

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

*MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence*

December 7, 2007

To: Dean Blank

From: Vincent King

Subject: Responses to SACOG's MTP 2035

Here are my comments on the MTP 2035 as they relate to the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP). The Board of Supervisors initiated environmental review of the SSHCP on June 6, 2007.

35b-1

- I. Pg 72 - **Strategy:** Consider funding to acquire conservation easements accompanying specific regional connector road projects, to protect land from development in areas that are not intended or zoned for development.

**Comment:** Support this approach particularly where they may be paired with local conservation efforts and/or HCP's or NCCP's.

35b-2

- II. Pg 72 - Policy: SACOG intends to develop a strategy for ensuring good urban-rural connections and promoting the economic viability of rural lands while also protecting open space resources to expand and support the implementation of the Blueprint growth strategy and the MTP.

**Strategy:** Use research, data and modeling to inform a public participation process to conceptualize approaches to sustainable rural land use policies encompassing at a minimum, issues such as agricultural practices (including energy production), natural resource protection, rural development practices (including methods to encourage job-housing balances), and infrastructure needs.

**Strategy:** Ensure consistency between the regional open space strategy and local Habitat Conservation Plans and Natural Communities Conservation Plans.

**Strategy:** Ensure that the open space strategy is coordinated with the Blueprint and MTP to support each of these planning efforts individually, as well as collectively.

**Strategy:** Conduct analysis on how various rural land use strategies affect vehicle miles of travel and air emissions, as well as rural economic viability and environmental sustainability.

**Comment:** Support this approach. Plans should be particularly sensitive of preserved areas and those of high resource value. Coordinate with jurisdictions developing and implementing HCP's or NCCP's when planning urban-rural connections.

III. Pg 100 – Table 8-1

35b-3

**Comment** – ‘Land Preserved’ column is misleading. I believe it should read “Area Covered” or “Plan Area”. The South Sacramento Study Area is approximately 341,000 acres in size. Only 11 species are now state or federally listed under the SSHCP (Bald Eagle delisted, but still covered under the SSHCP).

35b-4

IV. **Pg 100** – Once complete, these HCPs and NCCPs will guide preservation of areas with the highest natural resource value for species (including open space connections between them) and mitigation priorities as other less valuable lands get converted to urban uses.

**Comment** – Suggest revising to state, “Once complete, these HCPs and NCCPs will guide preservation of areas with the highest natural resource value for species (including open space connections between them) and mitigation priorities as other lands get converted to urban uses.