



## Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

Item #09-10-7  
Information

September 24, 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, October 15, 2009. **Please confirm participation.**

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

**Discussion:** The Sacramento County agricultural tour will be on **Thursday, October 15.**

SACOG will host an ag tour of Sacramento County for the board. The tour will have a park-and-ride start at 5<sup>th</sup> 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 dairy operation, and will feature discussion of rural delta communities unique to the region.

The Sacramento tour will be the final in a series of ag tours that began last year. The 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, agritourism, 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, October 15**

Park-and-Ride:

Produce Express

2630 5th Street, Sacramento (5<sup>th</sup> 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

Attachments

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

**Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Agricultural Tour  
for Sacramento County**  
Thursday, October 15, 2009

To maximize participation, please provide your availability for the regular SACOG Board Meeting and Sacramento County Ag Tour.

**Board Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one box.

<b>Thursday, October 15</b>	
I will attend the regular Board meeting at Rancho Cordova City Hall <b>and</b> the Sacramento County ag tour.	
I will attend only the Board Meeting.	
I will <b>NOT</b> attend the Board Meeting or Tour.	

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Please return completed form to committee staff or  
Rochelle Tilton.***

# Draft Sac County Tour Itinerary

October 15, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. Produce Express**  
2630 5th Street # 6, Sacramento
- Jim Mills, Produce Express
  - Patrick Mulvaney, Owner Mulvaney's B&L, Culinary Specialists
- 8:20 Bus Departs**
- 9:00 SACOG Board Meeting**  
Rancho Cordova City Hall,  
2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova
- 10:00 Tour Welcome**  
Rancho Cordova City Hall
- 10:30 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
    - Education/classrooms, parkway (land use, neighbors)
    - Growers collaborative
- 11:00 Urban Infill & Resource Assets (en route)**
- Local staff speaker
- Sacramento Agriculture Current Conditions and Growing the Future (en route)**
- Frank Carl, Agricultural Commissioner, Sacramento County
  - Troy Givans, Sacramento County
- 11:45 Lunch – EGHS Farm near Elk Grove Park**
- Rabbi David Wechsler-Azen, Fresh Producers
  - School food distribution
  - FFA/4H/AFA
- 12:45 p.m. Sacramento Agriculture (en route from lunch to dairy stop)**
- Grow & Buy Local program, Cattle Industry (preview of next stop) - Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director, Sacramento County Farm Bureau
- 1:15 Van Warmerdam or Tollenaar Dairy**  
12121 McKenzie Road (location of Van Warmerdam)
- Managing environmentally sensitive dairy operations (Tollenaar's have one of only two county digesters)
  - Cutting edge water quality improvements

# Draft Sac County Tour Itinerary

October 15, 2009

- 2:00**      **Cosumnes River Preserve & Strategic Planning for Land Acquisition** (en route)  
13501 Franklin Blvd., Galt
- Open Space Conservation and Agriculture
  - Kathy Brown, Preserve Manager to hop on bus at stop out front
- 2:20**      **Towns of Walnut Grove Locke, Courtland & Hood** (en route)
- Overview of unique Delta small towns and challenges of sustainability (tour facilitator to provide insight)
  - Richard Elliot, Stillwater Farms – local farm with Raley's deal
  - Linda Fiack, Delta Protection Commission
  - Beth Robbins, Brown Carr Ranch – transition from pears to cherries
- (Stop in Locke depending on schedule and timing)*
- 3:00**      **Greene & Hemly** (en route and stop)  
11275 State Highway 160, «GreetingLine»
- Virginia Hemly Chaabra - cold storage and packing facility tour
- (Bus to pull into parking lot, view operations from bus, snack on bus)*
- 3:25**      **R. Kelley Farms** (en route and stop)  
1150 Scribner Road
- Ron Kelley, R. Kelley Farms U-pick + farm stand
  - Agritourism- Mark Scribner, Owner, Scribner Bendus
- 4:00**      **Delta Water Conservation** (en route)
- Levee work in Sacramento County, Daniel Wilson
  - Trip back to Sacramento to include overview from Russell Van Loben sels (preservation/development/etc.
  - Caviar Farm (unique operations in north county)
- 4:30 p.m.**      **Tour Concludes - Produce Express**  
2630 5th Street, Sacramento