



**Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee**

April 30, 2009

**Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) Agriculture Tour**

**Issue:** SACOG will host a Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) agriculture tour for Sacramento County on **Thursday, September 24, 2009**. Please note the new date is the regular board meeting date for September.

**Recommendation:** None, this is for information only.

**Discussion:** SACOG has rescheduled the Sacramento County agricultural tour. The tour is designed to highlight rural challenges and opportunities related to rural economic and environmental sustainability including unique commodities, agricultural infrastructure, agri-tourism, urban farms, rural roads, cold storage facilities, the South Sacramento HCP and labor. SACOG staff is working with Board members, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, and local staff to identify destinations and speakers for the tour.

During the April committee cycle staff received input from all committees. From that input additional topics are being researched for the Sacramento tour including meat processing and need for facilities, engaging the Elk Grove High School 4-H, visiting a large scale dairy operation, impact of efforts by the state to take 65,000 acres out of agricultural productions, and community gardens.

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.

**Tour & Board Meeting Date:**

**Thursday, September 24** - Regular Board Meeting, meeting location TBD in Sacramento County

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

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

MM:RS:pm

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs and Member Services (916) 340-6224  
Monica Hernández, Community Outreach Specialist (916) 340-6237