



## SACOG Board of Directors

Item #06-6-27  
Report

July 8, 2006

### Executive Director's Report

*The following is a brief status report on some of the major issues and projects currently being advanced by SACOG.*

### KEY BOARD ITEMS

**Memorandum of Understanding:** The final version of the conceptual agreement endorsed by the Board in January is on the agenda for approval. It is important to get action this month, as the current labor agreement with the Employees Association (EA) expires on June 30, 2006. I think this is an innovative agreement the Board can be proud of; it found a way to produce a net increase in the overall benefits to SACOG employees while reducing costs to the Agency.

**Directors Contracts:** The Compensation Survey accepted by the Board last month concluded that the combined salaries and benefits of most staff positions at SACOG are equal or similar to the average compensation of the local and regional agencies the Board and EA agreed to use for comparison purposes. However, the Executive staff compensation is under market by about 15% (similar to a survey conducted 2 years ago). The proposed modifications to the employment agreements for these four key staff people are important to retain our talented management team while we develop, adopt and implement a succession plan. The proposed changes are moderate (allowing us to catch up to the market over 3 years) and shift the organization further towards performance-based pay for upper level staff.

### ISSUES:

**Connector Project Update:** The Policy Advisory Committee for the Elk Grove-Rancho Cordova-El Dorado Connector project continues to meet monthly to develop agreement on the project's purpose and need, guide the refinement and analysis of the conceptual alternatives, and discuss the future governance of project implementation. SACOG counsel has been working with legal and management staff from the jurisdictions on a draft five-party JPA that could oversee implementation of the Connector. Meanwhile, the El Dorado County/City of Folsom JPA has scheduled a special meeting of the JPA for May 25, 2006 and invited two members from the Rancho Cordova City Council and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to discuss the desire and willingness to embark on a four-party JPA for road improvements common to their jurisdictions. Finally, SACOG has scheduled public information sessions on the Connector project for June 26 at Rancho Cordova City Hall, June 27 at Elk Grove City Hall, and June 29 at the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Building. All sessions are from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

**Flood Control & Land Use:** We continue to work with the Board leadership, SAFCA staff, and the key flood related staff of our member agencies to develop a more specific policy to bring to the Board for consideration on appropriate land use planning within the floodplain. The White Paper unanimously adopted by the Board this spring provides an excellent overall framework, but more detail on land use is needed before the Board will be able to have a firm foundation for adopting the land use allocation/map to underpin the next MTP. It is possible that in July we will have an opportunity for more Committee and Board discussion on this critical issue for our region.

**MTP Workshops:** The first phase of public workshops for the MTP2030 planning process was concluded on June 7 in Elk Grove. SACOG partnered with Valley Vision to recruit nearly 2000 citizen planners for 16 community workshops in the six-county region. Input from the citizens of the region is vital as we prepare the first Metropolitan Transportation Plan to incorporate the Blueprint land-use alternative. Staff will prepare follow-up summary information to the Board, local elected officials, MTP Partners, workshop participants, and interested parties in the next few weeks including more information on the upcoming fall and winter events. Thank you to all Board members for your efforts spreading the word among your constituents.

**MTP Summer Activities:** Work on the next MTP will continue over the summer through ongoing data development, technical research and a careful review of citizen input received. The recently completed county workshops offer a wealth of transportation investment ideas and priorities to synthesize and use to shape regional scenario concepts. Staff will work closely with external agency stakeholders to develop the regional scenario concepts and prepare regional-scale workshops for the Fall.

**Election Results And Transportation Money Measures:** Five counties (Merced, Monterey, Napa, Solano and Santa Clara) asked their citizens to approve sales taxes for transportation purposes on June 6. All measures were defeated, most of them fairly resoundingly. These results, combined with the defeat of the two state proposition money measures (libraries and pre-school), I think mean that we should not take it for granted that the infrastructure bonds for flood control, transportation, education and housing are guaranteed to pass this November.

**Thank You To MTP Staff:** With the completion of the first round of citizens workshops it is appropriate to pause for a moment and thank my staff at SACOG as well as our many partner agencies for all of the long and high quality hours they put in to make these workshops succeed. The active involvement of city and county staff as well as staff from the county transportation planning agencies in El Dorado, Placer and Yolo counties and many of the transit operators and the Sacramento Air District was instrumental. And while many SACOG staff deserve high praise, our project manager, Matthew Carpenter, deserves special recognition. I know that his incredible commitment to ensuring that this planning effort meets the gold standard is appreciated by the Board, our partners, and all of his colleagues on the staff at SACOG.

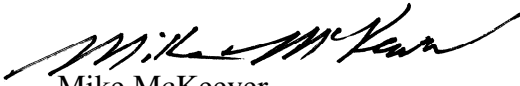
**Army Corps of Engineers Update:** On February 1 of this year, Director Linda Budge and I participated in a meeting with high level Army Corps of Engineers staff in Washington, D.C. that was arranged by Congressman Lungren and attended by several other Congressional representatives from our area. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to streamline the regulatory process that would both improve environmental protection and the processing of public infrastructure and development projects. A follow-up meeting was held this week in Sacramento with Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). Director Budge and I attended this meeting as well. It was encouraging to hear Mr. Woodley's positive comments about the Board's Blueprint growth strategy and desire to pursue planning approaches that would help the region to successfully implement it.

**Natural Resources Staff:** When the Board adopted the NEPA Streamlining initiative over a year ago, we noted that a key issue to resolve would be staffing. Since that time we have hired a Project Delivery Manager, Debra Jones, with strong environmental permitting credentials; however, we are going to need more staff, either through hiring, inter-agency loans and/or consultants to keep up with the growing pressures to address environmental issues earlier and more thoroughly in our planning processes. We may have an opportunity through an inter-agency loan program to bring a high level person from one of the federal agencies in-house for two years. I have been working with Chair Fargo on this and if it continues

to look promising we will be talking with Board members and the relevant Board committees soon to seek your counsel on this exciting and unique opportunity.

**CALENDAR:**

July 6 @ 10:00 a.m.	Legislation & Public Affairs Committee	SACOG
July 6 @ 1:30 p.m.	Administration Committee	SACOG
July 7 @ 10:00 a.m.	Elk Grove-Rancho Cordova-El Dorado Connector PAC	Rancho Cordova
July 7 @ 1:30 p.m.	Air Quality Committee	SACOG
July 10 @ 10:00 a.m.	Housing & Land Use Committee	SACOG
July 10 @ 1:30 p.m.	Transportation Committee	SACOG
July 20 @ 9:00 a.m.	SACOG Board of Directors	SACOG



Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

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