



Land Use & Housing Committee

April 30, 2009

Update on Form-Based Codes Grant Opportunity with the Congress for New Urbanism

Issue: Congress for New Urbanism is seeking assistance to identify communities within the SACOG region for form-based codes technical service grants, if CNU is awarded funding from other sources.

Recommendation: None. This item is for information only.

Discussion: Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) has applied for nationwide grant funding to produce form-based codes in different communities, and it has asked SACOG for assistance to help identify jurisdictions to receive technical service. CNU is a non-profit professional organization comprised of urban designers, architects and planners promoting new urbanist concepts, which are consistent with the blueprint principles. CNU has formally applied for some grants that it believes has a reasonable chance of receiving. The grants would be used to create form-based codes for neighborhoods, corridors, downtowns, greenfields or redevelopment areas. These communities would need to be located in jurisdictions that wish to develop and implement form-based codes, which is a more graphic alternative to conventional zoning approaches. In 2008, SACOG developed the Form-Based Codes Handbook, and a number of jurisdictions expressed interest in developing one.

CNU applied for over \$1.1 million in grant funding. If it is fully successful, then it is seeking approximately four to six communities to receive the technical services that the grants would pay for. In return, the jurisdiction would have to provide an approximate 10 percent match in real funds (not staff time), agree to be fully engaged and supportive in the code development process, and ultimately adopt the form based codes. A single jurisdiction could receive up to \$300,000 in technical services.

CNU approached SACOG seeking to identify these communities. SACOG will release a broadcast notice to all jurisdictions to check interest, and then, if the CNU grant request looks promising, SACOG staff would release a call for applications and help set up site tours to help CNU select project sites. CNU would be responsible for selecting the awarded applicants.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:GC:ef

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs & Member Services, (916) 340-6224
Greg Chew, Senior Planner, (916) 340-6227