



Recap of the Second Annual Racial Equity Action Plan Tour in Woodland and Yolo County

Receive and File

Author: Mia Lopez

Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Land Use & Natural Resources

Issue:

On March 21, SACOG's Board of Directors and partners toured the City of Woodland and Yolo County. Attendees learned about how public agencies and nonprofits are working to enhance the connection between their urban and rural roots to provide housing, food, and economic opportunities to community members. The Committee will debrief their learnings from the tour.

Recommendation:

None; this is information only.

Background/Analysis:

This tour is an objective of Racial Equity Action Plan Board Practices Goal 1, that the SACOG board deepen its understanding of how race/ethnicity, income, and geography (urban/rural) affects the social outcomes of communities throughout the Sacramento region. As an objective, the tour is a collaboration with partners and community based organizations engaged in racial equity work to facilitate at least one site visit per year in the region with Board Members, focused on REI barriers and successes.

Discussion/Analysis:

The tour highlighted many different organizations and projects in the area that are tackling different aspects of economic development, housing and development, farming and agriculture, and outreach to the community's rural residents.

Attendees heard from:

- John Selep, President, AgStart: AgStart is a nonprofit in downtown Woodland providing affordable lab space to support agriculture and health entrepreneurs and startups.
- Ian Evans, Executive Director, Yolo County Housing Authority and Ken Hiatt, City Manager, City of Woodland on the Yolano-Donnelly Housing Project: Attendees were driven through the Yolano-Donnelly housing project, a 32-acre site that will transform an existing 132-units of affordable housing to a 400-unit property for mixed incomes, mixed housing, and commercial space. The project is in a Green Means Go Green Zone and was the recipient of a Regional Early Action Planning Grant.
- Trish Kelly, Managing Director and Grace Kaufman, Senior Project Manager from Valley Vision on SACOG's CROP Project: The project partners shared background on the Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan project and the economic challenges and opportunities that will affect agriculture

in the coming decades.

- Mary Kimball, Executive Director, Center for Land Based Learning, and their projects supporting the sustainable development of farmers and food systems: The tour took attendees to the center's farm to gain insight into farming and agriculture considerations and learned more about the nonprofit's Farmer Academy and Mobile Food Hub programs during the board meeting.
- Brenda Lomeli, Senior Transportation Planner at Yolo Transportation District (YoloTD) on Yolo Active Transportation Corridors Outreach: YoloTD received a federal RAISE grant to prioritize public outreach and address inequities in underrepresented communities. Brenda shared how the agency is reaching out to and connecting with the county's rural and diverse communities.

Feedback received at the end of the tour was overall positive, with attendees noting that they enjoyed seeing things like the AgStart facilities, enjoyed learning more about this area and about the "diverse economic engines" in the SACOG region.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The Racial Equity Action Plan efforts are included in SACOG's adopted Budget and Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and proposed Budget/OWP for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.