, the County of Orange, Orange County Transportation Authority, the Transportation Corridor Agencies, and Orange County special districts including the Orange County Sanitation District and the Independent Special Districts of Orange County.

Key OCCOG responsibilities include:

- Protecting Orange County interests in SCAG's development of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation to local jurisdictions in the six-county SCAG region;
- Protecting the local, bottoms-up development of the Orange County Projections, which represents Orange County's official growth forecast for local, countywide and regional planning;
- Adopting said official growth forecast, which is now required by statute to be used for RHNA allocations and for regional transportation planning; and,
- Providing input and recommendations on new requirements relating to SB 375 and its Sustainable Communities Strategy that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting future and higher-intensity growth near transit stations and facilities.

This is conducted through OCCOG's staff-level Technical Advisory Committee, its Board of Directors of elected Orange County representatives, and its representation of OCCOG Board of Directors on SCAG's Governing Board and policy level committees.

OCCOG Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement:

As the OCCOG undertook technical and policy revisions to its bylaws in 2009, OCCOG recognized that certain proposed bylaws revisions would concurrently require amendment to the original joint powers agreement. In turn, additional revisions were in order, to update outdated provisions in the agreement and to further authorize certain new provisions, such as establishing the authority for Member Agency dues.

On June 25, 2009, the OCCOG Board of Directors adopted an amended and restated OCCOG joint powers agreement, and authorized the amended joint powers agreement to be transmitted to OCCOG Member Agencies for their individual execution.

Key changes that were made to the OCCOG joint powers agreement are as follows:

- Updates the list of OCCOG member agencies;
- Updates the OCCOG voting member list of member agencies;
- Adds the provision for the establishment and member agency payment of dues;
- Streamlines the agreement's provisions so that specific terms governing how each voting member is comprised, is established pursuant to the OCCOG bylaws, therefore eliminating the requirement that the JPA be amended by each Member Agency for any subsequent clarifications;
- Clarifies the powers and limitations of the OCCOG;
- Replaces the designation of the City of Lake Forest with the Orange County Transportation Authority as the entity required to be designated in the agreement, pursuant to Government Code 6509, which requires the specific identification of a member agency whose powers are reflective of the limitations of the OCCOG as a whole;
- Broadens the powers of the OCCOG to retain staff and consultants; and,
- Eliminates the specific designation of OCCOG committees, and instead, provides for the OCCOG bylaws to specify any committee created by the OCCOG Board to assist in executing OCCOG functions.

The amended and restated OCCOG joint powers agreement is included as Exhibit A to the attached resolution of action.

The OCCOG Board of Directors concurrently conducted a comprehensive assessment and revision to its adopted bylaws, in consultation with the OCCOG Board Ad Hoc Bylaws Subcommittee and with input from the Orange County City Managers Association OCCOG Oversight Committee.

The revised OCCOG bylaws provide for a more defined discussion of OCCOG, describes its purpose and responsibilities, outlines how its members are elected and selected, and establishes procedures for the conduct of its operations.

The OCCOG Board of Directors, at its meeting of June 25, 2009, reviewed, considered and adopted a comprehensive technical and policy revision to its operating bylaws. The 2009 amendment to the OCCOG bylaws is consistent with the 2009 amended and restated OCCOG joint powers agreement. The OCCOG bylaws are presented for your information and reference in Attachment 2.

The OCCOG Board of Directors requests that each OCCOG Member Agency approve and execute the amended and restated OCCOG Joint Powers Agreement, and transmit the signed agreement to the OCCOG Interim Executive Director effective FY 2009-10.