

FW: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Wed 5/20/2020 11:57 AM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

SCAG response to our request for comment...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Margaret de Larios** <delarios@scag.ca.gov>

Date: Tue, May 19, 2020 at 18:46

Subject: FW: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

To: Craig Smith

Hi Craig,

Below is a statement from SCAG regarding your inquiry – let me know if I can provide anything further.

Thank you,

Margaret

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing a region with 191 cities, over 19 million people, and the 15th largest economy in the world. Southern California is also a very competitive job market.

Consistent with the agency's strategic goal to "Recruit, support, and develop a world-class workforce and be the workplace of choice," SCAG conducts periodic organizational market-based studies of the prevailing compensation for benchmarked positions in comparable agencies to ensure market/internal alignment and address recruitment and retention needs.

SCAG does offer competitive compensation; as the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, the agency asks a lot of its staff and seeks to attract and retain the very best performers.

All our compensation and budgetary decisions are made publicly and transparently. We are closely monitoring our budget needs and funding sources, and we anticipate adjustments to the budget over the following months as the post-pandemic outlook becomes clearer.



Margaret de Larios

Public Affairs Specialist

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

From: Craig Smith
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Jeff W. Liu <LIUJ@scag.ca.gov>
Cc: Adam Andrzejewski
<Adam@openthebooks.com>
Subject: IMPORTANT: FORBES REQUEST FOR COMMENT

To whom it may concern,

My name is Craig Smith. I am a researcher working on behalf of Forbes Sr. Policy Contributor Adam Andrzejewski. We are working on a piece regarding the large number of California public employees with six-figure salaries or retirement pensions and their impact on taxpayers. The deadline for comment is Tuesday May 19th at 5:00 PM ET. If you miss our deadline, we will do our best to update the piece when you respond.

In these times of national crisis, please provide us with an on-the-record justification for the salaries of your most highly compensated employees. Here are the relevant paragraphs where your organization is mentioned:

- Government “associations” of all types are dialed into the public pension system. These associations are organized as “non-profits” and include association of governments, school boards, water districts, utilities, special districts, and even flood control associations.

We found 314 six-figure administrators run these government associations that are funded by taxpayers for \$44 million a year. The most highly compensated was Drain Chidsey (Southern

California Association of Governments – \$289,109).

Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers at Forbes. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Craig Smith

On behalf of Forbes Sr. Policy Contributor Adam

Andrzejewski