

Greater Los Angeles

Country

United States

Population

13,4 millions

World region

North America

● Context

Greater Los Angeles is a highly polycentric, multi-county metropolitan region structured around the City of Los Angeles but composed of hundreds of cities. Being one of the most diversified metropolitan systems in the world, LA has no single metropolitan government. Instead, regional coordination occurs through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), which manages metropolitan planning for transportation, land use, housing and air quality, and sectorial agencies, such as the LA Metro, which deals with public transit and mobility.

● Economic profile

World Bank income group: High

Major economic activities

One of the most economically diversified metropolitan regions in the world, Greater Los Angeles combines entertainment and media, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, technology, and creative industries with a logistics and international trade base anchored by the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach — the largest port complex in North America.

Own source revenues

Because there is no single metropolitan government, own-source revenues are collected by numerous city, county and state governments as well as special-purpose authorities.

● Governance structure

Year of constitution: SCAG (1965)

Type of metropolitan government: Voluntary cooperation (inter-municipal)

Legal framework

At national scale, the Federal-Aid Highway Transportation Act of 1962 required the creation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for each urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more. In each area, local authorities determine their own institutional arrangements. Greater Los Angeles is one of the 450+ MPOs in the United States, with SCAG serving as the designated planning authority for the region.

Administrative structure

SCAG acts as the regional metropolitan authority for six counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Imperial) and 191 cities. Together with regional agencies such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the South Coast AQMD, it coordinates transportation, air quality, regional housing needs, long-range growth planning, and sustainability strategies. SCAG is governed by the General Assembly, which includes at least one official delegate from each of SCAG's member cities, one from each county, and one from each member county transportation commission.

Annual revenue, expenditure and sources

SCAG is funded primarily through federal transportation planning grants, California state funds, and local membership dues. LA Metro and other regional agencies operate with an annual budget supported by county sales taxes, state funds, federal grants, fares, and toll revenues.

Number and type of administrative units

6 counties and 191 incorporated cities.

KEY STRATEGIC PLAN



Resilience

Citywide Resilience
Strategy



Strategic

Citywide General Plan
Framework Element



Innovation

Innovation and Performance
Commission