

SACOG HONORS REGION'S BEST AT AWARDS CEREMONY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2007

**Contact: Rebecca Sloan
or Erik Johnson
916-321-9000**

SACRAMENTO – The Sacramento Area Council of Governments today honored outstanding regional efforts in transportation, smart-growth planning and air quality as part of the 2007 *SACOG Salutes!* Regional Awards Program. The high-profile awards were presented to individuals and organizations whose achievements and innovations made a significant difference in the Sacramento region in 2007.

Agency of the Year: Placer County Transportation Planning Agency for leadership and advocacy for transportation solutions.

Business of the Year: KCRA 3, for exemplary public education and civic engagement of regional issues.

Citizen of the Year: Brooks Truitt, for continuing civic engagement and public education on Blueprint and sustainability.

Employee of the Year: Sue Heitman, Executive Director of Capay Valley Vision, for revitalization and preservation for Esparto and rural Yolo County.

Project of the Year: Caltrans Division of Rail Voluntary Diesel Retrofit and Automatic Engine Shutdown System

Blueprint Excellence: *WalkSacramento* and Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA), for cooperative work and community involvement in planning for complete streets throughout the Sacramento region.

Bill Hughes Elected Official of the Year Award: Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan, for leadership excellence in regional transportation, open space preservation and local civic engagement.

Special Recognition: Susan Frazier, CEO and Managing Partner of Valley Vision for distinguished service and community outreach in the SACOG region.

SACOG instituted the annual awards program in 1999 to honor outstanding regional work by organizations, businesses and individuals. For further information on the awards, categories and past recipients, please visit: <http://www.sacog.org/about/categories.cfm> or contact Rebecca Thornton Sloan or Erik Johnson at 916-321-9000.

- MORE -

Agency of the Year: PLACER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY

Agency of the Year recognizes a non-profit or government agency that has engaged the public and achieved excellence in land use, transportation and air quality plans or programs. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) recognizes an agency that has delivered above and beyond what the community expects. The 2007 *SACOG Salutes!* Agency of the Year is Placer County Transportation Planning Agency.

The mission of the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) is derived from its numerous state and local designations. The agency has been designated in state law as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Placer County. PCTPA is also the county's Congestion Management Agency (CMA), a statutorily designated member of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), and the airport land use planning body and hearing board for Lincoln, Auburn, and Blue Canyon Airports. As part of their Joint Powers Agreement, PCTPA is the designated administrator for the [South Placer Regional Transportation Authority](#) (SPRTA). Under an agreement with SACOG, PCTPA also represents Placer jurisdictions in federal planning and programming issues. Since the PCTPA has a local Agency-State Agreement for federal aid projects, it is also eligible to administer federal projects.

The nine-member [PCTPA Board of Directors](#) consists of one councilmember from each of Placer County's six incorporated jurisdictions, two members of the Placer County Board of Supervisors; and one citizen representative.

PCTPA was created as the transportation planning agency for Placer County excluding the Lake Tahoe basin. PCTPA represents Placer County and six incorporated cities located within the political boundary of Placer County. In total, Placer County contains 1,506 square miles ranging in elevation from 160 feet to nearly 9,500 feet.

The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, or PCTPA, has worked aggressively to secure funding for major projects such as the Highway 65 Lincoln Bypass and some of the most congested sections of Interstate 80. PCTPA secured over \$120 million in Proposition 1B funds in February to improve these two important corridors in Placer County.

PCTPA has also brought together community members to discuss the needs of some of the fastest growing communities in the state. They have a cohesive Transportation Demand Management program and have been participants in Bike Commute Month and Walk to School Day encouraging alternate modes of transportation through all of Placer County.

Placer County Transportation Planning Agency also published the Transit Master Plan for South Placer County in June 2007.

PCTPA
299 Nevada Street
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 823-4030 (530) 823-4036 fax
Celia McAdam, Executive Director
Nominated by:
Bob Hollowell
PRIDE Industries
530-383-2423

Business of the Year: KCRA 3

Business of the Year recognizes a private business that has made significant contributions to the region in transportation, land use and air quality. The 2007 *SACOG Salutes!* Business of the Year is KCRA 3.

For over 50 years, KCRA 3 a member of the Hearst-Argyle stations has been where local residents tune in for news about what is happening in their community. KCRA 3 has long supported community organizations such as Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, CHiPs for Kids Toy Drive, and the Pacific Rim Street Fest.

KCRA 3 also uses new media to serve the region. On their homepage viewers can access breaking local, national and world news, traffic delays, current weather and community events.

In the past year, KCRA 3 has been a leader in educating and engaging the public of issues of land use, transportation and air quality. KCRA 3 produced the award-winning five-part series, *Travel in Our Region*, which aired on multiple occasions during evening newscasts last fall. KCRA 3 continued its support for educating the public when anchor Pamela Wu moderated the TALL Order: Moving the Region Forward forum last November. On January 31, 2007 at 6:30 p.m., KCRA 3 went live with a dialogue about transportation and land use with the *Road Map to the Future* town hall. The program looked at the challenges the region faces over the next 28 years, and included a diverse group of community stakeholders and elected officials. Viewers were involved during the program through an online poll. This input and exposure was an important part of SACOG's public involvement process for the MTP2035.

KCRA 3
Elliott Troshinsky, General Manager
Jim Stimson, Assistant News Director
3 Television Circle
Sacramento, CA 95814-0794
(916) 446-3333

Rebecca Thornton Sloan
SACOG
1415 L Street Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-321-9000
rsloan@sacog.org

2007 SACOG Salutes!
December 20, 2007
Page 4 of 9

Citizen of the Year: BROOKS TRUITT

Citizen of the Year recognizes a private citizen who participates and demonstrates leadership in public involvement activities for transportation, land use planning and air quality. The 2007 *SACOG Salutes!* Citizen of the Year is Mr. Brooks Truitt.

For many years, Brooks Truitt has worked extensively in the community, and regularly attends public hearings and planning commission meetings. Mr. Truitt created Sustain Sacramento, an email newsletter of current information on public meetings and opportunities for civic engagement on the growth of Sacramento.

He can be seen at most city of Sacramento public hearings (Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings, public outreach community meetings), sitting in the back. The back seat position should not lead anyone to believe he is not involved. He is very well known by Mayor Fargo, other city executives, and other regional leaders with whom he confers frequently. Working behind the scenes, he pushes the agenda of public involvement with land use processes, sustainable development and historic preservation.

He has been a strong advocate for citizen learning. Mr. Truitt was instrumental in the creation of the city of Sacramento's Planning Academy, the annual educational program that takes willing city of Sacramento residents through a multi-week series of classes and teaches them to become more informed about and involved with the city planning process. Many Planning Academy graduates go on to become members of city Commissions.

Mr. Truitt is not only active in Sacramento. Throughout the region, he is a fixture at meetings on smart growth and regional multi-modal transportation, always promoting regional cooperation for transportation and air quality solutions.

Mr. Truitt believes citizen education is the key to involvement.

Brooks Truitt
brookstruitt@aol.com

Nominated by:
Larry Greene
Executive Director
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
916-874-4803
lgreene@airquality.org

- MORE -

Employee of the Year: SUE HEITMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAPAY VALLEY VISION

Employee of the Year recognizes an employee of an organization or business that has made significant contributions to the region in transportation, land use and air quality. The 2007 *SACOG Salutes!* Employee of the Year is Ms. Sue Heitman, Executive Director of Capay Valley Vision.

Capay Valley Vision was created to enhance ongoing communication within the diverse community of the Capay Valley, reflecting all opinions and searching for common ground on the vision for the Valley's future. Recognizing that change is inevitable, the organization works to manage and guide change in a way that best preserves the Valley's rural character, agriculture, history and natural environment, while supporting a vital local economy. The mission of Capay Valley Vision is to establish a community-wide vision for the future of Capay Valley, and to facilitate an on-going collaborative process for planning.

For the past year, Ms. Heitman has led efforts to revitalize the unincorporated community of Esparto in Yolo County, while maintaining the rural feel of the area. She has worked to fund and develop a downtown Esparto revitalization plan that will support the surrounding agricultural areas.

Ms. Heitman was instrumental in securing funding for the Esparto walkable communities workshop, where citizens learned about design options that are safe for pedestrians and enhance the look of their community. This led to citizen input into the design concepts of downtown Esparto. Ms. Heitman was the driving force in getting over 100 community members, elected officials, developers, landowners, state and county representatives and the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians to participate in series of charettes to develop Highway 16 where it becomes Yolo Avenue and then serves as Esparto's Main Street.

Sue Heitman
Executive Director, Capay Valley Vision
530-787-3353
sue@capayvalleyvision.org

Letters of Support:
Josh Meyer
Local Government Commission
916-448-1198

Nominated by:
Cindy Tuttle
County-Tribe Coordinator, Yolo County
530-666-8061
cindy.tuttle@yolocounty.org

Duane Chamberlain
Yolo County Board of Supervisors,
District Five
530-666-8627

Elizabeth Campbell
Esparto Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Regional Project of the Year: CALTRANS DIVISION OF RAIL VOLUNTARY DIESEL RETROFIT AND AUTOMATIC ENGINE SHUTDOWN SYSTEM

The Regional Project recognizes a project that has made a significant contribution to the region in transportation, land use and or air quality. The 2007 *SACOG Salutes!* Regional Project of the Year is the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Rail Voluntary Diesel Retrofit and Automatic Engine Shutdown System on passenger trains.

Caltrans Division of Rail (DOR) manages and coordinates intercity rail passenger services that help to improve the state's air quality and reduce highway congestion and fuel consumption. The mission of DOR is to provide and promote intercity passenger rail services while improving, expanding, and integrating all rail service into California's transportation system. In 2006, more than 5 million people used California's state supported trains.

In May of 2004, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for a "Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program Technology Demonstration Assistance Agreements to Benefit Sensitive Populations." In November of 2004, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the USEPA to fund a demonstration program to fabricate and install a Cleaire Longview® diesel retrofit system to reduce diesel particulate matter and Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) on two head end power (HEP) units operated by Caltrans. The USEPA awarded the project to use the Cleaire Longview® because it was the only California Air Resources Board (CARB) verified and US EPA recognized emission control device able to achieve a Level 3 particulate matter (PM) reduction and also reduce NOx emissions.

From the RFA the Caltrans Division of Rail began the voluntary diesel retrofit program for passenger trains on the Capitol Corridor which service the areas between the Bay Area, Sacramento and San Joaquin. Caltrans recognized the significant emissions benefits that would be associated with changing how passenger cars are powered and introducing new lower emission engines while retrofitting existing diesel engines.

While working on the diesel retrofit, project planners also recognized that reduction of emissions with reengineering the HEP units which supplies additional power to the passenger cars. Caltrans worked to retrofit and install new HEP systems.

Project planners at Caltrans also worked to prevent unnecessary idling during overnight layovers by implementing an automatic engine shutdown system, all though this was not part of the original project. All of the modifications and upgrades Caltrans made were voluntary. Caltrans continues to work on programs to reduce emissions in the region through innovative, clean and safe technologies.

Caltrans Division of Rail
Katie Petersen, Chief
Rail Marketing Branch
1120 N Street, MS 74
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-654-7193

Nominated by:
Larry Greene
Executive Director
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District
916-874-4803 lgreene@airquality.org

Blueprint Excellence: WALKSACRAMENTO & SACRAMENTO AREA BICYCLE ADVOCATES

The Blueprint Excellence Award recognizes a project, organization or business for outstanding approaches to Blueprint implementation projects.

This year SACOG is recognizing two community organizations for Blueprint Excellence for their work on complete street design. This year's winners were selected for their cooperative work and community involvement in planning for complete streets throughout the Sacramento region. The 2007 SACOG Salutes! Blueprint Excellence award winners are WalkSacramento and the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA).

WalkSacramento is a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving safe, walkable communities- for personal health and recreation, for livable neighborhoods, for traffic safety, and for clean air.

WalkSacramento collaborated with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association to perform several walkability audits which has led to the current Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard streetscape project they also continually implement walkability audits near schools to create safe access for children. WalkSacramento has continually been a consistent leader in advocating for complete street in existing and planned communities. WalkSacramento works to increase public awareness walking as a safe and clean mode of transportation.

SABA is a non-profit group that represents cyclists with the aim of more and safer bicycle trips. The vision of SABA is bicycling everyday for transportation because it is safe, convenient and desirable.

SABA spearheaded the organization of *Can the Trash! Coalition*, which addresses the issue of green waste on local streets. These efforts have lead to the cities of Davis, Woodland and Sacramento getting green waste piles off of the street. Green waste piles are not only a danger to cyclists, they also contribute to street flooding and illegal dumping.

SABA and WalkSacramento are essential in organizing residents to participate in regional efforts such as May is Bike Month, Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan, MTP2035, Caltrans System Management Plans, Sacramento Regional Transit's Master Plan and multiple city general plans. Currently both WalkSacramento and Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates are working with the Los Rios Community College District to create safer bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.

WalkSacramento
Anne Geraghty, Executive Director
916-446-9255
ageraghty@walksacramento.org

SABA
Walk Siefert, Executive Director
916-444-6600
saba@sacbike.org

Nominated by:
Peter Jacobsen
916-650-2650
jacobsen.peter@yahoo.com

Nominated by:
Councilmember Steve Cohn
City of Sacramento

Bill Hughes Elected Official of the Year: YOLO COUNTY SUPERVISOR MIKE MCGOWAN

Bill Hughes was the driving force in the expansion of the SACOG Board of Directors, bringing voices from all of the region's cities and counties to the table. He was a tremendous supporter of the Blueprint project and was chair of the SACOG Board at the time of his sudden passing in 2003. This Bill Hughes Elected Official of the Year recognizes leadership excellence by an elected official who has made a significant contribution to transportation, air quality, or land use planning in the Sacramento region at the local, state, regional or federal level. The 2007 SACOG Salutes! award winner is Mr. Mike McGowan, Yolo County Supervisor District 1.

Mr. McGowan has been in public service for many years, including service in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine. After practicing law Mr. McGowan was a leader in the development of West Sacramento. From city incorporation, creation of city departments, the development of the city's first general plan and serving as West Sacramento's first mayor. Mr. McGowan service has been instrumental.

Mr. McGowan became a member of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1993. During his tenure he has worked to promote smart growth in West Sacramento and Yolo County, always with consideration for open space preservation. Mr. McGowan has worked with agencies for the growth and prosperity of Yolo County.

He was instrumental in helping YOLOBUS increase its Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus fleet from four to 39, significantly reducing fleet emissions. Due in part to Mr. McGowan's efforts, a significant portion of Yolo County remains open space or agricultural land. Yolo County recently received the Williamson Act Stewardship Award from the California State Department of Conservation for its long-term efforts to uphold and promote the California Land Conservation Act. Mr. McGowan currently serves as Chair of the Delta Protection Commission, created to protect and enhance the overall quality of the Delta Region for agriculture, wildlife habitats and recreational uses.

Supervisor Mike McGowan
Yolo County Supervisor District 1
916-375-6443, Jacqueline Zaragoza
mike.mcgowan@yolocounty.com

Nominated by:
Matt Rexroad
Yolo County Supervisor District 3
530-666-8621
matt@rexroad.com

Letters of Support:

Terry Bassett
Yolobus
530-661-0816

Katie Villegas
Yolo County Children's Alliance
530-757-5558

2007 SACOG Salutes!
December 20, 2007
Page 9 of 9

Special Recognition: SUSAN FRAZIER, CEO AND MANAGING PARTNER OF VALLEY VISION

Susan Frazier, CEO and Managing Partner of Valley Vision, has been a leader in community outreach throughout the SACOG region on issues of transportation, air quality and health. She has extensive training and experience in organizational development, and is the graduate of three intensive community leadership programs, including the American Leadership Forum.

From the beginning of the Blueprint Project and throughout the MTP2035, Frazier has helped engage residents across the region in critical decisions about our region's future. In addition to Valley Vision's contributions to public outreach during the Blueprint project and MTP2035 development, since 2001 she has also lead Valley Vision's involvement in Partnership for Prosperity, Cleaner Air Partnership, Regional Open Space Inventory, Hmong Health Collaborative and Community Needs Assessment. As CEO of Valley Vision, she has taken a small organization with a big mission to be a leader in grassroots public outreach.

Under the leadership of Ms. Frazier, Valley Vision has demonstrated a rare ability to bring diverse people and interests together to pursue constructive solutions to difficult challenges. Ms. Frazier is an asset in helping our region's residents get engaged in local and regional planning efforts.

Susan Frazier
Valley Vision
CEO & Managing Partner
2320 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818
916-325-1630
susan.frazier@valleyvision.org

Mike McKeever
SACOG
Executive Director
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-321-9000

- END -