



## Land Use Implementation Activities for February 2022

Receive and File

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**Attachments:** Yes

**Approved by:** James Corless

**Referring Committee:** Land Use & Natural Resources

### **1. Issue:**

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the land use implementation activities staff participates in on an on-going basis.

### **2. Recommendation:**

None; this item is for information only.

### **3. Background/Analysis:**

#### **The Sacramento Region Blueprint Project**

In 2002, the Sacramento region faced the prospect of worsening congestion—a projected increase of over 50 percent by the year 2025—and increasing air pollution based on then-projected land use patterns, transportation funding levels, and transportation investment priorities. To solve these challenges, the SACOG Board of Directors initiated the Sacramento Region Blueprint project, an extensive study of the linkages between transportation, land use, and air quality. As its core goal, the Blueprint project aimed to support local governments with high quality data and modeling tools so that decisions regarding future growth and its effects on quality-of-life issues, such as traffic congestion and air pollution, could be made with the best information available. In addition to developing detailed land-use and travel data, an extensive community outreach effort was conducted to develop and assess guiding principles for the region's long-term growth. The adopted Blueprint is a regional growth map that is illustrative of how the region can grow according to the seven Blueprint principles that were developed collaboratively with member agencies, elected officials, stakeholders, and the public throughout the two-year Blueprint process. These seven Blueprint principles include: housing choice and diversity, transportation options, mixed use, compact development, use existing assets, quality design, and conserving natural resources.

#### **The Blueprint's Relationship with the SACOG's Long Range Planning**

After the adoption of these Blueprint principles in 2004, SACOG changed the way we do our long-range transportation plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), by adding a land use forecast that embodies the Blueprint principles and meaningfully integrates land use and transportation strategies into the plan. As a result, the 2008 MTP was the first in our region to show a future where the region would see reduced congestion, reduced air pollution, increases in housing types, increases in transportation options—including walk, bike, and transit—and more natural resources and agricultural land conserved. Although commonplace

now, the Blueprint and the 2008 MTP were among the first in the nation to integrate transportation and land use and changed the way the state approaches regional transportation planning. Following the adoption of our 2008 MTP, the state passed Senate Bill (SB) 375. This law, heavily inspired by SACOG's work, requires that all regional planning organizations must consider land use and transportation together in the MTP as a means of achieving our statewide goals for reducing vehicles miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. This SB 375 requirement is called the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which brings with it an increased emphasis on land use and housing considerations as part of the long-range planning process as well as specific requirements for public outreach. Because the SCS is intended to be a part of the MTP, SACOG now creates one regional transportation plan that is reflective of future transportation projects and funding, a land use forecast, and policies that all aim towards meeting the goals and requirements of SB 375. The technical term for this plan is the MTP/SCS. The 2025 update to the MTP/SCS, which this committee will be acting on and shaping over the course of 2023, is being called the 2025 Blueprint.

### **Implementing the Blueprint**

As with all planning efforts, implementation of the plan is critical to achieving the regional transportation, air quality, quality of life and prosperity goals that the plan sets forth. Successful implementation requires the work and support of regional partners and local cities and counties. Supporting local efforts around MTP/SCS and Blueprint implementation is therefore a critical part of SACOG's work. SACOG conducts several Blueprint and MTP/SCS implementation land use activities in response to requests from member agencies, developers, and non-governmental organizations including: (1) provision of data and/or technical support to member agencies implementing the Blueprint; (2) review and comment on development proposals regarding their consistency with the Blueprint principles or the MTP/SCS; and (3) educational presentations on the Blueprint and the MTP/SCS. Many of the Blueprint and MTP/SCS land use implementation activities conducted and coordinated by SACOG come through the Land Use and Natural Resources committee. Every month, staff will prepare a receive and file item for the committee and the board with a summary of land use activities SACOG has participated in to support local implementation of the MTP/SCS and the Blueprint principles.

### **4. Discussion/Analysis:**

At the February Land Use and Natural Resources Committee, staff provided an overview of the types of land use implementation activities SACOG conducts on behalf of our members. Below are highlights from the activities SACOG staff conducted in December and January:

- Provided the City of Sacramento MTP/SCS consistency letters for the 5th St Townhomes, the 905 S St Mixed Use project, and the American River One project.
- Submitted a blueprint review letter and provided verbal testimony for the proposed College Park housing project in Rocklin.
- Coordinated with all local agencies and met individually with four transit operators and seven local governments to provide information and data related to AB 2097 and its implementation. Created a [landing page on the SACOG website](#) where member agencies can find materials and an interactive map showing affected areas.
- Organized and arranged technical advisory panels with the Urban Land Institute for communities in the cities of Marysville, Yuba City, and Folsom and Sacramento County.
- Began executing contracts for \$3.2 million in Early Activation awards under Green Means Go. Convened working groups for review of Planning and Capital applications of Green Means Go. Submitted REAP 2.0 application to state. Supported High Impact Transformative grant applications from region.

- Convened special districts and member agencies around infill development costs.
- Provided review and support for land trusts in the region competing for funding for easements and coordination. Letters of support were provided to Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust for a Wildlife Conservation Board grant opportunity and the Sacramento Valley Conservancy for capacity building as part of the Department of Conservation Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) program.
- Reviewed proposals for the for the Agricultural Conservation Easements/Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program confirming that the project supports the SACOG MTP/SCS. Applicants included the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust.
- Continued to monitor regional successes within the SALC program as promoted by SACOG's Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan outreach.

#### **5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

SACOG's land use implementation activities are part of our larger Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy implementation program and are funded by a combination of sources including Federal Metropolitan Planning funds and Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Funds. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 SACOG further supported the program with a portion of our Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funds.