



Blueprint ~ Valley Planner's Network

Monday, March 4, 2013

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 26, 2012 Meeting - Attachment 1
2. (10:10 – 10:25) Prop 84 (Round 1) – Blueprint:
 - BP Integration – Attachment 2
 - Future of Circuit Planner's at each Regional Agency
 - Greenprint
3. (10:25 – 10:45) Governor's Initiative Planning Grant (LGC and OPR):
 - Discussion with planners
4. (10:45 – 11:10) Regional Transportation Planning:
 - Individual COG Reports – Attachment 3
 - Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
 - Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)
5. (11:10 – 11:25) Blueprint Planner's Toolkit and Regional Planning Center:
 - Transition to the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
 - Maintenance and Tool Inclusion Process
 - Community and Regional Planning Center (CRPC) at Fresno State
6. (11:25 – 11:40) California Center for Sustainable Communities:
 - Information and Outreach – Attachment 4
7. (11:40 – 11:50) Smart Valley Places Update:
 - Overview of Program and Status
8. (11:50 – 12:00) Update on Regional Planning Efforts and Content:
 - Valley Blueprint Website (www.valleyblueprint.org)
 - Upcoming IMPACS Fiscal Analysis Tool Training
 - Goods Movement Study
 - Higher Density Housing Market Study – Feedback and Update
 - Legislative Updates (Local and Regional)
9. Other Items:
Next Meeting Date: - June 26, 2013

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

Valley Planner's Workgroup Meeting Notes

September 26, 2012

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

1. Welcome and Self Introductions (0:00)

John Wright 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 27, 2012.

2. Prop 84 (Round 1) – Blueprint Integration: BP Integration and Greenprint Briefing (5:00)

- a. Prop 84 Blueprint Integration (Circuit Planners) (Attachment 1) - Eric Von Berg and Rob Terry presented:
 - i. Circuit Planners in all three regions have contacted all 46 of the smaller cities (with populations under 50,000) to gauge interest in the project. To date, one of the 46 has declined to participate, due to lack of staff. Overall, reception has been very positive regarding the assistance being offered.
 - ii. Approximately 12-15 overarching needs/tools have been identified to provide the most impactful assistance to the collection of cities; a finalized list of these tools was submitted to the project manager for review, which was shared with the various governmental agencies and groups involved with the project.
 - iii. Individual tool/project work began in late summer.
 - iv. John W. asked Eric V. how the efforts being provided to the cities will be monitored to ensure their Blueprint implementation relevance. Eric responded that that team has been very mindful when working with the cities to provide a needed service while encouraging BP integration into their processes. While they have been flexible, they have been mindful to ensure the tools being provided encourage and promote BP principles.
 - v. Ralph K. notated that the attachments for this item had a duplicate chart placed on the second page; this item will be adjusted to accurately show the missing data.
 - vi. John W. recommended that the project list be placed on-line, so that interested parties can access those activity specifics.
 - vii. Chris L. asked Eric V. if he could provide an update on the South Region of the project. He responded with a report on the several communities that have been in contact with Collins and Schoettler (the region's circuit planners), and also indicated that his team would be in attendance at the Fall Policy Conference, scheduled to be held in Lemoore, to further assist and communicate with interested parties/agencies.
 - viii. Eric V. reported that the feedback and interest levels from the communities have been tremendous. He stated that the current schedule has the tool being completed by December 1, 2012; which will then allow for wrap-up and closing items to take place over the following month. John W. expressed his support of tools that were being developed to serve several communities in tandem.
- b. Greenprint (Attachment 2) – Clark Thompson presented:
 - i. The Greenprint Survey will be open through October 5, 2012. The survey takes roughly 15 minutes to complete, and is available through links on all of the COG websites, and on the Valley Blueprint site, as well. John W. and Clark T. encouraged anyone who had not taken it to do so, regardless of your background or professional experience. At

- current, roughly 300 useable responses have been collected. Outreach to additional stakeholders continues to be a priority; to groups such as the growers, packers, agricultural industry, farm bureau's, etc.
- ii. Thus far, several special interest, non-governmental organizations and government entities have been involved.
 - iii. Clark T. notated that the next Greenprint Steering Committee Meeting would be held on October 9th at Fresno COG. They will be discussing preliminary survey results, working to provide direction on needed data, outlines, etc., to guide the remainder of the project.
 - iv. John W. notated that the Greenprint process is providing much of the open space and conservation data to be included within the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process.

4. Regional Transportation Planning (24:30) Individual COG reports on Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Status (Attachment 4) – Rob Terry presented:

- i. Rob T. discussed the attachment that includes a very brief status update for each COG's RTP/SCS and contact information for staff at each agency, for additional questions.
- ii. Kim A. from SJCOG gave a brief update on their process, stating that their RTP/SCS committee will officially be meeting in the near future, with selection of their EIR consultant to follow. Details can be found on their webpage at sjcog.org
- iii. Terri K. from KCAG explained that their process will follow the schedule set by statute, which requires RTP/SCS adoption by June 30, 2014. Their efforts will be organized in the coming months, utilizing many existing committees, and taking from the lessons learned from the other valley agencies in the months to come.
- iv. Barbara S. with Fresno COG explained the process, RTP Roundtable function, and upcoming activities associated with the RTP/SCS. The plan is to adopt the RTP/SCS in October of 2013. The EIR consultant has been secured, and work is on-going.
- v. Dylan S. with StanCOG shared that their RFP process to obtain a consultant began roughly one month prior, and was progressing similar to the other COG who had previously spoken.
- vi. Roberto B. with TCAG explained that they have recently hired an EIR consultant and are in the process of forming their RTP Roundtable as an advisory committee to their Board. Their projected adoption date is November 2013.
- vii. John W. discussed the inclusion of the RHNA process in the RTP, and asked if there were any comments regarding this process. Terri K. expressed that they had elected to not move up their adoption date because the RHNA process then affects the timing of local Housing Elements, and their local agencies had expressed concern with adjusting this date. John W. notated that many local agencies may not fully understand that correlation, and agreed that it does have an impact. Fred B. commented that HCD's web page even points out that the dates identified for the next round of housing element updates show that they are estimated, as individual due dates are correlated with such items. Kathy C. informed the group that HCD has provided an excel spreadsheet that will indicate your various due dates after you input your RTP adoption date. She is happy to provide this model to anyone who requests it.
- viii. John W. asked Kathy C. about the result of the valley-wide model being utilized. She responded that ARB is currently making final adjustments to the model. Once these items are complete, and the model is validated, it will be ready for valley-wide use at each of the COG's.
- ix. Amanda E. posed a question about the resolution of PM 2.5 issues currently being discussed by the ARB. Kathy C., in place of Kristine Cai, stated that she has not heard of any such resolution as of yet, but that we continue to monitor the situation.

John W. clarified what the issue is, regarding the PM 2.5 24-hour period ozone standard.

- x. Terri K. clarified that the valley-wide model discussed earlier is not truly a universal model, but that the model improvement program provided through Prop 84 funding allowed for improvements to each individual model. Rob T. clarified that while the models may not be the same, the MIP program provided for one standardized script to be recognized by all of the models in the valley, which greatly increases the amount of data sharing capacity amongst the various modeling staff throughout the Valley.
- xi. Amanda E. questioned the various COG representatives present as to whether or not the on-going PM 2.5 discussion was negatively affecting their ability to adopt their RTP/SCS within their current timeline. SJCOG, KCAG and Fresno COG all stated that they intend to stick to their current timelines, accepting the 5 and 10 percent reduction targets set by ARB.

5. SJV Blueprint Higher Density Housing Market Study (46:00) Presentation by the Concord Group's Tim Cornwell:

- i. Tim C. explained that the housing market analysis that they have provided was not meant to be a study that sits on a shelf, but meant to provide a tool that could be used to identify market demand and viability for higher density residential housing in each individual area, while also allowing for analyzing at the regional scale.
- ii. The two main questions end up being, first, is there a market for higher density residential in the San Joaquin Valley; and second, will the market value allow them to be built. These result in the formulation of a model that analyzes market consumer demand and viability demand concurrently, and then compares the two.
- iii. The excel-based model utilized 2010 census data, 2012 Blueprint related demographic data provided by the Planning Center | DC&E and various private-side market study analysis tools subscribed to by the Concord Group that allow for analysis of a socio-economic nature and locational analysis which allow for the model to go all the way down to the jurisdictional level (if desired).
- iv. The key conclusions of the model are first, there is a definite need for additional higher density residential, which has been traditionally under-provided throughout the Valley as a whole. Second, the economic downturn has severely damaged the real estate market, and has further hampered the viability of placing higher density residential, as housing units have dropped in value and yield dramatically, with an increase in single-family stock being deeply discounted to move product.
- v. The model, on the consumer demand side, shows that upwards of 22% of building over the horizon period going through 2050 should be for multi-family housing to accommodate demand. This amount is more than double what has traditionally been placed. The viability portion then shows that the socio-economic characteristics of the Valley are such that the owner-to-renter ratio is adjusted to account for a greater rental unit need.
- vi. The Master Dashboard of the model is now highlighted; showing how the initial inputs of geography area adjust the model to show analysis for the identified area(s).
- vii. The various sections that make up the Master Dashboard are discussed, utilizing the City of Modesto as an example. These sections include:
 - 1. The Geographic Selection; which shows the map of the selected area (which remains on the valley as a whole unless additional maps are loaded individually).
 - 2. Area Characteristics; which shows the basic demographics of the selected area utilizing census data, demographic data provided by the Planning Center (TPC) and CA State Economic Development Department (EDD) data.
 - 3. Building Permit Distributions; which indicates building permit data for single family, multi-family less than 5 units and multi-family greater than 5 units within the selected area over the previous 20+ years.

4. Demographic Distribution (2010 Census); which shows the breakdown of demographics for the selected area distributed by age of head of household, household composition (persons in the home) and household income.
 5. 2010 Census Residential Data; which details total occupied and vacant housing units, broken down by average of ownership and rental statistics.
 6. County Employment Growth; which displays a line graph and data indicating the amount of jobs within the selected County region since 2000, as reported by the EDD.
 7. Demographic Growth Projections; indicating the total population and households (including household types) for every 5-year period from 2010 through 2050, as provided by TPC.
 8. For-Sale Residential – New Developer Inventory and Performance; which displays data and a bar graph showing new home closings and new home median price from 1990 through 2011, broken down by single-family, townhouse/duplex and condo styles.
 9. PRIZM Housing Choices; categorizes household shares into one of eleven “lifestyle groups”; such as mainstream families, cautious couples, sustaining seniors and affluent empty nesters, etc., and compares these categories and percentages of households to their preferred housing type, to allow for analysis of appropriate levels of product availability in the selected area.
 10. Demand Analysis by Income; indicates total households within the area, tied to their income, and then allocated to net owner/renter demand and tenure.
 11. Incomes and Supportable Home Prices; indicates income categories and the percentage and dollar amount of income that can be allocated to housing costs.
 12. Demand Distribution by Tenure and Income; displays a basic bar chart indicating the net owner/renter demand by income level for the selected area.
 13. Demand Product Preference by Prizm Lifestage Group and Tenure; displays the percentages of Prizm Lifestage groups that prefer single family, townhome (multi-family less than 5 units) or flat (multi-family greater than 5 units), separated by owner/renter demand.
 14. Demand Distribution Lifestage; displays data and bar chart indicating the projected units demanded by 2050 for the various Lifestage groups, broken down by owner/renter preference.
 15. Demand by Product Type; broken down into Ownership Housing and Rental Housing. This is the final output of the model, and the cumulated “answer” to the questions of housing demand and stock for the given area, as based upon the provided data. Columns to the left provide for details on consumer driven product demand (what consumers want), and to the right account for numbers which are accounted for based upon the viability of that product type (can/will a developer realistically build it; can they profit).
- viii. The first page of the model details the Inputs. Up to 40 jurisdictions can be included at once; multiple counties, multiple cities, etc. Changing the input will automatically change the Master Dashboard outputs.
 - ix. John W. questioned the outputs for Dashboard Item 15, after adjusting the model to look at the City of Fresno as another example, detailing that the rental unit numbers did not change in the viability matrix. Tim C. explained that the model is built to not blindly assign units to a category if the viability of placing the units is not met; i.e., the unit will not appear to be built, because the market is restrained. The consumer demand may be there, but the viability of the product does not warrant its construction in today’s real estate market.
 - x. Kathy C. asked for clarification as to whether or not the model was indicating that it is not viable to build apartments until the year 2015. Tim C. explained that the data indicates that it is not viable to construct a for-sale flat unit until approximately 2015.

- xii. Kim A. asks if there is an unlocked version of the model, which could allow for testing of various scenarios and cost structures within various areas. Tim C. and Rob T. explain that an unlocked version has been provided, and will be made available to each COG. Tim C. does warn future users to be very mindful of the data adjusted, as the census data that is used within the model should not be changed, because it is static.
- xiii. Tim C. next briefly discusses the RHNA tab added to assist in the process of determining units in each area.
- xiv. John W. asks if the model has been given to the various jurisdictions; Rob T. explains that it has gone out to each COG, and to several local agencies that have asked for it specifically, but that it has not gone out on a mass scale as of yet. Its future home is intended to be the Toolkit, which will allow for use of the tools wherever internet access is available.
- xv. Kim A. requested an item be added to the Final Report which makes statement to the key assumptions and inputs, for validation.
- xvi. Chris L. stated that she had sent the draft model to all of their jurisdictions, and had directed any questions to Fresno COG. She thanked TCG for their work on the model, and for their presentation. She also encouraged the need for an “instruction manual” to guide the user through the proper use and understanding of the tool.
- xvii. John W. also suggested a user manual, and possibly even a series of training via webinar or workshop. He thanks TCG for their work, and commends them on a phenomenal tool.
- xviii. Chris L. asks if the local Building Industry Association (BIA) representatives have given feedback regarding this tool. Rob T. answers that they have been involved from the beginning, including selection of the consultant, and that they have provided valuable feedback throughout the process. Mike P. explains that while the Fresno BIA has not specifically “blessed” the model, as they are not modelers, they did feel that the data and outputs of TCG were very accurate. He also commended TCG for the model and their presentation.
- xix. As a last amount of feedback on the model, Tim C. and Rob T. both warned that when inputting more than one jurisdiction, be sure to input like jurisdictions (avoiding placing Counties and Cities together within the list) as the data will become skewed if like items are not compared. Beyond that limitation, you can compare any area within the San Joaquin Valley, regardless of placement of size.
- xx. John W. encourages COG staff to ensure that they have at least one staff member at each agency that can be a contact point for use with the model; familiar with its functionality and use.
- xxi. Kim A. asked for clarification on the housing categories. Is it density or housing type? Tim C. explains that the use of Townhome and Flat descriptions have to do with unit type, not density. The basic breakdown can equate to townhomes = multi-family, non-stacked units with shared walls; while flats = multi-family stacked units with shared walls. The challenge at the MPO level has been to take census data, which looks at unit type, and attempt to equate that into density. Tim C. stated that the model was not intended to look at density, but rather unit type, leaving density specific discussions and decisions with each individual jurisdiction.

6. Update on Regional Planning Efforts (1:46:00)

- Alexandra H. gave an update in the first three rounds of Peer Review Network items for the Toolkit. Five new tools have recently been added, with twelve additional tools currently under review. Mintier Harnish will have a session on the Toolkit at the Fall Policy Conference in October. John W. asked how the Blueprint Integration Tools being provided by URS and the circuit planning team will be included into the Toolkit. Alexandra stated that they will go through the Peer Review process for inclusion. John

W. and Rob T. discussed possible fast-tracking of those items, as the Peer Review Network is intended to provide for vetting and filtering of tools, which those coming out of the circuit planning process will have already gone through. Determination of this process is to-be-decided by the Toolkit Executive Committee. John W. encouraged local agency rep's to make themselves available to be included in the Peer Review Network.

- Barbara S. gave a brief update on the Smart Valley Places project. John W. encouraged those attending to review the Smart Valley Places Google Work Group to keep up to date with those efforts.
- Michael S. gave an update on the Valley Goods Movement Study, which is roughly three-quarters of the way through the project timeline. The study covers all modes of transportation. Phase One is nearing completion, which entailed data collection and outreach. Phase two, which will detail a priority list of projects across all modes that will improve goods movement in and through the valley, will be the next deliverable. Information for this project can be found by going to sjvcogs.org and looking for the Goods Movement section on the left pane.
- Barbara S. reported on the upcoming Fall Policy Conference, scheduled to be held October 10-12, 2012 in Lemoore; hosted by KCAG. The Blueprint Awards have recently been announced, and those projects will be honored at the closing luncheon of the conference. Terri K. discussed registration and the overall program, and encouraged increased outreach to local agencies for conference attendance. Eric V. reported that URS and the circuit planners have sent continually encouraged the local agencies they are working with to attend the conference, and that their team will be available for one-on-one meetings at the conference, as well.

7. Other Items (1:55:30)

Next Meeting Date is February 27, 2013 (later amended to March 4, 2013).

Valley Planner's Workgroup Attendance – June 27, 2012

Attendees:

John Wright, Regional Planner
Fred Brusuelas, County of Tulare
Rob Terry, Fresno COG
Bonnie Simoes, City of Tulare
Kim Anderson, SJCOG
Terri King, KCAG
Chris Lehn, KCAG
Dave Merchant, City of Madera
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Eric VonBerg, URS Corp.
Sara Allinder, PMC
Tim Cornwell, the Concord Group

On the phone:

Ralph Kachadourian, Tulare County RMA
Alexandra Holmqvist, Mintier Harnish
Amanda Eaken, NRDC
Roberto Brady, TCAG
Phil Segress, OCED at Fresno State University
Drew Wilson, Sigala Inc.
Dylan Stone, MCTC

Derek Whining, MCTC
Patrick Kelly, City of Modesto

San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Integration Project Project and Team Introduction

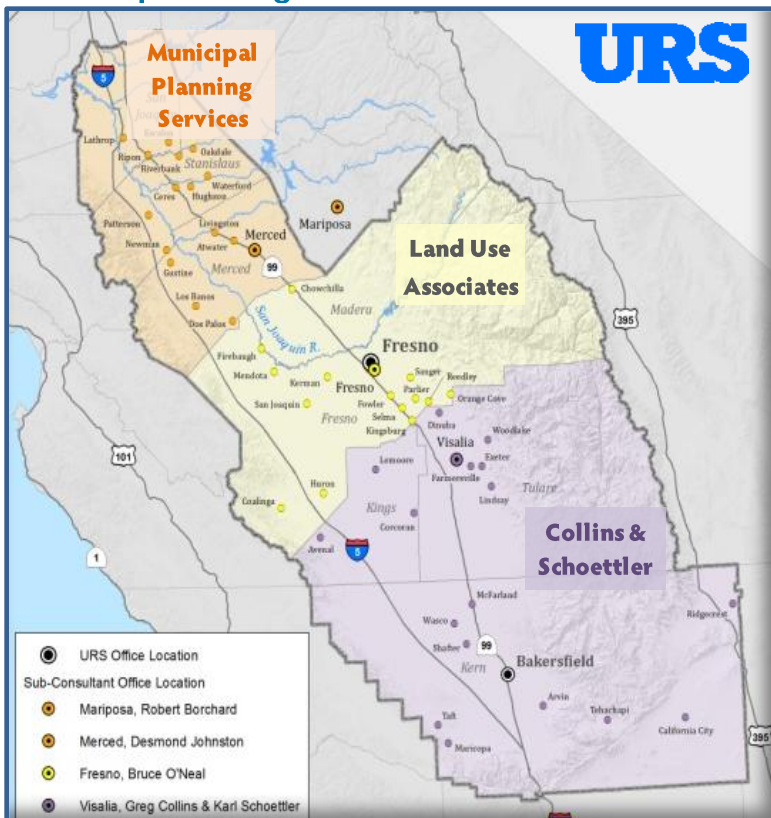
The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Integration Project is a Valley-wide program, funded through a Round 1 Prop 84 grant, to provide support to the 46 smaller Valley cities (populations under 50,000) in integrating Blueprint Smart Growth principles into their General Plans and planning policies. The valley's eight regional planning agencies have contracted with URS Corporation to lead the effort (with Fresno COG serving as the Project Manager). The URS Team includes three planning firms, all with excellent knowledge and experience working with and for communities throughout the Valley, to serve as *Circuit Planners*. These firms, Municipal Planning Services, Land Use Associates, and Collins & Schoettler, will be providing hands-on support to city representatives to integrate the appropriate Blueprint principles into local planning programs.

Similar to the *Smart Valley Places* program, the *Blueprint Integration* project seeks to communicate the benefits of applying Blueprint principles throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The two programs combine to reach all cities in the Valley and will complement other local and regional planning initiatives, including the *Greenprint* project. The Circuit Planners will work directly and in-person with representatives of the small cities seeking assistance, an approach that responds directly to interests expressed by smaller local agencies. While involvement is completely voluntary, the project's objective is to achieve full participation.

The first phase of the Blueprint Integration program is scheduled to run through January of 2013, with outreach beginning in early 2012. Outreach will be accomplished through a variety of means, including the Circuit Planner collaboration with local representatives, workshops in each of the eight counties, and a Valley-wide workshop to be coordinated with the Smart Valley Places program. By the end of the first phase, each of the participating cities will have identified locally-appropriate strategies for integration of the Blueprint principles into local practices. This will set the stage for ongoing implementation, the details of which will be developed through subsequent phases of the Blueprint Integration Project.

If you would like additional information or have questions about the program, please contact the Fresno COG Grant Manager, Rob Terry at (559) 233-4148 or via email at terry@fresnocog.org.

URS Blueprint Integration Team



Project Management

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South Area Circuit Planner

(Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties)
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City	BPI Area	County	BPI Tool	Draft Tool Uploaded Team Site	Draft Tool Sent to City	Draft Tool on FCOG Review Site	City Acceptance	Notes
McFarland	S	Kern	Ag mitigation program	12/7/2012	12/14/2012	Y		
Exeter	S	Tulare	Ag mitigation strategies					
Orange Cove	C	Fresno	Bicycle Master Plan	1/3/2013	1/16/2013	Y		
Riverbank	N	Stanislaus	Bicycle Plan					
Firebaugh	C	Fresno	Bike Master Plan	12/28/2012	1/16/2013	Y		
Parlier	C	Fresno	Bike Master Plan	1/16/2013	1/16/2013	Y		
Los Banos	N	Merced	Bike Master Plan					
Tehachapi	S	Kern	BP Principles PowerPoint	12/21/2012	12/22/2012	Y		Not all BPPs uploaded to FCOG review site
Oakdale	N	Stanislaus	BP Zoning Consistency Audit					
Waterford	N	Stanislaus	City Design Standards					
Ripon	N	San Joaquin	Code Enforcement					
Livingston	N	Merced	Community Art/Mural Standards					
Newman	N	Stanislaus	Complete Streets					
Atwater	N	Merced	DECLINED	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Gustine	N	Merced	DECLINED	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Lathrop	N	San Joaquin	DECLINED	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Maricopa	S	Kern	DECLINED	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Chowchilla	C	Madera	Design Guidelines					
Arvin	S	Kern	Design guidelines					
Corcoran	S	Kings	Design guidelines					
Lindsay	S	Tulare	Design guidelines					
Wasco	S	Kern	Design guidelines SR 46 Corridor					
Woodlake	S	Tulare	Downtown streetscape plan	12/14/2012	12/14/2012	Y		
San Joaquin	C	Fresno	Draft General Plan Review					
Escalon	N	San Joaquin	General Plan Audit					
Fowler	C	Fresno	General Plan Audit Tool					
Mendota	C	Fresno	General Plan Audit Tool	1/28/2013	1/28/2013	Y		
Sanger	C	Fresno	General Plan Audit Tool					
Dinuba	S	Tulare	General Plan audit tool	12/18/2012		Y		
Dos Palos	N	Merced	General Plan Blue Print Consistency					
California City	S	Kern	Infill strategy	12/21/2012	12/21/2012	Y		
Lemoore	S	Kings	Mixed use design strategies	1/22/2013		Y		
Hughson	N	Stanislaus	Mixed Use Standards					
Reedley	C	Fresno	Multi-Family Design Guidelines					
Ceres	N	Stanislaus	Parks Master Plan					
Ridgecrest	S	Kern	Sign ordinance					
Avenal	S	Kings	Small Lot Design guidelines	12/14/2012	1/10/2013	Y		
Kerman	C	Fresno	Small-Lot Residential Design Guidelines					
Selma	C	Fresno	Small-Lot Residential Design Guidelines					
Shafter	S	Kern	Strategy to link transportation/land use	1/9/2013	1/10/2013	Y		
Farmersville	S	Tulare	Updated zoning ordinance	10/30/2012				
Huron	C	Fresno	Zoning Audit Tool					
Kingsburg	C	Fresno	Zoning Audit Tool					
Coalinga	C	Fresno	Zoning Ord. Audit					
Taft	S	Kern	Zoning Ordinance audit tool					
Patterson	N	Stanislaus	Zoning Performance Standards					

Individual COG RTP/SCS Status Updates

As of February 5, 2013
(from North to South)

San Joaquin (SJCOG)

SJCOG's Policy Board, at its September 27, 2012 meeting, approved a staff recommendation to negotiate and sign a contract with a consultant firm to prepare the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. The contract is currently being finalized, with work to commence immediately; project completion is expected in late October 2013.

SJCOG's RTP / SCS Advisory Committee composed of 18 members, including one from each member agency (8) and an additional 10 members representing various stakeholder interest groups. The committee had its kick-off meeting in October and will meet at least monthly through September 2013. The next scheduled meeting is December 10, 2012. Information on SJCOG's process, including committee agendas, can be accessed here: <http://www.sicog.org/programs-projects/SCS.htm>.

Besides the advisory committee, SJCOG has established a list of interested parties to receive email updates on the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the 2013 Regional Transportation Plan update. Please contact Kim Anderson at Anderson@sjocg.org to be added to this list. Additional public outreach opportunities are expected to begin in early 2013 and continue throughout spring and summer 2013.

Questions or correspondence should be directed to Aaron Hoyt or Diane Nguyen @ SJCOG.

Stanislaus (StanCOG)

StanCOG has created a Valley Vision Stanislaus Steering Committee, comprised of 15 members, including representatives from each jurisdiction, other standing committee members, a Policy Board Member, and a LAFCO representative. Additional outreach partners have been added including the Farm Bureau, BIA, County Health Services Agency and the County Area Agency on Aging. Other groups are actively being sought.

StanCOG began the public outreach effort with informational presentations on the SCS to each of the elected bodies in the region and to various groups and organizations. Also, a Vision Survey was created and distributed via email and hard copy to gather input on the public's land use and transportation policy preferences. StanCOG kicked off the formal public workshop series on January 30, 2013. StanCOG held a visioning

workshop to collect input from the public on transportation, growth and land use priorities to help craft the vision of the plan. In association with the public effort, StanCOG will hold study session workshops in front of each of the City Councils during February to gather the same input.

We are currently coordinating with Fregonese Associates (as are 6 other MPOs) to prepare the baseline scenario and one other alternative scenario. Simultaneously, we are working with our Steering Committee to develop the other two alternative scenarios. In late-March, we plan to have a public workshop to gather input on the development of the Alternative Scenarios. And in May a public workshop to gather public input on the preferred alternative scenario. During this time a mix of web-based and in-person activities have been planned to support the workshop cycles. StanCOG is expected to adopt the Valley Vision Stanislaus plan, EIR and RHNA in October of 2013.

StanCOG released the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on January 4th and held a Scoping meeting on January 22nd. The NOP comment period closes on February 5th. Questions or correspondence should be directed to Jaylen French at StanCOG.

Merced (MCAG)

No Update Provided

Madera (MCTC)

MCTC has begun its RTP/SCS public outreach process. MCTC staff will conduct two rounds of public outreach and workshops. The first round is scheduled for the second and third weeks of February. This sessions will be informational and focus on visioning. Round two, scheduled for the Spring will discuss choices, tradeoffs, and fine-tune scenarios of land use and transportation for the Draft RTP. Parallel to the outreach process, MCTC staff is currently coordinating with consultants (Fehr & Peers) a development of the Cube LAND model and preparing all necessary background information for the scenario development. The NOP was finalized and send on November 7th. Questions should be directed to Kasia Thompson at MCTC.

Fresno (Fresno COG)

The RTP Roundtable continues to meet on a monthly basis, and will continue to do so throughout the RTP/SCS process (through October 2013). In conjunction with outreach and roundtable activities, the Fresno COG is also overseeing the operation of several

technical working groups to assist in the updating of the RTP and formulation of the SCS.

SCS Scenario development is underway, with modeling activities to determine the final scenarios for discussion nearing completion. It is anticipated that the final scenarios will be released for discussion in late February/early March 2013. The schedule for the overall RTP remains on-time, with the projected Draft Document and Draft EIR review periods to begin in late June 2013.

Those interested in being involved are encouraged to contact Barbara Steck, Deputy Director, at the Fresno COG.

Kings (KCAG)

KCAG will begin the process to update the RTP and prepare the SCS in FY 13-14 with adoption scheduled for June 2014. KCAG is currently in the process of preparing a Countywide Climate Action Plan (CAP) and has established a Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee. Elements of the CAP will be incorporated into the SCS and the CAP Advisory Committee will be expanded to include additional stakeholders and used in the development of the RTP/SCS. Questions should be directed to Terri King with KCAG.

Tulare (TCAG)

The target date for adoption of the TCAG 2014 RTP is October, 2013. Work is underway on various fronts. The RTP Roundtable held its first meeting on January 16. This group provides technical and policy advice to TCAG on the RTP/SCS. The current focus is on discussion of goals, objectives, performance measures and growth forecasts. The RTP Roundtable is expected to address these issues and begin SCS scenario analysis at its next meeting on February 20.

A Notice of Preparation for the RTP Draft Program EIR has been published. A scoping meeting will be held on February 13.

For additional information please contact Elizabeth Wright, ewright@tularecog.org

Updated on January 29, 2013

Kern (Kern COG)

Kern COG staff continues to validate the MIP and prepare three scenarios for review by the Regional Planning Advisory Committee. Kern COG retained a consultant for modeling support and to work out problems with the MIP. The transit portion of the Model is not working.

Outreach for the 2014 RTP/SCS has been completed. The website address is www.directionsto2050.org. Kern COG will be posting the outreach reports on the website within the next couple of weeks.

Kern COG staff plans to attend each member agency Council Meeting and the a meeting of the Board of Supervisor beginning in March to discuss the SCS and to gain input from the elected officials as required by SB 375.

Kern COG retained PMC to prepare a 2014 Preliminary RTP including a SCS Chapter. The SCS Chapter is on its fourth version. The purpose of the preliminary document is to develop the policy framework for satisfying the requirements of Senate Bill 375 and provide an opportunity for Kern COG member agencies and area stakeholders to have an early look at how the existing 2011 RTP will need to be updated to comply with state requirements.

Kern COG retained the services of Impact Sciences to prepare the Environmental Impact Report for the 2014 RTP.

Questions can be directed to Becky Napier with Kern COG.

California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA

A UC-wide Collaboration

Founding Partners: UC Los Angeles, UC Berkeley and UC Davis

April 2012

Fact Sheet

The Issue

There is little research that accounts for the total energy used in community systems at a geographically specific scale. A need exists to expand upon available research data on this subject and to comprehensively investigate the relationships among location, type of development, and energy use. Despite the *AB 32 Scoping Plan's* more integrated framework, many state programs and policies intended to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are implemented as single programs in isolation. This isolation leads to missed opportunities to leverage resources and unintended consequences. Interdisciplinary research is needed to monitor the effectiveness of many state programs and policies to reduce GHG emissions and increase community benefits across sectors. Also, a more coordinated and integrated understanding of the total energy use and GHG emissions associated with transportation is needed, including the embedded energy in the vehicles and infrastructure. This, in turn, will help policymakers design programs that more effectively meet community goals and implement state policy.

Project Description

The California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA (Center) will become a statewide interface for the synthesis, coordination, and communication of sustainable energy systems research. Using the *2011 Sustainable Communities Research Roadmap* as a framework, the Center will initiate and disseminate

research and development to benefit California. It will assist in producing data, models, methods, tools, and case studies to support the creation of more sustainable, energy-efficient communities. The Center will be a multi-campus effort led by UCLA's Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, with partners at UC Berkeley's Center for Resource Efficient Communities, UC Davis' Institute of Transportation Studies and UC Davis Extension's Land Use & Natural Resources Program. PIER expects the Center to become a national model and leader in sustainable communities' research.



Smart Corner in downtown San Diego

Anticipated Benefits for California

When land use and transportation are better integrated into the design of communities, ratepayers benefit from greater electrified transit such as light rail, streetcars, and buses, as well as the incorporation of electric vehicles in communities. Co-benefits include reduced GHG emissions, fuel cost savings, and reduced air

pollution. The California Air Resources Board estimates that better land use and transportation planning could lead to a five million megaton reduction of GHG emissions by 2020.

Some of the products of the Center will include:

- A geographic information system (GIS) based tool for electric vehicle infrastructure that will enable the Energy Commission to make more effective use of Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program funds, and help Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), cities and counties plan for public charging infrastructure
- A Pedestrian Rating Tool for Level of Service for use by Caltrans, MPOs and local governments to better plan for and invest in a pedestrian-supportive transportation infrastructure
- Tools and methods for local governments based on Center research findings to be disseminated to end-user stakeholders through trainings, presentation materials, classes, seminars, and demonstration workshops.
- Web-based information encompassing the collective statewide Sustainable Communities Research, making it easier to access for researchers, policymakers, and residents of California.

Disclaimer

The Commission, its employees, and the State of California make no warranty, expressed or implied, and assume no legal liability for this information or the research results.

Project Specifics

Contractor: UCLA's Institute of the Environment & Sustainability

City/County: Los Angeles/Los Angeles County

Application: Statewide

Contract Number: 500-11-012

Amount: \$1,900,000.00

Term: April 2012 to June 2015

For more information, please contact:

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