



Item #09-8-13
Consent

SACOG Board of Directors

August 12, 2009

Adopt Resolution Recognizing Mary Brill

Issue: Resolution recognizing Mary Brill as SACOG names a new SACOG *Salutes!* Youth Excellence Award in her honor.

Recommendation: The Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution for the August Board meeting.

Committee Action/Discussion: Mary Brill has been an active community advocate for land use and transportation planning that is inclusive of all stakeholders. She has worked to encourage youth to take more active roles in smart growth, land use, transportation planning and climate change. A new SACOG *Salutes!* award for Youth Excellence will be added to the categories for the annual award program.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM: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

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Resolution No. 43 – 2009

RECOGNIZING MARY BRILL ON HER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE NAMING OF THE SACOG *SALUTES!* YOUTH EXCELLENCE AWARD IN HER HONOR

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL has been a tireless advocate for civic engagement, ensuring that every participant at community events has an opportunity to provide input; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL has helped organize dozens of community improvement organizations and projects, including the Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods and was on the forefront of regional planning efforts, promoting active community engagement in smart growth and transportation planning projects; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL was an integral part of SACOG's Blueprint project, helping to ensure all populations be represented and participate in the ongoing dialogue on how we address growth in their communities and our greater Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL was cited in a Sacramento Bee editorial titled "Mary Brill's Blueprint – Ailing Activist Fights for Region" on the day the SACOG Board adopted the Blueprint as "one of the Sacramento region's most effective and most treasured advocates" and noted that "with every last ounce of energy...Brill works to make this region a better place"; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL has been a staunch advocate for low-income and minority groups to have a voice in land use, transportation, housing and air quality planning; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL advocated for creation of the City of Sacramento's Planning and City Management Academies, the city's Strategic Planning Community Outreach Advisory Committee and the development of the city's two-tier fee structure for sewer connections and inclusionary housing ordinance; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL has been recognized by numerous organizations for her many contributions to our community, including receiving from the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce its Al Geiger award, which honors a business person who has demonstrated community leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation and some one who has served as an example in pursuing equal opportunities, and the Sacramento News & Review as the Best Woman Warrior Against Sprawl; and

WHEREAS, MARY BRILL has throughout her life had a special commitment to engaging youth in civic affairs, including spearheading many community improvement projects such as the after school program Arts Kool (a program that developed after Mary brought youth, parents, and school district staff together); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments name a new *SACOG Salutes!* Youth Excellence award in honor of Mary Brill for her stellar example of community leadership and civic engagement for all.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of August 2009, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

Helen Thomson
Chair of the Board

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

Mary Brill 's 'blueprint' - Ailing activist fights for the region

Sacramento Bee, The (CA) - Thursday, December 16, 2004

Year after year, **Mary Brill** has been the official voice for neighborhoods in Sacramento. As the head of the Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods, she has spoken on behalf of affordable housing, a better environment and a more sustainable method of growth, as in less sprawl.

These days, however, her voice at times is silenced. She has an inoperable brain tumor. It ravages her body, including her speech. But it hasn't stopped her for a minute from engaging in public life. During her three-year struggle with this tumor, she has emerged stronger than ever. She is one of the Sacramento region's most effective and most treasured advocates. Today should be one of her finest hours.

Today marks a milestone for the region. A vast six-county area with many cities and subcultures, the region is poised to act in unity in a way it never has. At issue is a "blueprint" for what this region will look like 50 years from now and how to work toward that vision.

Brill won't formally vote to approve the blueprint. That's the job today for elected public officials from these six counties who lead the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the region's chief transportation planner. Through this blueprint initiative, the council has sought to devise a better plan for growth so the resulting congestion doesn't end up killing the economy and the quality of life.

The council reached out to everyday citizens on numerous weekends and sought their advice about how the region should accommodate another 2 million residents. Brill attended many of these workshops and meetings, where, in the end, participants denounced traditional big-lot sprawl and embraced a more efficient use of land.

As the blueprint process neared this crucial moment, Brill hasn't missed a beat, even on those days when she has no voice or a working left hand. With her right hand, she slowly types e-mails from her South Land Park apartment to politicians and fellow activists. With every last ounce of energy, the 54-year-old Brill works to make this region a better place. The blueprint process, if it leads to better land-use patterns, will pay dividends for decades.