



Item #09-3-5 Information

Land Use & Housing Committee

February 26, 2009

Sacramento County Agricultural Tour

Issue: SACOG will host Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) Agricultural Tour for Sacramento County in the spring of 2009.

Recommendation: None, this is information only. Please complete the attached availability survey for proposed tour dates.

Discussion: SACOG will host an agricultural tour of Sacramento County for the Board. The tour is designed to highlight rural challenges and opportunities including unique commodities, agricultural infrastructure, agri-tourism, urban farms, rural roads, water issues and labor. SACOG staff is working with Board members and local staff to identify destinations and speakers for the tour.

Destinations under consideration include Sloughhouse in eastern Sacramento County which features large scale cattle ranches and leased land for recreation outfits. Other possible destinations across the county include urban organic farm stands providing fresh food and stewardship workshops for environmental justice communities, rural-residential communities with large scale agriculture, and the Sacramento Delta region. Potential topics include the challenges of cross-county travel from Sacramento for processing, water issues, crop conversion, agri-tourism and permanent farmers' markets and farm stand opportunities.

This tour will follow the previous model with the Board meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined in Sacramento County followed by the tour which will conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Proposed Tour & Board Meeting Dates:

Thursday, May 21 (Regular Board Meeting date) - meeting location TBD

Friday, May 22- meeting location TBD

Staff will provide planning updates to all committees including information on tour including schedule, destinations and speakers.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MK:MH:ef

Attachment

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs & Member Services (916) 340-6224

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**Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Agricultural Tour for Sacramento County
Board Participation Survey**

To maximize participation please provide your availability for the following dates.
Please add any notes or comments below.

Board Member Name: _____

Check all that apply.

Thursday, May 21	
I will attend Board Meeting & Tour	
I will attend only the Board meeting	
I will NOT attend the Board Meeting or Tour	

Friday, May 22	
I will attend Board Meeting & Tour	
I will attend only the Board meeting	
I will NOT attend the Board Meeting or Tour	

Notes: _____

Please return completed form to committee staff or Rochelle Tilton.