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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***SCAG appoints Michael Houston as Chief Counsel***

**Los Angeles** – Michael Houston has been appointed Chief Counsel for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), joining the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization after spending the past five years as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary to the Tejon Ranch Co.

Houston has more than 20 years’ experience as a practicing lawyer, mainly focusing on public agency law, governance, public ethics, real estate, economic development and land use. Before joining Tejon Ranch Co., he served as City Attorney for the City of Anaheim and was instrumental in reshaping the city’s electoral system as it transitioned from an at-large system to election of councilmembers by district.

In his new role, Houston will provide legal guidance and advise to SCAG’s Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, various committees and other members of the executive leadership team.

His appointment followed an extensive search.

“Michael is a skilled attorney whose background and experience with public agencies – as well as the private sector – will be invaluable as we address the challenges and opportunities facing local and regional governments in the months and years ahead,” said Kome Ajise, Executive Director of SCAG.

“I am honored to join SCAG’s leadership team and be part of its dynamic role in the region, as it assists its member agencies to formulate and implement policy for important issues affecting Southern California,” said Houston.

Houston will begin his new role on February 1.

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### ***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG, please visit: [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)