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**Southern California Association of Governments Accepts Proposal  
from the Civic Alliance and the Ventura Council of Governments  
to Launch Regional Planning Project**

(CAMARILLO, CA – November 29, 2006) — The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has accepted a joint proposal from the Civic Alliance and the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) to launch the first phase of a multi-year program to advance regional planning in Ventura County.

Titled the “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County,” the project will engage community members to develop a set of possible scenarios for the future of the county based on alternative land use, housing, transportation, and economic development patterns and policies. To achieve this, SCAG will provide the Civic Alliance and VCOG with free consultant services estimated at a value of \$150,000.

According to Alliance member and Compact Working Group Chair Ron Bottorff, “The Compact is a partnership involving the Alliance and local government as well as businesses and private institutions, that seeks to build a common vision for Ventura County’s future. The approval by SCAG of the first phase of the Compact as a 2 percent strategy project moves the Alliance strongly forward in its strategic program goal of mobilizing people and civic organizations to work together across boundaries to address the many challenges related to regional growth and sustainability.”

The “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County” proposal was previously endorsed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and eight out of ten cities in the county. The project strongly aligned with SCAG’s mission of strategic planning for the growth for the six-county Southern California region,” said Peter Brandenburg, SCAG Senior Regional Planner.

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“We are striving to figure out how we’re going to accommodate another six million people by year 2035,” Brandenburg continued, “and to plan for that in a way that links land use and transportation planning while maximizing people’s mobility and prosperity and the livability and sustainability of their communities.”

The team of consultants on the project includes Fregonese Calthorpe Associates and Solimar Research Group. These consultants plan to work with Compact to engage communities across the county in workshops to create and evaluate the scenarios and identify a “preferred regional future,” a shared vision of what Ventura County residents want the region to look like over the next several decades.

The mission of the Ventura County Civic Alliance is to promote a healthy and sustainable future for the Ventura County region. An initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation, the Alliance is a coalition of civic leaders with a shared commitment to bringing the economic, environmental and social equity interests of our region together to address priority community issues, increase civic engagement, and build community leadership. For more information, contact Rebecca Evans, executive director, or visit <http://vccf.org/civicalliance>.

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