

## **NATION FOCUSES ON REGION WITH GRANT FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

*HUD singles out Sacramento region as a recipient for highly competitive program*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SACRAMENTO**—With new housing and light rail as the backdrop in Sacramento’s River District, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Ron Sims today awarded a \$1.5 million grant to a consortium of local and regional governmental, academic, and civic, business and community-based organizations. Led by SACOG, the consortium will help plan for communities that expand housing and transportation choices for people.

The HUD funds will help the Sacramento region plan for the construction of housing and employment centers in high-frequency transit areas. Regulatory and financial barriers often make new construction in existing communities difficult, if not impossible. The consortium will use these funds to give local governments more information about the specific infrastructure costs for all infill projects, and help them use streamlined environmental review for infill housing. The funds will also be used to integrate natural resources planning with other local and regional planning, and a study of how to better integrate federal, state, regional and local plans, policies and programs.

“We greatly appreciate the assistance helping our cities and counties to implement the sustainability strategies our citizens have told us they want in order preserve our high quality of life throughout this diverse region,” said **SACOG Board Chair and Yuba City Councilmember Leslie McBride**.

“Sacramento’s Blueprint has been the catalyst for sustainable, responsible growth in our region,” said **Congresswoman Doris Matsui** (CA-05). “The \$1.5 million dollars announced today will further enable SACOG and its partners to implement their plans for local projects that are creating sustainable communities with access to high-quality public transit and affordable housing options.”

“I am pleased HUD has decided to award this grant to SACOG. I have been a long time supporter of SACOG’s cutting edge approach to the Sacramento region,” said **Congressman Dan Lungren** (CA-03). “This grant will enable our region to further bolster the implementation process of a sustainable community outlined in the regions planning documents.”

Transportation for America, a national coalition working on transportation policy reform, gave special praise to our region: “It’s really gratifying to see SACOG receive this national recognition. SACOG has been a pioneer in the kind of scenario planning that will make our communities more livable and sustainable in the decades ahead. SACOG also recognizes the immense importance of diverse transportation options to a strong economy and high quality of life,” said **James Corless, Director of Transportation for America**.

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The grant funds will help implement the region's Blueprint, a land use growth vision that goes out to 2050. Unanimously adopted by SACOG in 2004, most cities and counties jurisdictions are voluntarily implementing the Blueprint as they update their general plans, zoning codes, and infrastructure plans.

The organizations involved are matching the HUD funds with another \$3.3 million in local funds and in-kind work to bring the maximum benefit to the region.

This funding, from the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program, is part of a new federal Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, led by HUD, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **What The Grant Funds**

1. Increase the construction of housing and employment centers in high-frequency transit areas that promote social equity, inclusion, access to opportunity, public health, and neighborhood revitalization and reduces environmental impacts.
2. Integrate housing, land use and transportation planning and programs.
3. Integrate natural resources planning to protect valuable environmental assets and increase housing opportunities near employment centers.
4. Use the Sacramento region as a pilot test to develop comprehensive recommendations and a handbook to improve the integration of federal, state, regional and local plans, policies and programs for the purpose of effectively implementing place-based planning.

### **Who is Involved?**

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| ➤ Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and cities and counties across the Sacramento region | ➤ Regional Water Authority (RWA)                       |
| ➤ Valley Vision   | ➤ Sacramento Municipal Utility District                |
| ➤ Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency (SHRA)  | ➤ Yuba County Housing Authority                        |
| ➤ UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Urban Land Use and Transportation Center                    | ➤ Consolidated Area Housing Authority of Sutter County |
| ➤ Urban Land Institute, Sacramento Chapter  | ➤ El Dorado County Public Housing Authority            |
|   | ➤ Placer County Health & Human Services                |
|   | ➤ Yolo County Housing                                  |
|   | ➤ Roseville Housing Authority                          |

*SACOG coordinates transportation planning, funding and project delivery for Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and the cities within them. For funds distributed through Caltrans, Placer and El Dorado counties make their own funding decisions. SACOG also engages elected officials in land use and other regional issues.*