



Land Use and Housing Committee

March 26, 2009

RUCS Federal Funding Update-Grant Opportunities

Issue: Update on efforts to procure grant awards to aide in RUCS implementation.

Recommendation: None, this is for information only.

Discussion: Upon the urging of Secretary Woodley of the USACE, SACOG requested funding directed to the regulatory branch of the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake a comprehensive study of the SACOG region. In early February, seed funding was awarded and a scope of work has been established. A component of immediate interest is the need to establish fiduciary and policy partnerships with the Corps' sister agencies.

In meetings with USEPA, USFWS, and FHWA, funding opportunities (direct to SACOG) have been identified and the following actions are underway:

- On February 27, 2009, USEPA released an RFP for their Wetlands Program Development Grants. EPA staff has strongly encouraged SACOG to apply for funds and a grant application will be submitted by EPA's deadline of March 31, 2009. SACOG will be seeking funding to support the categorization and qualification sectors of the Six County Aquatic Resources Inventory (SCARI). Grant funds will be awarded in September 2009. It is anticipated that six to 15 awards will be granted ranging from \$50,000 to \$350,000. A final copy of the EPA grant will be distributed at the committee meeting.
- USFWS is working closely with SACOG and the USACE to keep us collectively abreast of their RFP for Section 6 funds. SACOG staff and their consultant are also working to advocate an increase in the overall Section 6 budget.
- FHWA has expressed strong interest in the Six-County Aquatic Resources Inventory as they view it as an exportable tool for use in more substantive early consultation for transportation projects and possible linkages to NEPA streamlining. FHWA is currently working with SACOG staff and their consultant to develop funding pathways via their Integrated Planning Working Group and their Planning and Environmental Linkages grant programs.

Additionally, the Sacramento District of the USACE has placed the Inventory on their short list of proposed funding pathways for the \$25 million dedicated nationally to regulatory programs in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

Approved by:

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