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ALI SAHABI WINS REGIONAL CHAMPION AWARD

LA QUINTA, Calif. – The Southern California Association of Governments has awarded Inland Empire developer and philanthropist Ali Sahabi with its Regional Champion Award for his continued dedication to improving the quality of life for the region.

Sahabi, president and CEO of SE Corporation, was one of four Southern California dignitaries to receive a Regional Champion Award at the association's 44th Annual General Assembly meeting held this month at the La Quinta Resort and Club in the City of La Quinta. Other award recipients were Riverside County Transportation Commission Executive Director Ann Mayer, Port of Los Angeles Director of Goods Movement Kerry Cartwright and KNBC-TV Anchor and Reporter Beverly White.

Sahabi was honored for his commitment to sustainability and his role in promoting new jobs in green industry for the region through the Green Valley Initiative, a collaborative economic development effort he launched in 2007 through his nonprofit, the Green Institute for Village Empowerment, (GIVE).

The Green Valley Initiative is cooperative effort spanning Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Its participating stakeholders include more than 500 people representing businesses, government agencies, education, nonprofit organizations and the community-at-large. To date, both counties and more than 40 cities and other agencies have formally endorsed the project through the adoption of resolutions of support. For more information, visit www.greenvalleynow.org.

Sahabi's dedication to sustainability is also reflected in his mixed-use development of Dos Lagos, in Corona, which in 2007 won the California Governor's Economic and Environmental Leadership Award for sustainable developments; and through his many philanthropic gifts, including an endowment which established the Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development at UC Riverside. In 2006, he established GIVE, the Green Institute for Village Empowerment, a nonprofit committed to the education and promotion of sustainable practices throughout the Inland Empire and beyond.

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 189 cities and more than 18 million residents. It undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California. Visit www.scag.ca.gov.