STATE OF CALIFORNIA -BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Huasha Liu, Director of Land Use and Environmental Planning
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
818 W 7th Street,12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Review of SCAG Existing Housing Needs Data Report

Dear Ms. Liu:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the SCAG Existing Housing Needs Data Report (Data Report). The Department applauds SCAG for its tremendous effort to assist local governments in complying with the statutory requirements of housing element law. The Data Report will provide an important tool to local governments in updating housing elements in the SCAG region (5th cycle).

As you know, housing element law requires an assessment of existing housing needs. The Data Report addresses most of the quantification [1] for the assessment of existing housing needs, as follows:

- identification of population and employment trends;
- household characteristics (i.e., existing households, existing extremely low income households, total and lower income households overpaying, overcrowded households); and
- Special Needs (i.e., number of persons with disabilities, elderly by tenure, large households by tenure, female headed households and homeless persons)

HCD has reviewed the Data Report and determined it meets statutory requirements for the assessment of existing housing needs as described above. As a result, jurisdiction's use of this data will streamline both the H.E update process and HCD's review process. Further, the Data Report will be incorporated into the Department's housing element Update Guidance as an additional streamlining tool for local governments. However, local housing elements must still include or update the requisite analysis of this data, where appropriate. For more information regarding a complete housing needs assessment, see the Department's Building Blocks at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/housing_element2/HN_home.php.

[1] Local governments must still quantify farmworkers and persons with developmental disabilities and could meet requirements by incorporating CHAS data with more specific data on overpayment by income group (i.e., extremely low, very low, low, moderate and above moderate)

The Department appreciates the efforts of SCAG, particularly Ma'Ayn Johnson, Senior Regional Planner and Javier Minjares, Regional Planner Specialist, in making the data available to streamline the preparation and review of housing elements for local governments in the SCAG region. The Department looks forward to working with SCAG and its members in the update of the housing elements. If you have any questions, please contact Paul McDougall, of our staff, at (916) 322-7995.

Sincerely,

Glen A. Campora
Assistant Deputy Director