

Thursday, January 22, 2004

Rabbit Creek Journal

Clipper Mills, CA  
(Butte Co.)  
(Circ. W. 2,500)

Sutter, Yuba counties to examine futures in Blueprint workshops

By 2050, the Sacramento Region is projected to grow to an estimated population of as much as 3.7 million. How that growth could affect the people who live and work in Sutter and Yuba counties now and in the future will be the subject of two countywide planning workshops in January and February 2004.

Anyone who either lives or works in either Sutter or Yuba counties may attend the workshop. The Sutter County workshop will be held Saturday, January 24, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Yuba City Senior Center, 777 Ainsley Ave. The Yuba County workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the One-Stop Training Center, 1114 Yuba St., Marysville.

The Blueprint workshops are sponsored by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and Valley Vision. Refreshments will be served. SACOG has sponsored four earlier countywide workshops, in Yolo County and Sacramento County. Attendance at those workshops topped 1,000 participants.

The Blueprint study was commissioned by the Directors of SACOG in 2002 to examine the relationship between land use and transportation patterns as part of its long-range planning. SACOG funds transportation projects throughout the region. "These countywide Blueprint workshops will allow participants to help shape the future of their counties for generations to come," said SACOG Board Chairman and Christopher Cabaldon.

"We've started at the neighborhood level and are now asking people to help us determine the best plan for their counties," Cabaldon said. "I hope everyone will take this opportunity and become involved."

The Blueprint project uses state-of-the-art, public domain, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Web-based planning software program called PLACE<sup>3</sup>S ('places three'), which stands for Planning for Community Energy, Economic and Environmental Sustainability (the '3' refers to the three Es of Energy, Economic and Environment). The software will allow participants in the workshop to see how changes in land use affect traffic, employment, and housing availability, among other indicators, and give planners data about county residents growth preferences.

The workshops will build upon information developed during six months of neighborhood workshops in every county in the Sacramento Region. More than 30 workshops were held, with a total of more than 16,000 acres examined using smart growth principals. The workshops included broad representation from throughout the region, including community residents, businesses, and social equity interests.

The workshops will essentially be ‘scenario-planning’ exercises, where participants will be able to discuss three different potential growth scenarios and a ‘base case’ scenario, that looks at what would happen if growth proceeded as it is doing today. The alternative scenarios will offer differing and escalating degrees of growth in each county.

People who live or work in Sutter or Yuba County who would like to attend the workshop may do so by contacting Valley Vision, at 916-925-0130, or by e-mail at [mail@valleyvision.org](mailto:mail@valleyvision.org). The RSVP form is also available at the Blueprint Web site: <http://www.sacregionblueprint.org>.

The Blueprint project is made possible by funding and support from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Valley Vision, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, California State Treasurer Phil Angelides’ Office, the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Caltrans, Bringing Regional Issues for Discussion and Group Effort (BRIDGE), the Urban Land Institute (ULI), the Great Valley Center, the James Irvine Foundation and KVIE6, among others. For further information, please contact Phyllis Miller, Communication Manager, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), at 916-340-6224 or [pmiller@sacog.org](mailto:pmiller@sacog.org). More information on Blueprint also can be found at [www.sacregionblueprint.org](http://www.sacregionblueprint.org).