



September 15, 2000

*A*  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012-2952

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FROM: JAMES L. de la LOZA**  
*[Signature]*  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**INTERCITY RAIL GROUP (SCIRG)**

**ISSUE**

MTA Board approval of the SCIRG Exercise of Powers Agreement expired on June 30, 2000. Several member counties of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) have terminated or are considering terminating their participation in SCIRG. If a majority of SCRRA member counties elects to leave SCIRG, the benefits associated with MTA participation in SCIRG could be significantly reduced. MTA staff does not intend to recommend renewing MTA's participation in SCIRG unless a minimum of two other SCRRA member agencies also renew.

**BACKGROUND**

Formation of SCIRG. SCIRG was formed in 1996 through the passage of State Senate Bill 457, which sought to address the impact of rising costs and reduced funding available for the intercity rail services operated by Amtrak between San Diego and San Luis Obispo, via Los Angeles Union Station. The make-up of the SCIRG Board is shown in Attachment A. Four out the five counties that make up the SCRRA currently participate in SCIRG.

SCIRG contracted with a consultant to study a broad range of cost savings measures, including the potential transfer of the administration of the state intercity rail program from Caltrans to a new or existing local agency. The study identified several cost saving measures. However, nearly all of the measures identified could be achieved without a transfer. In mid-1998 the SCIRG Board voted to defer the transfer and instead to request Caltrans and Amtrak to implement the study's recommendations.

A changing role for SCIRG. Since 1998 SCIRG has continued to hold meetings, and in December, 1999 adopted a Vision Statement, Goals, and Work Plan. The basic focus was to improve intercity rail services through cooperation and coordination between transportation planning, funding and operating agencies in Southern California. Without a full complement of SCRRA members, SCIRG will likely focus less on funding issues that complement Metrolink, making MTA participation less meaningful. SCRRA members could continue to coordinate directly or via SCRRA with rail operators in Southern California on an informal basis, ensuring that MTA continues to have input on intercity rail issues.

### **NEXT STEPS**

At this time, only one SCRRA county member has renewed its SCIRG participation, and two have formally decided to opt out. Staff will monitor the actions taken by the other SCRRA members with respect to SCIRG over the next few months. Staff anticipates returning to the Board with a recommendation to allow MTA participation in SCIRG only if a majority of SCRRA member agencies continue participation.

Attachment A: Southern California Intercity Rail Group Roster

Prepared by: Patricia Chen, Transportation Planning Manager

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERCITY RAIL GROUP**

**JOINT POWERS BOARD**

**SCIRG MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2000**

1. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)  
Delegate: Vacant  
Alternate: Hal Bernson, Council Member, City of Los Angeles  
(MTA has not renewed its participation since June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000.)
2. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)  
Delegate: Sarah L. Catz, Public Member, OCTA  
Alternate: Charles V. Smith, Supervisor, OCTA  
(OCTA has not renewed its participation since June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000.)
3. Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)  
Delegate: William Kleindienst, Mayor, Palm Springs  
Alternate: Ron Roberts, Council Member, City of Temecula
4. San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG)  
Delegate: Robert Nolan, Mayor, City of Upland  
Alternate: Bill Alexander, Mayor, City of Rancho Cucamonga  
(Since June 30<sup>th</sup>, SANBAG has formally decided not to renew its participation.)
5. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)  
Delegate: Julianne Nygaard, Council Member, City of Carlsbad  
Alternate: Jerry Rindone, Public Member, Chula Vista
6. San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)  
Delegate: Dave Ekbohm, Council Member, City of Grover Beach  
Alternate: Frank Mecham, Council Member, City of Paso Robles
7. Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)  
Delegate: Richard Weinberg, Council Member, City of Carpinteria  
Alternate: Ken Westall, Council Member, City of Guadalupe
8. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Delegate: Arthur C. Brown, Council Member, City of Buena Park  
Alternate: None

Ex-Officio Members

9. Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)  
Delegate: David Solow, Chief Executive Officer
10. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
Delegate: Warren Weber, Rail Program Manager
11. Amtrak West  
Delegate: Gilbert Mallery, President
12. Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad  
Delegate: D. J. Mitchell, Assistant VP  
Passenger Services & Joint Facilities
13. Union Pacific Railroad  
Delegate: Tom Mulligan, General Director, Passenger Services
14. North County Transit District  
Delegate: Martin Minkoff, Executive Director
15. North San Diego County Transit Development Board  
Delegate: Joe Kellejian, Member of the Board