

Regional Report



Sacramento Area Council of Governments

DECEMBER 2004

Blueprint Receives More National and Local Awards

Adding to mounting accolades, SACOG received two awards in November for the Blueprint Project. SACOG was recognized as one of five winners of the 2004 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement by the Environmental Protection Agency at an awards ceremony at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. on November 17. The Blueprint Project was honored as an innovative approach to development that strengthens community identity and protects the environment.

"EPA is proud to recognize these exceptional communities that are creating healthy, attractive, and enduring places to live, work, and play," said EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt. "We salute these winners for their outstanding achievements and challenge others to follow their example in protecting the environment and improving the quality of life of our great nation."

"We are proud and honored to receive this award," said SACOG Executive Director Martin Tuttle. "The Blueprint Project

Awards...
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Key Leaders Depart SACOG Board After Election

SACOG BOARD CHAIR CHRISTOPHER CABALDON RECOGNIZED four outgoing Directors at the November meeting.

"Sandy Hilliard, Paul McNamara, Roger Niello, and Gary Ulman have all played a key role in SACOG's evolution," said SACOG Board Chair Christopher Cabaldon. "They will be missed."

Sandy Hilliard, outgoing Mayor of Yuba City, is the senior member of the SACOG Board having served since 1995. She was Vice Chair of the Board in

1999, and Chair in 2000. Most recently she was a member of the Administration Committee and represented SACOG as Chair of the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG). Ms. Hilliard's seat on the Board expired when her term as Mayor of Yuba City ended.

Paul McNamara, outgoing Mayor of Marysville, has been a SACOG Board member since March 1996, and has served

Board...
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Sandra Hilliard



Paul McNamara



Roger Niello



Gary Ulman

Blueprint "Next Steps" Set for December Board Action

THE SACOG BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED refinements to the draft Blueprint map, growth principles and next steps at its November 15 meeting. The changes were designed to increase transit ridership through more transit-oriented development, to respond to requests from local governments, and to clearly define how the organization will move forward in 2005 and beyond, in order to use the Blueprint Project in a manner that is consistent with local land use decision-making responsibilities.

A public hearing on the draft Blueprint documents will occur at the December 16 Board



meeting, when the Board is expected to act on the recommendations.

Changes to the land use map and transit system yielded an increase of 30,000 transit riders a day, compared to the Discussion Draft Preferred Blueprint

Scenario presented at the October 14 Regional Elected Officials Summit. Additional refinements to the map are expected shortly, particularly in Colfax, where the City Council and Planning Commission will provide final direction to SACOG staff in late November.

More information regarding the Blueprint Project can be found at www.sacregionblueprint.org or (916) 340-6249.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Remarks



Martin Tuttle

OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN SACOG EVOLVE from a sleepy transportation funding agency into a high-energy leader on regional issues where every local government jurisdiction has a voice to be heard. With leadership from the Board and a highly skilled staff, it has been a privilege to serve the agency during this time.

SACOG's successes are a testament to the strong partnerships that have been developed with the region's 22 cities and six counties, other public agencies, area businesses and our congressional and legislative delegations.

But perhaps most importantly, emerging civic organizations like Valley Vision, the Metro Chamber, American Lung Association and the Urban Land Institute have joined with SACOG to help build a vision for the region. These partnerships helped produce the innovative SECAT program that provided \$70 million to help convert diesel bus and truck fleets to cleaner engines and they helped forge the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2025 (MTP), our first truly regional transportation plan. The partnerships also were the catalyst for the creation of our cutting-edge Blueprint Project.

It has been a remarkable period for SACOG. As a result of last year's Joint Powers Agreement amendment that provided every county and city with a voting rep on the Board, the table is set to further advance regional cooperation and partnerships in ways that should give us all hope that we can meet the serious transportation and planning challenges that lie ahead.

On a personal note, I can't express how deeply grateful I am for the people that toil in the regional policy arena. I am particularly bonded to the Board Chairs that I served—Tom Stallard, Sandy Hilliard, Steve Miklos, Muriel Johnson, the late Bill Hughes, Christopher Cabaldon—and the incredible staff that ran with me.

The Sacramento Region is rediscovering its dynamic pioneering spirit as a result of these successful partnerships and achievements. This momentum will continue to propel SACOG and the region to even greater heights.

Thank you, and happy holidays to you and your family. I look forward to maintaining our relationship in some fashion during my next life chapter at New Faze Development.

MARTIN TUTTLE

SACOG Salutes!
Regional Awards
Ceremony

On December 16, the SACOG Board will honor outstanding achievements from the past year in the region at the SACOG Salutes! Regional Awards Ceremony. Awards will be given in seven categories, including Organization of the Year, Business of the Year, Employee of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Project of the Year, Blueprint Excellence Award, and the Bill Hughes Elected Official of the Year Award. In addition, two special recognition awards will be given during this year's program.

SACOG Salutes! began in 1999 to honor the most outstanding efforts in the Sacramento region in the areas of transportation, air quality and smart growth planning. The ceremony will take place prior to the December 16 Board meeting at SACOG.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Liz Baidoo at (916) 340-6237 or ebaidoo@sacog.org.

STAFF NEWS

Trish Faseler

SACOG bid farewell to Trish Faseler in October. After fourteen years with SACOG, Trish moved to Bend, Ore. Starting out as a Research Analyst in 1990, over the years Trish was responsible for keeping SACOG up with technology. She managed the electronic Bulletin Board which contained projection data in the early 1990s, and was webmaster of SACOG's website since its creation in 1996. SACOG wishes Trish well in her future endeavors.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Christopher Cabaldon (Chair)
City of West Sacramento
- Ted Gaines (Vice-Chair)
Placer County
- Ruth Asmundson
City of Davis
- Sherrie Blackmun
City of Colfax
- Linda Budge
City of Rancho Cordova
- Robert Chapman
City of Winters
- Darryl Clare
City of Galt
- Jim Cooper
City of Elk Grove
- Tom Cosgrove
City of Lincoln
- Roger Dickinson
Sacramento County
- Alice Dowdin
City of Auburn
- Rusty Dupray
El Dorado County
- Heather Fargo
City of Sacramento
- David Flory
City of Woodland
- Guy Fuson
Town of Loomis
- Michael Gomez
City of Isleton
- Lauren Hammond
City of Sacramento
- Sandra Hilliard
City of Yuba City
- Muriel Johnson
Sacramento County
- Kathy Lund
City of Rocklin
- Paul McNamara
City of Marysville
- Steve Miklos
City of Folsom
- Roger Niello
Sacramento County
- Rocky Rockholm
City of Roseville
- Donald Schrader
Yuba County
- James Shelby
City of Citrus Heights
- Dan Silva
Sutter County
- Helen Thomson
Yolo County
- Gary Ulman
City of Wheatland
- Marian Washburn
City of Placerville
- Mel Wilkins
City of Live Oak
- Jody Jones
(Ex-Officio Member)
Caltrans District 3

MEMBER
COUNTIES & CITIES

- El Dorado County
- Placer County
- Sacramento County
- Sutter County
- Yolo County
- Yuba County
- City of Auburn
- City of Citrus Heights
- City of Colfax
- City of Davis
- City of Elk Grove
- City of Folsom
- City of Galt
- City of Isleton
- City of Lincoln
- City of Live Oak
- Town of Loomis
- City of Marysville
- City of Placerville
- City of Rancho Cordova
- City of Rocklin
- City of Roseville
- City of Sacramento
- City of West Sacramento
- City of Wheatland
- City of Winters
- City of Woodland
- City of Yuba City

Blueprint Receives More National and Local Awards

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continues to be recognized as a new and innovative way to collect better data for local governments to make informed decisions that benefit not only individual communities, but the Sacramento region as a whole."

Former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman created the National Awards for Smart Growth Achievement in January 2002. Through this program, EPA recognizes

exceptional approaches to development that benefit the economy, public health, and the environment.

The Mountain-Valley Chapter of the American Leadership Forum presented the SACOG Board of Directors with its annual "Thanks to You Award for Collaborative Leadership" or "ALFie" award at SACOG's November Board Meeting.

"We present this award annually to entities that make a coalition effort that significantly impacts our region," said Doni Blumenstock, ALF Executive Director.

ALF Board President and Regional Vice President of USAA Rick Fowler presented the award, which SACOG will share with Valley Vision. "SACOG through the Blueprint Project has dramatically increased the level of civic involvement in the



Pictured left to right at the presentation of the ALF Award to SACOG: ALF Board President and Regional Vice President of USAA Rick Fowler, SACOG Board Chair Christopher Cabaldon, and Doni Blumenstock, ALF

Sacramento region," said Fowler. "We are honored to present this award to SACOG for your efforts."

Previous winners of the ALFie award include the Counties of Sacramento and Yolo and the City of West Sacramento for regional collaboration on Raley Field; Sacramento Board of Supervisors and McClellan Park for

staving off potential negative economic impacts by turning the McClellan Field into a regional business center; and Valley Vision for encouraging regional collaboration in the Sacramento area.

To date SACOG has received numerous awards for the Blueprint Project, including: the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Year Award from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Planning Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, a Presidential Citation from the American Institute of Architects, the Environmentalist of the Year award from the Environmental Council of Sacramento, and the 2003 Governor's Environment and Economic Leadership Award.

Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan Adopted

THE REGIONAL BICYCLE, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors at its November meeting, providing a boost for alternative commuters and bicycle enthusiasts in the Sacramento region. The plan contains more than 300 projects throughout the region, including bike trails, pedestrian upgrades, river crossings, and inter-modal access, and will establish eligibility to receive first round federal funding of \$2.5 million for SACOG's Bicycle and Pedes-

trian Funding Program.

The program was included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2025 and the Board approved funding program guidelines for projects in September 2003 based on recommendations from an advisory committee and SACOG staff. The goal for the 23-year, \$320 million program is to provide bicycle and pedestrian access within or through the central business districts of the region. Additionally, funds will be used to provide con-

nections between and within the cities and towns of the six-county region, to public transit systems, park-and-ride lots, and regional and local activity centers including schools, libraries, community centers, hospitals, and employment centers. The next round of funding is expected to be in 2005.

The complete plan can be viewed at www.sacog.org or for a hard copy contact Aimee Hagen at (916) 340-6211.

BOARD ACTIONS

At its November meeting the Board of Directors:

APPROVED THE recommendation of the Housing & Land Use Committee to include the "Blueprint Next Steps" document as part of its Blueprint Project approval action in December.

ADOPTED THE Final Draft Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan.

Recent Elections Affect SACOG Board

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in many capacities, including as current chair of the Administration Committee, and a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. He was also the Immediate Past Chair of CALCOG. Mr. McNamara's seat on the Board expired when his term as Mayor of Marysville ended.

Roger Niello, outgoing member of the Sacramento Board of Supervisors has been a member of the Board since January 2002, and recently was a member of the Administration Committee. Mr. Niello was elected to the California State Assembly representing the 5th District during the November election.

Gary Ulman, outgoing Mayor of Wheatland was appointed to the SACOG Board of Directors in January 2003, and was a member of the Legislation Committee and the Administration Committee. Mr. Ulman's seat on the Board expired when his term as Mayor of Wheatland ended.

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DECEMBER 2004

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To comment on items in
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A New Focus on Smart Growth?

SENATOR DON PERATA (D-OAKLAND), who was recently selected by his fellow democrats as the new Senate President pro tem, has launched a bold structural change in the Senate which may signal a new emphasis on smart growth.

Senator Perata recently announced that the Senate Transportation Committee and the Senate Housing and Community Development Committee would be collapsed into a single committee. "It makes

sense to look at housing policy in terms of its impact on transportation and at transportation issues in terms of how they affect communities and neighborhoods," Perata said.

Senator Tom Torlakson (D-Antioch), a longtime advocate of smart growth and the author of the state's Traffic Congestion Relief Plan, has been selected by Perata to chair the new Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

"I have always advocated

better coordination of transportation investments, land use policies, and housing opportunities for all Californians." Senator Torlakson said. He added, "The people of California can see the big picture. The homes they can afford are too far away from the jobs they need. Family life suffers, the economy slows down, and the quality of life we all cherish declines. We need to turn this situation around."

By combining transportation

and housing issues into a single committee, and appointing the Senate's most vocal supporter of smart growth principles to take the helm, Senator Perata is sending a very clear single that he intends to force greater coordination between the roads we build and the homes we live in.

BY WILL GONZALEZ

Will Gonzalez is owner of Gonzalez Public Affairs, which provides advocacy services to SACOG.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 2

Transportation & Air Quality Committee
10 a.m.
Administration Committee
1:30 p.m.
Regional Planning Partnership
2 p.m.

Friday, December 3

Legislation & Public Affairs Committee
1:30 p.m.

Monday, December 6

Housing & Land Use Committee
10 a.m.
Special SACOG Board Meeting
12 p.m.

Thursday, December 16

SACOG Salutes! Regional Awards Ceremony
8:30 a.m.
SACOG Board Meeting
9 a.m.

Note: Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please call SACOG at 916.321.9000 to confirm, or visit the calendar on our Website at www.sacog.org/calendar.