

AIA

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL
The American Institute of Architects

Blueprint Garneres Presidential Citation from AIACC

The Sacramento Region Blueprint Project was recognized in March for extraordinary public service to the citizens and communities of the greater Sacramento Area by the American Institute of Architects California Council (AIACC), which presented the Project with its Presidential Citation.

In announcing the award, the Council stated that the Blueprint Project "contributes to the health and vitality of its citizens, and protects the environment for future generations... Blueprint provides tangible evidence of how local public agencies, con-

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Full House Expected for Regional Forum April 30

Event Examines Choices for Region's Future

NEARLY 1,400 BUSINESS LEADERS, local government officials and members of the public have registered to attend the SACOG / Valley Vision 2004 Regional Forum on Friday, April 30.

The Forum, titled "TALL Order: Choices for our Future," marks a major milestone in the award-winning Sacramento Region Blueprint Project. The daylong event at the Sacramento Convention Center moves the project to the regional scale and follows a year of intensive public participation and outreach throughout the region.

Forum participants will help synthesize input from



Malcolm Gladwell is special guest speaker at the Forum.

nearly 40 neighborhood and countywide workshops and explore four alternative land

use scenarios to guide regional growth. Using state-of-the-art technology, participants will prioritize key concerns and identify the pros and cons of each scenario. The exercise will help evaluate how each scenario performs against seven principles associated with "smart growth"—transportation choices, housing choices, compact development, use of existing assets, mixed land uses, natural resources conservation and quality design.

Best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell will deliver a

Full House...
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Board Approves 'Momentous' Affordable Housing Compact

A GROUNDBREAKING EFFORT TO IMPROVE the supply of affordable housing in the six-county Sacramento Region was approved unanimously in March by the Board of Directors.

The effort, the Sacramento Regional Compact for Production of Affordable Housing (Compact) is a voluntary pilot program for jurisdictions within the SACOG region to meet a minimum production standard of affordable housing.

The Board voted to approve the Compact during its regular monthly meeting. Board members called the vote a 'momentous' and 'significant' attempt at addressing the skyrocketing cost of housing in the Sacramento Region.

"This is a very important step for cities and counties in the region to cooperatively approach the issue of making housing affordable," said SACOG Chair and West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon. "It's essential to the region's economic prosperity to have its

workforce be able to achieve the dream of home ownership."

"This is one of the most significant issues facing our region," SACOG Director and Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo said during the meeting. "We have to have places for the people who work in our restaurants, college students, and young families just starting out to live. This is a modest, but momentous, first step in the right direction."

The jurisdictions joining the Compact would agree to meet an affordable housing production standard by any means they deem appropriate, but within guidelines set forth by the Compact.

At least 10 percent of all new housing construction in jurisdictions participating in the

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Serving as a Dynamic Forum



Martin Tuttle

SACOG'S MISSION to "serve as a dynamic forum for regional planning and collaboration" has taken on another new meaning with the decision by the Board of Directors in March to address the issue of affordable housing in the Sacramento Region. The Board voted unanimously to form an Affordable Housing Compact that would be composed of jurisdictions that agree to join and work to achieve a series of annual affordable housing goals.

The "4-4-2 formula" means that at least 4 percent of all new housing construction will be affordable to very low-income families; at least 4 percent of all new housing construction will be affordable to low-income families; and, if necessary, up to 2 percent of the 10 percent goal could be met by housing affordable to moderate-income families. Members of the Compact may meet the production standard by any means they deem appropriate, but within guidelines set forth by the Compact.

While a modest first step, the vote has been heralded as the first time that the cities and counties of the Sacramento area have agreed on an approach to provide more affordable housing, in a region where buying a home is fast becoming out of reach. The vote also recognizes that solutions to housing issues, like land use and transportation, may best be developed in the crucible of regional deliberation.

Regional deliberations will be foremost on April 30 at the TALL Order Regional Forum, which may well be sold out by the time this newsletter is published. Sponsors and registered participants of the event run the gamut from Caltrans and KB Homes to *Walk-Sacramento* and Capital Public Radio. I'm delighted that we will have the Air Districts of the Sacramento Region and La Familia Counseling Center working hand-in-glove with SureWest Communications, the Environmental Council of Sacramento, and the California Alliance for Jobs. The excitement, 'buzz' and 'sell-out' status of the Forum are a testament to how much we all care about this region. At its end, we will have moved closer to developing a preferred alternative land use future that will guide regional decision-making for decades. I look forward to seeing you there.

MARTIN TUTTLE

Blueprint Garners Presidential Citation from AIACC

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cerned citizens and organizations can work together in shaping the environments in which they live, work, and play.

"The architectural profession strongly supports the creativity, promise, and commitment of the Blueprint Project for creating a long-range regional context for local decision making, and developing a model for other regions in the nation to emulate."

The American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) is the nation's largest state architectural organization, representing more than 9,000 architects on issues of statewide importance to the public and profession. The Council, comprising 21 regional chapters, has a strong reputation as a member-driven professional organization.

"SACOG is deeply grateful to the AIACC for this recognition," said Martin Tuttle, SACOG Executive Director. "It is especially meaningful coming from a statewide organization whose mission is to promote good design and land use."

SACOG is a co-sponsor with civic organization Valley Vision of the Blueprint Project, which was initiated in 2000 by the SACOG Board of Directors to inform their long-range transportation planning efforts, address expanding population, land use issues, effective modes of transportation, and concern over the use of valuable natural resources.

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- City of Folsom
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- City of Lincoln
- City of Live Oak
- Town of Loomis
- City of Marysville
- City of Placerville
- City of Rancho Cordova
- City of Rocklin
- City of Roseville
- City of Sacramento
- City of West Sacramento
- City of Wheatland
- City of Winters
- City of Woodland
- City of Yuba City

Connector Study Looks at Alternatives

MORE THAN 50 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS are participating in a Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Elk Grove-Rancho Cordova-El Dorado Connector Study. The Committee will meet April 13 to provide input on conceptual alternatives for the corridor, including alignments for a potential high-capacity roadway, transit services and non-motorized transportation features, and open space and habitat preservation. A budget of \$15 million has been set aside specifically for open space preservation as part of the connector project through the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for 2025.

SACOG Planning Director Ken Hough says stakeholders are looking at a range of options and concepts to meet needs while enhancing and maintaining the livability of communities along the corridor.

SACOG is working with elected officials and local organizations to develop conceptual options for a connector route linking fast-growing communities in the southern Sacramento region with job centers in Rancho Cordova and Folsom.

As part of the study, SACOG is taking a comprehensive look at the need for a connector route that would relieve congestion while protecting open space and habitat. The corridor stretches roughly from Interstate 5 southwest of Elk Grove through Rancho Cordova to El Dorado Hills and Highway 50. The connector would improve mobility between residential areas and business centers and relieve pressure on heavily congested two-lane roads that currently serve the corridor.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee has been working to develop consensus on a statement of purpose and need for the project. Input on the statement and the conceptual alternatives will be used to develop a Draft Project Report to be submitted to the study's Policy Advisory Committee. Following approval by that committee, the report will be presented to the SACOG Board of Directors for approval.

Further information on the connector study is available at www.sacog.org.



ELK GROVE • RANCHO CORDOVA • FOLSOM

Connector Study

Full House

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keynote address on change and its many nuances. Gladwell's book, *"The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference,"* is making waves with new ideas on how and why some changes happen suddenly and unexpectedly. Gladwell will be available to sign copies of his book during the Forum at a booth sponsored by Borders Books.

The Blueprint effort, initiated by SACOG's Board of Directors to create a better link between transportation and land use planning, won the Governor's Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership in 2003. Data developed as part of the Blueprint Project will be used in the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan and in local planning efforts throughout the region.

Affordable Housing

Continued from page 1

Compact would meet an affordability standard. The following rules would guide reaching the 10 percent goal.

- At least 4 percent of all new housing construction will be affordable to very low-income families.
- At least 4 percent of all new housing construction will be affordable to low-income families.
- If necessary, up to 2 percent of the 10 percent goal could be met by housing affordable to moderate-income families.
- The "4-4-2 standard" can be met through a combination of new construction and substantial rehabilitation.
- All housing used to meet the "4-4-2 standard" must be under a regulatory affordability agreement.
- Jurisdictions may elect to include or exclude units that are under development agreements or vested maps at the

time of joining the Compact. Sacramento area jurisdictions interested in joining the Compact would need to do the following:

- The governing body of the jurisdiction would be required to pass a resolution agreeing to the goals and conditions of the program.
- They would need to provide annual reports to SACOG on their progress in meeting the Compact's goals.
- Agree that the production standard would be in place until December 31, 2010. SACOG will conduct an annual assessment and make necessary changes to the program and the goals.

Regional Report



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To comment on items in the Regional Report, you may contact Phyllis Miller at 916.340.6224, or e-mail regionalreport@sacog.org.

Proposals Due This Month for Community Design Funding

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH APRIL 16 for SACOG's Community Design Program, a new funding initiative that will award \$12 million over the next two years to support smart growth projects and communities.

The program is designed to channel federal transportation dollars to projects that promote less driving and more walking, biking, and transit use. The goal is to promote land use projects or plans that lead to livable, balanced and sustainable

communities in the Sacramento region.

SACOG is expecting applications from at least four counties and 13 cities in the region. Many of the applications represent partnerships between local jurisdictions and other organizations.

SACOG staff conducted three well-attended workshops for interested Community Design applicants, focused on the use of the PLACE³S model. PLACE³S is a key element in the Blueprint Project workshops, and has been modified to

allow Community Design applicants to evaluate their proposed projects against smart growth principles.

Projects envisioned for funding under the Community Design Program include pedestrian-friendly walkways, plazas, streetscapes, bicycle lanes, transit stops, traffic calming measures, electric vehicle charging stations and shared-use parking garages.

More about the Community Design Program is available at www.sacog.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1 10 a.m.
Transportation and
Air Quality Committee

1:30 p.m.
Administration Committee

April 2, 1:30 p.m.
Legislation and
Public Affairs Committee

April 5, 10 a.m.
Housing and Land Use Committee

April 15, 9 a.m.
SACOG Board Meeting

April 22, 11:30 a.m.
Regional Managers Forum

April 22, 2 p.m.
Regional Planning Partnership

April 30, 8:30 a.m.
2004 Regional Forum
TALL Order: Choices for our Future

All meetings listed, unless otherwise noted, are located in the SACOG Board Room, 1415 "L" Street, Suite 300, Sacramento.

Note: Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please call SACOG at 916.321.9000 to confirm, or visit the calendar on our Website at www.sacog.org/calendar.