



Land Use & Housing Committee

July 30, 2009

Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Sacramento County Agricultural Tour

Issue: SACOG will host a Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) Agriculture Tour for Sacramento County on Thursday, September 24, 2009.

Recommendation: None. This is information only.

Discussion: SACOG will host an ag tour of Sacramento County for the Board. The tour will have a park-and-ride start at 5th Street and Broadway in Sacramento. The bus will take Board members to Rancho Cordova City Hall for the regular board meeting. The tour will begin following the meeting. The Sacramento County tour has destinations including an urban farm stand that serves a high number of low-income families, a family-run farm stand, the Elk Grove High School garden, a dairy operation, a small wine grape farm selling to large markets, a cold storage facility, a small diversified farm, and fully operational winery in the delta.

The Sacramento tour will be the final in a series of ag tours that began last year. Our previous tours have covered Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, El Dorado and Placer counties. Each tour has looked at challenges and opportunities for local producers and consumers of agriculture, varied land uses and policies related to agriculture, agricultural districts, agri-tourism, goods movements, and economic sustainability of rural areas.

This tour will follow the previous model with the Board meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Rancho Cordova City Hall followed by the tour which will conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Tour & Board Meeting, Thursday, May 24

Park-and-Ride:

Produce Express

2630 5th Street, Sacramento (5th Street and Broadway, park on the street)

Regular Board Meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Rancho Cordova City Hall.

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

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:RS:MH:sb

Attachment

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

Draft Sac County Tour Itinerary

September 24, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. Produce Express
2630 5th Street # 6, Sacramento
- Jim Mills, Produce Express
 - *Other Options: Magpie, SlowFood Sacramento*
- 8:20 a.m. Bus Departs
- 9:00 a.m. SACOG Board Meeting
Rancho Cordova City Hall,
2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova
- 10:00 a.m. Tour Welcome
Rancho Cordova City Hall
- *Speaker TBD*
- 10:30 a.m. Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
- Shawn Harrison, Executive Director, Soil Born Farms
 - Community Benefits of an urban farm stand
 - Farm Stands accepting EBT and located near low-income daycare centers
- 10:50 a.m. Urban Infill & Resource Assets (en route)
- Local staff speaker
- 11:15 a.m. Davis Family Farm Stand (Sloughhouse)
13501 Jackson Road, Sloughhouse
- Rick Davis, Owner
 - How seasonal transitions affect economic sustainability of a farm stand
- 11:45 a.m. Sacramento Agriculture Current Conditions and Growing the Future (en route)
- Frank Carl, Agricultural Commissioner, Sacramento County
 - Troy Givans, Sacramento County
 - Possible speaker from Caviar Farm
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch – Elk Grove High School Farm near Elk Grove Park
- Rabbi David Wechsler-Azen, Fresh Producers
 - School food distribution
 - FFA/4H/AFA
- 1:15 p.m. Sacramento Agriculture (en route)
- Grow & Buy Local program, Cattle Industry- Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director, Sacramento County Farm Bureau
- 1:45 p.m. Van Warmerdam Dairy
12121 McKenzie Road
- Managing environmentally sensitive dairy operations
 - Cutting edge water quality improvements
 - Leo Van Warmerdam, owner

Draft Sac County Tour Itinerary

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- 2:15 p.m. Cosumnes River Preserve (en route)
13501 Franklin Blvd., Galt
- Open Space Conservation and Agriculture
 - Kathy Brown, Preserve Manager
- 2:45 p.m. Olagary Farms
Blossom Road (Walnut Grove Thornton Road)
Frank and Lorna Olagary, Owners
- Small farm integration into large scale distribution
- (en route) Stillwater Farms overview – local farm with Raley's contract
- Linda Fiack, Delta Protection Commission
- 3:00 p.m. Greene & Hemly
Virginia Hemly Chaabra, Owner
- Cold Storage facility
- 3:45 p.m. Scribner Bend Vineyards
- Small diversified farms, Ron Kelley, R. Kelley Farms
 - Agritourism- Mark Scribner, Owner, Scribner Bend
- 4:00 p.m. Delta Water Conservation (en route plus stop at Scribner Bend)
- Levee work in Sacramento County, Daniel Wilson
 - Trip back to Sacramento to include overview from Russell van Loben Sels (preservation/development/etc.)
- 4:30 p.m. Produce Express
2630 5th Street # 6, Sacramento
- Bus returns to participants' vehicles