

Background

Local governments are active in lobbying Washington for improved legislation, but find it impossible to keep up with the flood of rules and regulations. A SCAG Task Force of City Managers and County Administrative Officers documented* many problems suffered by local governments because of uncoordinated, unnecessary, or confusingly written federal regulations. The Task Force also found that most federal rule-making takes place without comment or input from local governments.

The Task Force then strongly recommended that local governments band together in an aggressive Administrative Advocacy Program to protect themselves from federal red tape.

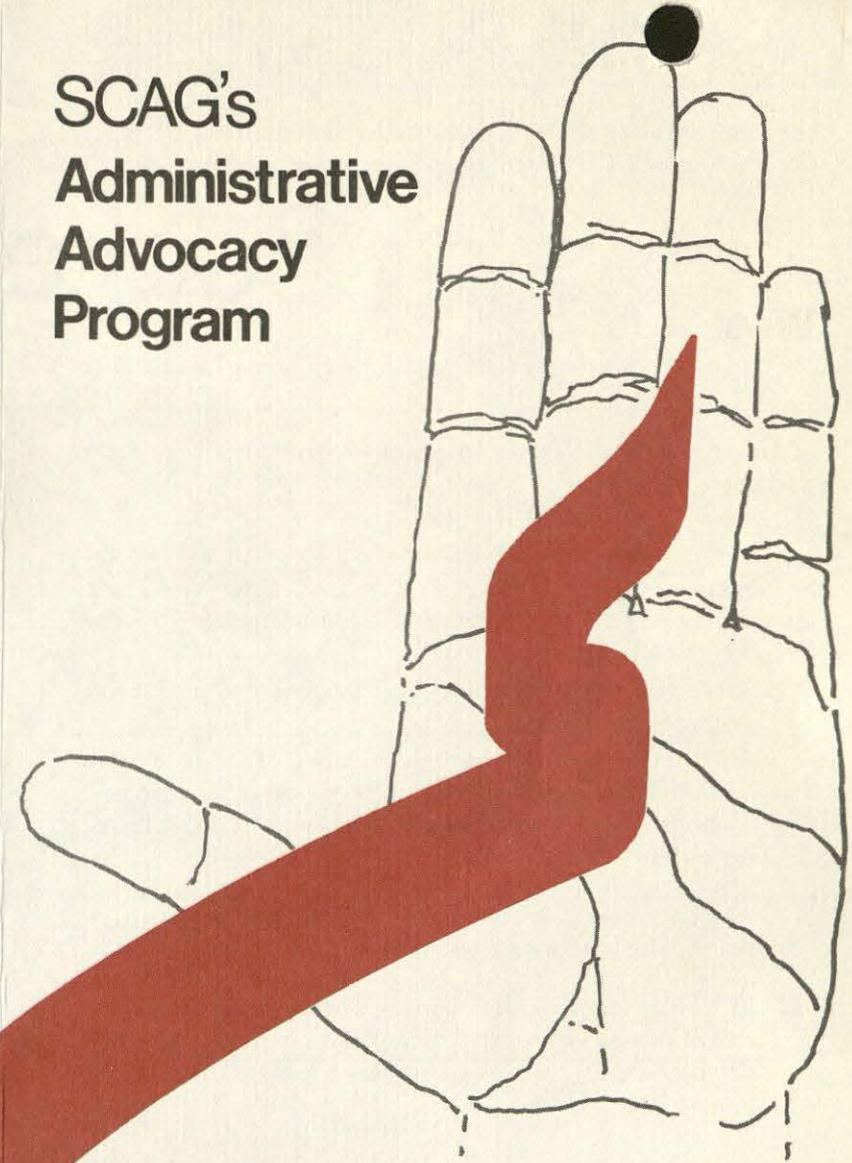
*Red Tape Reduction, SCAG, 1977

The Administrative Advocacy Program is another of SCAG's continuing efforts to serve local officials in Southern California. We welcome the participation of your city or county, and invite your comments and suggestions on the Program. Call SCAG at (213) 385-1000 for further information.



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SCAG's Administrative Advocacy Program



can help stop *Red Tape*
before it starts

Administrative Advocacy, a new service sponsored by the Southern California Association of Governments, aims at giving local governments a greater voice in the making and writing of federal regulations.

If ill-considered federal regulations are needlessly running up costs for your community — in dollars, staff time, paperwork, and confusion — here's your chance to do something about it. Get involved in SCAG's Administrative Advocacy Program.

What It Is

SCAG's new Administrative Advocacy Program has three main purposes:

1.
 - (a) to gather advance information on proposed federal regulations, to analyze the regulations' potential impact on the region, and to provide this information to local elected officials;
 - (b) to solicit the comments of local governments on the proposed regulations;
 - (c) to compile these comments, bring them to the attention of Washington, and lobby the agencies involved to bring about needed changes **before** the regulations are passed.
2. to lobby federal agencies for needed changes in regulations **already** passed; and
3. to ensure that regulations are written in plain, easily readable English, so that complying with the law does not become for local governments a matter of interpretation and guesswork.

How It Works

SCAG's Early Warning System

- SCAG staff will gather draft copies of proposed regulations before they are published in the Federal Register.
- SCAG will provide copies of these regulations and a brief analysis of their potential regional impacts to the "Administrative Advocacy Network". The Network is currently composed of four counties and over 60 cities, and members of SCAG's technical committees.

What the Network Does

- Participants in the Network will review the regulations to see what the community impacts will be, and send their suggestions for improving the regulations to SCAG.
- SCAG will suggest improvements from the regional viewpoint.

SCAG Action

- SCAG will compile all comments and send them to the federal agency involved.
- SCAG will lobby federal agencies — both directly and through the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of Regional Councils — to ensure that federal rule-makers are aware of the region's recommendations.

Will Washington Listen?

Washington officials recently made a commitment to improving local governments' role in federal rule-making. They are open to suggestion. But we at the local level must make an equal commitment to providing Washington with our views. The success of the Administrative Advocacy Program will, in the end, depend on the support and cooperation of Southern California's local governments.

