



**Item #09-10-4
Information**

Land Use & Housing Committee

September 24, 2009

USACE/Blueprint Coordination and NEPA Streamlining

Issue: Consultant Stacey McKinley will update this committee on recent activities related to NEPA streamlining and incentivizing Blueprint implementation.

Recommendation: None; this item is for information only.

Discussion: Ongoing discussions continue between SACOG staff and consultant and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding permit streamlining in relation to Blueprint implementation. On September 17, 2009, the USACE released a public notice regarding a proposed Letter of Permission (LOP), which would allow for increased fill of wetland resources than previously allowed under an LOP. It is the Corps' intention to utilize some version of this LOP to incentivize Blueprint "certified" development. Meetings to discuss next steps are set to take place in Washington D.C. and the Sacramento District. Stacey McKinley, consultant to SACOG, will brief the committee on latest developments and potential for SACOG to make formal comments on the LOP.

In addition to the potential for increased streamlining for Blueprint development, McKinley will participate in a peer review of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) proposed guidelines for more effectively linking transportation planning and environmental review. FHWA invited 10 participants to give comments on the proposed guidelines. McKinley will participate in the review on September 25, 2009 and will brief the committee on anticipated outcomes and potential pilot/funding opportunities which SACOG may wish to explore.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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