



Valley Planner's Network

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

10:00 AM ~ 12:00 NOON @ Fresno COG

2035 Tulare St., Suite 201 Fresno, CA

→
Optional
Access

For Video Teleconferencing – Contact your local COG
or
Call In: 877-455-8695 ~ Code: 740166

AGENDA

1. (10:00 – 10:10) Welcome and Self Introductions
 - Notes from September 18, 2013 Meeting - Attachment 1
 - New Vice-Chair
2. (10:10 – 10:25) Prop 84 (Round 3) – SCS Implementation:
 - Proposed Letter of Support from the VPN – Attachment 2
3. (10:25 – 10:45) Prop 84 (Round 1) – Blueprint:
 - Greenprint Update
4. (10:45 – 11:00) Community & Regional Planning Center (CRPC) Update:
5. (11:00 – 11:20) Regional Transportation Planning:
 - Individual COG Reports
 - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
 - Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)
 - Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
6. (11:20 – 11:40) Statewide Items:
 - General Plan Guidelines Update Overview - Attachment 3
 - SB 743 Overview
7. (11:40 – 11:50) Update on Regional Planning Efforts and Content:
 - Smart Valley Places Update
 - Valley Blueprint Website (www.valleyblueprint.org)
 - Planner's Toolkit (www.toolkit.valleyblueprint.org)
 - San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council Meeting – June 20, 2014 – Location TBD
 - Legislative Updates (Local and Regional)
8. (11:50 – 12:00) Future Potential Agenda Items:
 - OPR Presentation of General Plan Guidelines Update
 - SGC Roundtable to Discuss State, Regional and Local Agency Coordination & Feedback
9. Other Items:
Next Meeting Date: - May 21, 2014

PARKING Yellow Level– Tulare and Van Ness underground garage – we will validate ticket

Valley Planner's Workgroup Meeting Notes

September 18, 2013

(Full MP3 audio of the meeting is available by contacting Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148)

1. Welcome and Self Introductions (0:00)

John W. welcomed the meeting attendees, remote site location, and phone participants and asked that everyone introduce themselves (see attendance list at end of notes). There were no corrections or additions to the notes from the last meeting on June 19, 2013 (Attachment 1).

2. Prop 84 (Round 1) – Blueprint Integration: Greenprint Update (4:00)

- a. Blueprint Integration – Circuit Planner
 - i. Rob T. stated that the circuit planning activities had concluded, and that the final report on activities is now available for review on the BP website
 - ii. John W. asked if letters of support/positive feedback had been sought from city managers, etc., to assist with support for future circuit planning activities, or funding opportunities
 - iii. Eric V. and Rob T. notated that each City had provided a survey regarding their experience, and potential desire/need for such services in the future, but that specific letters had not been requested
 - iv. John W. recommended that such items could be helpful, and should be sought in the near future
- b. Greenprint – Clark T. presented:
 - i. Notation of October 9th Greenprint Presentation to be given to the COG Director's, at the Fall Policy Conference in Stockton; as well as a presentation to the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners on October 24th
 1. Mapping will be presented
 2. On-line data, tools and mapping will be presented (<http://plone.ice.ucdavis.edu/sjvgreenprint>)
 3. Discussions of potential policy decisions regarding farmland, habitat, ground water and other natural resources
 - ii. Discussions of a budget and contract amendment with UC Davis (Exhibit A1) were discussed. The amendment allows for the addition of both a facilitator and report writer to be added to the team at UC Davis; allowing for better outreach and communication with outside agencies and partners not currently involved/aware.
 1. John W. expressed support for the amendment, discussing the specific types of deliverables and services the additional positions could provide, in allowing agencies to fully utilize the deliverables and see the benefits of the technical analysis
 2. John W. and Mohammad K. discussed the need to ensure collaboration with County planning officials, and some of the challenges associated with renewable energy project placement and land protection and/or preservation, as an example of how the Greenprint data and deliverables can greatly assist decision makers
 3. Greg G. discussed topics from Kings County in regards to renewable energy project placement, and some of the products that have come up from processes associated with their planning efforts
 4. John W. notated that additional presentations of the Greenprint will take place throughout 2014; including at the Valley Planner's Network

3. Regional Transportation Planning (33:30) Individual COG reports on Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Status – Rob T. presented:

- a. Rob T. discussed the potential for draft document releases amongst all eight of the Valley COG's, ranging anywhere from December '13 to Feb '14. Draft documents out for comment to follow, with adoption(s) scheduled for summer 2014
- b. Rob T. discussed Fresno COG outreach efforts to NGO's, and other agencies, to collaborate on the SCS
- c. Greg G. asked questions regarding the land use component of the SCS planning process. Rob T. responded with a discussion regarding COG's not having land use authority, and that the scenario planning discussions are intended to be educational and informative for the elected officials ultimately responsible for such decisions
- d. John W. asked about the land use categories used in the scenario planning efforts at each COG. Rob T. discussed the valley-wide traffic model, but did not have specifics on individual COG scenario modeling activities, stating that each individual COG would need to be approached for their indicators, etc.
- e. Greg G. discussed the importance of COGs working with local and other regional agencies during the formulation of SCS plans
- f. John W. discussed the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) tie-in to the SCS process
- g. Greg G. asked if COGs had any leeway regarding the scenario chosen as the preferred; Rob T. explained that if a preferred scenario is not able to meet the reduction targets required by the State, then that COG would need to complete an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) which would show what type of adjustments would be needed to meet said targets. However, no scenario selected, regardless of APS or preferred, usurps the land use authority of local agencies, or carries the legal requirement of compliance
- h. Rob T. again reiterated that specifics regarding each COGs SCS would need to be obtained from each individual agency, and he recommended that those interested contact their respective COG as soon as possible
- i. John W. expressed the importance of outreach and public involvement into the process, and discussed challenges that could be present minus these efforts
- j. Keith W. discussed the public outreach efforts that are on-going in Kern County, including discussion relating to the challenges of scenario development and selection
- k. Mohammad K. expressed his belief that Fresno COGs process was very open and inclusive, and invited local agency input at the correct level. He encouraged others to look to their process as an example.
- l. John W. further encouraged all interested parties to become educated in the process, and reach out to their respective COGs for inclusion into the process

5. Small Communities Network (56:30) Presentation by Eduardo Gonzalez and Jason Waters with Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED):

- a. Rob T. introduced the OCED representatives, Eduardo Gonzalez with the Rural Development Center and Jason Waters, both with OCED at Fresno State
- b. Eduardo G. presented the basis of what the Rural Development Center (RDC) does, and how it operates within OCED at Fresno State; acting as a resource broker between the university and rural communities all throughout the eight county region of the Central Valley
- c. Examples such as the Broadband Consortium, water infrastructure research and grant writing services were discussed
- d. Group discussions regarding funding specifics for the RDC followed
- e. Jason W. described the Community and Regional Planning Center (CRPC) purpose and organization, as a newly defined position

- f. Jason W. described how the CRPC and the RDC work together to cover cities and communities of all sizes throughout the Valley, connecting them with academic services, etc.
- g. Jason W. discussed the goal of working towards a Planning Degree, on some level, at Fresno State; perhaps starting with a Planning Certificate, followed by a concentration and eventual Bachelor's or Master's program
- h. John W. discussed the transition of experienced planners moving into retirement, etc., and the need for the next generation of planner's to have the educational support and abilities to move into those positions
- i. Jason W. and John W. discussed the housing of the Blueprint Toolkit site, and its future within the CRPC
- j. Keith W. discussed the history of the Planning Certificate at Fresno State, and the potential future of a planning concentration within the geography degree, followed by a separate degree for planning
- k. Mohammad K. requested that Jason W. push for the full placement of a planning degree, expressing the need that the Valley has for such a program

6. Interactive Activity (1:26:00)

- a. [Not conducted, due to continued discussions regarding SCS]
- b. John W. AND Greg G. discussed the need and mission of the Valley Planner's Network (VPN), stating that while it began as part of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint effort, the need for the network continues as local agencies move into the future. Specifically, the VPN's purposes are to provide a forum for local agency planner's in the Valley to:
 - 1. Stay current on relevant planning topics and activities
 - 2. To provide a mechanism for collective feedback on planning issues at the regional and State levels
 - 3. To allow for professional networking to draw from collective and individual experiences
- c. John W. suggested that a Mission or Purpose Statement be utilized to communicate the purpose of the VPN, moving forward

8. Update on Regional Planning Efforts and Content (1:50:30)

- a. Smart Valley Places Update
 - i. Projects wrapping up – Convention to be held in early November 2013
- b. General Plan Update Guidelines
 - 1. Greg G. discussed OPR re-introducing previous environmental goals and policies report, that may have potential land use affects
 - 2. John W. discussed the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process associated with SB375 and the SCS; Greg G. discussed the State's history of RHNA and preservation activities
- c. Valley Blueprint Website (www.valleyblueprint.org)
- d. Planner's Toolkit (www.toolkit.valleyblueprint.org)
- e. APA State Conference 2013 "Planning Under the Sun" – October 6th – 9th, Visalia Marriott and Convention Center \
- f. 2013 San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference – October 10th – 11th, Stockton, CA
- g. Legislative Updates (Local and Regional) – See Maddy Report

9. Other Items (1:41:30)

- a. John W. encouraged the group to submit any items for future meetings, agendas or newsletter inclusion.

- b. Fred B. discussed the APA State Conference, keynote speakers, and misc. activities associated with the event and items discussed during this meeting, such as SCS, SB375, etc.
- c. Next Meeting Date is February 26, 2014.

Valley Planner's Workgroup Attendance – September 18, 2013

Attendees:

John Wright, Regional Planner
Fred Brusuleas, Tulare County
Rob Terry, Fresno COG
Clark Thompson Fresno COG
Mohammad, Khorsand, Fresno County
Miles Baty, Big Sandy Rancheria
Greg Gatzka, Kings County CDA
Chuck Kinney, Kings County CDA
Sara Allinder, PMC
Eric VonBerg, VonBerg Consulting
Alec Kimmel, Caltrans District 6
Jason Waters, Fresno OCED
Eduardo Gonzalez, Fresno OCED
Keith Woodcock, Woodcock Planning
Jamie Bax, Madera County Planning

On the phone:

Kerri Timmer, Sierra Business Council
Chris Lehn, KCAG

San Joaquin Valley Planner's Network

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February 28, 2014

Mike McCoy
Executive Director
Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Re: Proposition 84 – San Joaquin Valley Sustainable Communities Round 3 Planning Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from the Valley Planner's Network in relation to the San Joaquin Valley Sustainable Communities Round 3 Planning Grant application being submitted by the Fresno Council of Governments in behalf of the eight (8) San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). We continue to be very supportive of the Strategic Growth Council's mandate to coordinate the activities of State agencies to improve air and water quality, promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment and promote healthy, safe communities by assisting local governments in meeting the challenges of adopting plans and integrating strategies that are consistent with AB32 and SB 375. Our valley partners, both public and private, have greatly increased over the years as we have created a solid track record of open communication and collaboration, which was greatly assisted through Round's 1 and 2 of the Strategic Growth Council's Planning Grant program. We look forward to further strengthening our collaboration and progress in achieving the mandates set forth by the Strategic Growth Council.

Through this collaborative grant effort, the San Joaquin Valley MPOs (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare) will continue their coordinated efforts to improve water and air quality, promote public health, increase housing affordability and promote infill and compact development by laboring to transform communities and creating long term prosperity by integrating Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) principles and programs, consistent with the intent of AB 32 and SB 375, into the general plans of cities within the Central Valley; and through protecting natural resources and agricultural lands by delivering locally utilized tools designed to assist with the integration of the Valley Greenprint plan.

Your sincere consideration for awarding Round 3 Planning Grant funds to the Fresno Council of Governments, in behalf of all eight of the Valley MPOs, to allow for the continued collaborative work of improving and protecting this vital valley is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

John Wright
Chair, Valley Planner's Network

Rob Terry, San Joaquin Valley Planner's Network Staff Contact
2035 Tulare St., Ste. 201, Fresno, California 93721 Phone: 559-233-4148 Ext. 222 Email: rterry@fresnocog.org
<http://valleyblueprint.org/san-joaquin-valley-planners-network.html>



Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines



As the State of California's primary document explaining the legal requirements of a general plan, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) *General Plan Guidelines* has provided guidance on the development of general plans for almost 40 years. Throughout this time, planning law has become more complex, communities have evolved, technology has improved, and the challenges of planning for future growth and development have persisted. For the 2013 update to the *General Plan Guidelines (GPG 2013)*, OPR is evaluating the best ways to provide policy guidance in a user-friendly, online format and will explore the feasibility of creating templates to reduce the time and cost of updating a general plan. We hope that *GPG 2013* will be a resource for decision-makers, planners, and the public for the development and implementation of local general plans.

As California approaches 50 million residents, information-based planning policies will be crucial to enhance the quality of life in existing and future neighborhoods. *GPG 2013* will provide guidance on general plan statutory requirements, consolidate OPR's *General Plan Guidelines* supplements, and provide advice on how the general plan can address contemporary planning issues. Such issues may include:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction and Climate Adaptation
- Renewable Energy
- Infill Development
- Public Health
- Regional Planning

In coordination with the Governor's [Environmental Goals and Policy Report](#) and OPR's other guidance documents, *GPG 2013* will help promote livable communities with strong economies and healthy environments.

Over the next year, OPR will get input from a variety of stakeholders and the general public to ensure *GPG 2013* provides a thorough view of the general plan's role in creating better communities. As part of that effort, OPR will hold a number of public workshops to provide details and receive input on the update. Please visit the [OPR General Plan Guidelines](#) website and sign up for the [General Plan Guidelines E-List](#) for the latest information on *GPG 2013*.

General Plans

Each county and city must adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan that addresses land use, conservation, safety, circulation, noise, open space, housing, and other issues, if necessary.

OPR is required by [Government Code Section 65040.2](#) to adopt and periodically revise guidelines for the preparation and content of local general plans.

The [General Plan Guidelines](#) were last adopted in 2003.