



Better data for local decisions

The first truly comprehensive examination of regional land use patterns in the Sacramento Valley region, the Blueprint: Transportation / Land Use Study will develop and apply state-of-the-art modeling tools to estimate the transportation, air quality, economic and other effects of current land use patterns, and develop alternatives to those patterns. Created within a framework of extensive public outreach and involvement, it also will provide a vision of how our region may grow and change in the future.

How will Blueprint benefit our region?

The Study is a project of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), whose Board of Directors commissioned a study of land use patterns to inform the next version of the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan* (MTP) in 2005, to ensure that the plan be based on state-of-the-art data and modeling methods of regional land use. The Study will provide this critical data. It is scheduled for completion in 2004.

How will Blueprint benefit our cities and counties?

The Blueprint: Transportation / Land Use Study will give the region's 28 local jurisdictions—the cities and counties of the Sacramento area—greatly enhanced information upon which to base local land use planning decisions. A coordinated regional effort will make it practical to provide local cities and counties with data, software and methods that will add quality and value to local planning. With the Study's resources at their disposal, local governments will be able to determine how their land use choices might affect the regional transportation system that serves their citizens.

How will Blueprint be conducted?

The work of the Study will be conducted by the planning staff of SACOG. Oversight for the project will be provided to the Board through a committee of planners who will give input to staff throughout the course of the Study. The Committee is comprised of senior-level land use planners from SACOG, local governments and liaisons from other SACOG committees.

Blueprint is being conducted in the context of a comprehensive, broad-based community outreach strategy designed by Valley Vision to bring citizens together with elected officials, members of the business community, representatives of civic and environmental organizations and others, to discuss how growth

will affect our communities and the region as a whole. Groups supporting this effort include the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, Bringing Issues for Regional Discussion and Group Effort (BRIDGE) and the Great Valley Center among many others.

Workshops are planned for the neighborhood, county and regional levels in virtually all of the jurisdictions in the region, culminating in the Regional Forum in April 2004 and an electronic Town Hall meeting later in 2004. Ultimately, the region's political leaders will use the detailed technical data developed during the study and the workshops to make land use decisions that will influence how growth will occur now and for many years to come.

What will the Study do?

One of SACOG's roles in regional transportation planning is to estimate how the region will grow and what will be the resulting travel conditions.

Examples of some of the types of data that will be developed to accomplish this goal are:

- Employment and population forecasts;
- Housing demand: type, and density;
- Costs and impacts of alternative development patterns.

Project timeline

1. Technical Research and Modeling Enhancements
June 2002–June 2004
2. Base Case Regional Future and Indicators
October 2002
3. Community Planning Workshops—cities and counties
March 2003–January 2004
4. Alternative Regional Futures and Indicators
August 2003–January 2004
5. Preferred Regional Future and Indicators for Metropolitan Transportation Plan Analysis
March 2004–September 2004

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