

MEDIA TOUR

EL DORADO COUNTY TOUR LOOKS AT RURAL-URBAN ISSUES

Tour of agricultural and other lands part of new Rural-Urban Connections Study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 15, 2008

Contact: Erik Johnson
916-321-9000

Who: Elected officials from across the six-county region are learning about the challenges and opportunities in the rural communities of our region. Agricultural experts and local leaders will lead hands-on tours of agritourism with visits to Apple Hill, forest genetics research, a local winery, an olive grower and historic Placerville. In between stops, tour participants will learn about transportation, land use and economic issues in El Dorado County.

What: Tour of agricultural and open space lands in El Dorado County. Highlights include:

- Welcome from SACOG Board Member and El Dorado County Supervisor Rusty Dupray
- Staff and elected officials discuss:
 - agritourism, ecotourism and recreation opportunities
 - rural roads and goods movement challenges
 - high-density community planning in rural areas
 - lack of processing facilities for growers
- A visit to Apple Hill
- Lunch at David Girard Vineyards
- Stops in Camino and Placerville

When: Friday, October 24, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (following SACOG Board meeting at 9 a.m.)

Where: Apple Mountain Golf Resort, 3455 Carson Road, Camino, 95709

Contact: Erik Johnson, ejohnson@sacog.org or (916) 321-9000.

Notes: RSVPs are required for the limited number of seats on the tour bus. A full agenda will be available early next week. This is the third tour looking at the challenges and opportunities in our rural communities. In April, SACOG led a tour of Sutter and Yuba counties. In September, another tour took place in Yolo County. A tour of and Placer County is scheduled for Thursday, November 13. A Sacramento County tour will take place in spring 2009.

The Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) is looking at the region's growth and sustainability objectives from a rural perspective. In the same way that Blueprint is an economic development strategy for urban areas, RUCS is intended to be an economic, as well as environmental sustainability, strategy for rural areas.

SACOG coordinates transportation planning, funding and project delivery for Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and the cities within them. SACOG also engages elected officials in land use and other regional issues.

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