



Excerpts from the Regional Council Policy Manual (RC Approved June 9, 2019, as amended through Sept. 5, 2024)

F. Travel Policy for Representatives of Members of the Regional Council and SCAG Officers

- (1) Representatives of Regional Council Members and SCAG Officers who attend meetings on behalf of SCAG are eligible to receive travel reimbursement for: (a) actual costs of airplane, bus, train, rental car, shuttle, taxi or car service (e.g. Lyft); (b) miles travelled using a personal automobile; and (c) actual parking expenses. Mileage will be reimbursed at the prevailing federal reimbursement rate. Distances will be calculated based on the travel distance from the representative's seat of government and the meeting location. An airplane, taxi, car service or rental car should be used only if it is the best alternative considering both cost and time. Taxi, shuttle and car service gratuities should not exceed 15%. Parking at SCAG's Los Angeles office will be validated.
- (2) International travel always requires advance approval of the Regional Council.
- (3) SCAG representatives of Regional Council Members and SCAG Officers should, whenever possible, use SCAG staff to arrange all air travel. Only economy air travel is allowed. Except for air travel, whenever possible representatives of Members of the Regional Council and SCAG Officers should make their own surface travel and lodging arrangements and obtain reimbursement from SCAG for all expenses incurred. If SCAG representatives make their own air travel arrangements and if the cost of airfare significantly exceeds costs regularly paid by SCAG for air travel, approval of SCAG's President will be required before reimbursement will be made.
- (4) The cost of alcoholic beverages cannot be claimed for reimbursement. Meal allowances will not be paid if meal service is provided by SCAG (e.g. lunch at meetings of the Regional Council). The following allowances for meals and incidentals, or 150% (one-hundred fifty percent) of the reimbursement amounts approved by the State of California, whichever is higher and which include an allowance for gratuities, shall apply and be reimbursed without receipts. Higher amounts may be approved by the Regional Council in the case of international travel.
 - a. Breakfast costs of \$10.50 if away from home or if travel begins from home to a meeting that starts at 10 AM or earlier.
 - b. Lunch costs of \$16.50.
 - c. Dinner costs of \$34.50 if away from home or if the travel begins from home to a meeting that starts at or before 4 PM and ends at or after 7 PM.
 - d. Incidental costs of \$5 for each day involving an overnight stay away from home.
- (5) Lodging is reimbursable at the applicable government rate plus taxes if: (a) required for trips outside of the SCAG Region; (b) an individual is required to travel 50 miles or more one way for a SCAG-related activity that begins at 10 AM or earlier; or (c) an individual is required to attend a SCAG-related activity that begins at 1 PM or later and is required to attend a SCAG-related activity the following day that begins at 10 AM or earlier; or (d) a member of the EAC, whose seat of government is outside of Los Angeles County, attends an EAC meeting that begins at 9 AM or earlier. If government lodging rates do not appear to be available, assistance should be requested from SCAG staff, if possible, to avoid paying above government rates. Lodging charges that are more than double standard government rates for the locale of the lodging will require approval of the SCAG President before reimbursement can be made.
- (6) All travel costs must be fully documented, as required, with receipts identifying the date and time the expenses were incurred, the location and the purpose of the travel or expense. The SCAG President or SCAG's Executive Director or his/her designee must approve travel reimbursement requests without receipts in the case of lost or partial receipts.