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## **Environmental award goes to Valley Vision, SACOG project**

Davis Enterprise staff

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger presented the Sacramento Region Blueprint: Transportation/Land Use Study with a 2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, the state's highest environmental and economic honor, at a ceremony in Sacramento on Monday night.

The annual awards are presented to individuals, organizations and businesses in the state that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable contributions in conserving resources, protecting and enhancing the environment, and building public-private partnerships.

The Blueprint Project was recognized for its innovative approach to examining land-use patterns in the Sacramento region using state-of-the-art modeling tools to estimate transportation, air quality, economic and other effects of current land use patterns, and develop alternatives to those patterns for future growth.

Accepting the award were Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento mayor and vice chairman of SACOG, and Tom Stallard, incoming chairman of the board of directors of Valley Vision. The project is a SACOG/Valley Vision joint effort.

"This award belongs to all of SACOG's staff, our workshop participants, sponsors and supporters -- especially Valley Vision, which has been a tremendous partner in garnering public participation," Cabaldon said. "Without participation and support from the public, this project would not be possible."

Added Stallard, "The Blueprint Project is a model of regional leadership

because it steps outside the box of how we typically approach land-use planning. Blueprint was blessed to have had at the helm the late Bill Hughes, who was a model of regional collaboration and leadership."

The former chairman of SACOG, Hughes died unexpectedly during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. He was a champion of the Blueprint project.

The 2003 competition was the first in which a land use category was included. Blueprint was one of only two recipients in the category. A total of 24

awards were presented to individuals and groups from throughout the state. Other categories included sustainable practices, watershed management and energy conservation.

Other regional entities receiving governor's awards were Yolo County's FARMS Leadership Program and SLEWS Program, which was acknowledged in the category of children's environmental education. In the category of environmental and economic partnerships, the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians & Yolo County casino mitigation agreement received praise.

Also acknowledged were the Placer Nature Center in the children's environmental education category. The Capitol Area East End Complex -- Department of Education Building was acknowledged in the sustainable facilities category.

A complete list of award recipients can be found at the awards Web site,

[www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/2003/](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/2003/).