

Regional Report



Sacramento Area Council of Governments

JANUARY 2005

Voices from the Community Supporting the Blueprint Project

“We feel strongly that Blueprint can be a guide to decisions about how transportation dollars are used, how housing needs allocations are made and a commitment by jurisdictions to follow the principles in this plan to ensure that we do have clean air and housing choices for our residents.” — Ethan Evans, Executive Director Sacramento Housing Alliance

“...wholeheartedly support and applaud the efforts of both Valley Vision and SACOG with regard to the Blueprint Project. We are grateful for the leadership and the vision that you have all shown.” —Phyllis Newton, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects Central Valley Chapter

“What we have done with Blueprint is bring the reality of regionalism here.” —Tom Stallard, Valley Vision

“The Metro Chamber supports the Blueprint Project as a way to enhance the Sacramento region’s economy and way of life.” —Matt Mahood, CEO, Sacramento Metro Chamber.

“I congratulate you for your work. It’s a good first step in helping us shift to new paradigms away from old paradigms.” —Bill Durant, Paratransit and Gray Panthers.

For a more extensive review of community responses, visit www.sacregionblueprint.org.

Preferred Blueprint Scenario Approved by SACOG Board

IN A MOVE THAT COULD SHAPE THE WAY the Sacramento region looks in 50 years, the SACOG Board of Directors unanimously adopted a bold vision for growth that promotes compact, mixed-use development and more transit choices as an alternative to low density development at the December meeting.

The vision is intended as a voluntary guide to help shape land-use and transportation choices over the next 50 years as the region’s population grows from its current population of 2 million to include more than 3.8 million people.

“Today, our region’s political leaders have taken a step few communities have the foresight or courage to do,” SACOG Chair and West

Blueprint Scenario... continued on page 4



Mike McKeever Appointed Executive Director

THE SACOG BOARD APPOINTED MIKE MCKEEVER as Executive Director effective December 17, 2004. He will succeed Martin Tuttle, who has held the position since 1999.

McKeever, 49, has been project manager of the Blueprint Project at SACOG since 2001. Over his 23-year career, he has owned and managed two private businesses that specialized in working with local governments on innovative multi-jurisdictional projects. He has been instrumental in developing cutting-edge planning techniques to integrate land use and transportation planning.



Mike McKeever,
SACOG Executive Director

“Mike took on an impossible task in our region, and got the job done. He understands that our region is special because we’ve got a small town feel with big city amenities, said Christopher Cabaldon, SACOG Board Chair. “In the spirit of SACOG, Mike is a true civic entrepreneur.

We’re confident that he will continue our region’s unparalleled success and momentum.”

“This begins a new and exciting chapter at SACOG,” said Ted Gaines, incoming chair of the SACOG Board. “Mike is a highly regarded and talented leader with 20 years of experience in local and regional planning. He knows how to motivate elected officials and staff, and create solutions that community leaders, citizens, and public officials can embrace.”

Mr. McKeever said, “I am thrilled and honored to be at the helm of SACOG. I was drawn to this organiza-

tion because of the forward thinking shown by the Board and Martin Tuttle as Executive Director. I look forward to working with a terrific team of people and helping build a future that will continue SACOG’s upward momentum to optimize the transportation network and increase the overall quality of life for the communities, businesses, and people of the Sacramento region.”

Mr. McKeever was the founder and President of McKeever/Morris for 13 years and then a Senior Supervising Planner for Parsons Brinckerhoff, before joining SACOG as Blueprint Project Manager.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Blueprint for the Future



Mike McKeever

THE SACOG BOARD ADOPTION OF THE BLUEPRINT PREFERRED SCENARIO on December 16, 2004, will be seen by future residents of the Sacramento region as a historic moment, a point in time when citizens and their elected representatives seized an opportunity to set a direction that made a genuine difference in the lives of our children and grandchildren. Not only was the SACOG Board's action a unanimous, enthusiastic endorsement of a Blueprint for our region's future, but it also was a vote for grass-roots citizen planning, policy-making based on the highest-quality information and knowledge, and optimism and hope for our region's future.

If everyone in the region could have been in the Boardroom, they would have seen something all too rare in our modern society—a broad and diverse base of our regional community speaking with a united voice, thinking about the future, saying “let’s go THIS way, not THAT way—together.”

Citizens from all income brackets and activists for affordable housing and social equity interests joined representatives from business, environmental, development and civic engagement organizations at the same table with leaders from local government agencies to participate in the Blueprint process and had a direct hand in creating this product. This issue of the *Regional Report* includes a special insert with detailed maps, statistics, smart growth principles and future actions that comprise the Sacramento Region Blueprint—a land-use and transportation vision for our future.

As I make the transition from being the Blueprint Project Manager to being SACOG Executive Director, I want to make sure the right lessons from this project are learned. Blueprint's greatest power will not be found in specific maps or words, but in the demonstration of what can be accomplished when we work together.

The Blueprint process should become an inspiration that makes us determined to overcome obstacles and find consensus on other important policy issues in our region. Its methods of open participation, objective information, and long-range perspective should become a business model for all of SACOG's activities in the future.

Thank you to the SACOG Board for having the vision and the courage to launch the Blueprint Project and the conviction to see it through. Thank you to Martin Tuttle, our outgoing Executive Director, who showed incredible leadership in finding and dedicating resources for the project to succeed, and being committed to making it all happen. Lastly, thank you to Valley Vision and all of our partners in every corner of the region who worked so hard to get the citizens of this region directly involved.

One can't help but get the feeling that something really exciting is afoot in our region today. I am delighted to be along for the ride on this journey to the best tomorrow we can possibly create.

Happy New Year!

MIKE MCKEEVER

STAFF NEWS

Jason McNeill

Jason McNeill joined SACOG as an Information Technology Analyst II in January. His primary responsibilities at SACOG will be to manage SACOG's various websites, www.sacog.org, www.sacregionblueprint.org, www.sacregion511.org, and a number of transit operator sites within the region.

A native of Southern California, Jason received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton and relocated to the Sacramento area in 2002.

Jason can be reached at (916) 340-6214 or jmcneill@sacog.org.

Ryan Kirkham

Ryan Kirkham rejoined the SACOG staff in December as a Geographic Information Systems Analyst I. His primary responsibilities at SACOG will be to provide GIS support for the Blueprint and Forecasting Databases. He will also serve as backup for the Information Technology staff. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from UC Davis in 2000. He can be reached at (916) 340-6279 or rkirkham@sacog.org.

BOARD ACTIONS

At its December meeting the Board of Directors:

APPOINTED TED GAINES, Placer County Supervisor as Chair and Heather Fargo, Mayor of Sacramento as Vice Chair of the SACOG Board of Directors.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED the Preferred Blueprint Scenario conceptual map, growth principles, and next steps.

APPOINTED Mike McKeever Executive Director of SACOG.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Ted Gaines (Chair)
Placer County
- Heather Fargo (Vice Chair)
City of Sacramento
- Ruth Asmundson
City of Davis
- Christina Belleci
City of Marysville
- Sherrie Blackmun
City of Colfax
- Linda Budge
City of Rancho Cordova
- Christopher Cabaldon
City of West Sacramento
- Robert Chapman
City of Winters
- Darryl Clare
City of Galt
- Jim Cooper
City of Elk Grove
- Tom Cosgrove
City of Lincoln
- Roger Dickinson
Sacramento County
- David Doolittle
City of Yuba City
- Alice Dowdin
City of Auburn
- Rusty Dupray
El Dorado County
- David Flory
City of Woodland
- Guy Fuson
Town of Loomis
- Michael Gomez
City of Isleton
- Lauren Hammond
City of Sacramento
- Kathy Lund
City of Rocklin
- Steve Miklos
City of Folsom
- Judy Richards
City of Live Oak
- Rocky Rockholm
City of Roseville
- Donald Schrader
Yuba County
- James Shelby
City of Citrus Heights
- Dan Silva
Sutter County
- Helen Thomson
Yolo County
- (To Be Determined)
City of Wheatland
- Marian Washburn
City of Placerville
- Jody Jones
(Ex-Officio Member)
Caltrans District 3

MEMBER COUNTRIES & CITIES

- El Dorado County
- Placer County
- Sacramento County
- Sutter County
- Yolo County
- Yuba County
- City of Auburn
- City of Citrus Heights
- City of Colfax
- City of Davis
- City of Elk Grove
- City of Folsom
- City of Galt
- City of Isleton
- 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

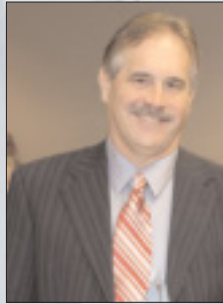
Regional Awards Winners Shine

AT THE DECEMBER 16 SACOG SALUTES! REGIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY, the Board gave nine awards for exemplary efforts in the Sacramento region over the past year.

"This year has been a remarkable one for the Sacramento region, and these award recipients have played a huge role in creating the momentum that will take our region to even greater heights," SACOG Chair Christopher Cabaldon said. "We are pleased to recognize the hard work and dedication each of our winners has shown the region this year."

Presenting the award to **Valley Vision** for Organization of the Year, Cabaldon said, "Valley Vision has become a tremendous force in the region by their efforts to build and strengthen civic engagement, and has been an important partner in the Blueprint Project, helping to develop and execute the public participation component."

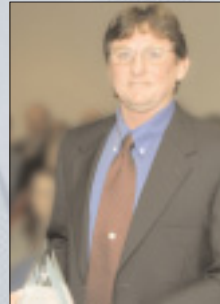
Regis Homes received the award for exemplary infill development of smart growth communities offering single-family detached housing and live/work lofts in the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento.



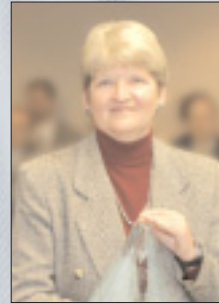
Jim Williams accepts the Citizen of the Year Award.



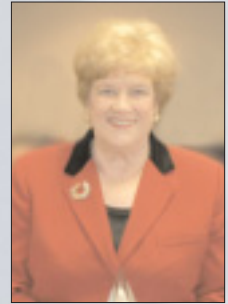
Bill Heartman accepts the award for Regis Homes.



Steve Propst, Employee of the Year.



Ann Bailey, Board Chair, CADA.



Muriel Johnson, Elected Official of the Year

Sacramento County Department of Transportation and Caltrans District 3 received the Project of the Year award for exemplary coordination and delivery of four major products that reduce congestion, improve safety and upgrade community aesthetics along Interstate 80.

A former member of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, **Jim Williams**, received the Citizen of the Year award for exemplary contribution and leadership in public involvement for the Blueprint Project.

Steve Propst, local assistance engineer for Caltrans District 3, received the employee of the year award for outstanding achievement in project delivery throughout the SACOG region.

Outgoing Sacramento County Supervisor **Muriel Johnson** received the Bill Hughes Regional Elected Official of the Year award for exemplary leadership in

regional collaboration and as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

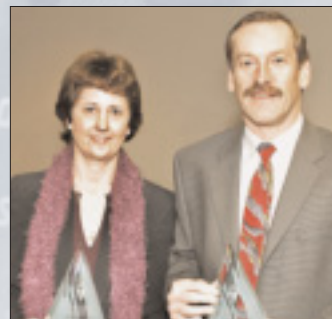
Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA), received the first Blueprint Excellence award for exemplary use of smart growth principles while creating urban infill housing and transit-oriented communities. "CADA's redevelopment project area was recently expanded to include the central portion of the R Street Corridor in a collaborative revival effort with the City of Sacramento and other partners including infrastructure development, light rail station improvements, and development of an Urban Design and Infrastructure Financing Plan," said Lauren Hammond, SACOG Director. **Yuba Sutter Transit** received a Special Recognition Award for exemplary leadership and innovative public outreach campaigns that significantly increased transit use and provide unique services to resi-

dents and commuters of Yuba and Sutter Counties. A second special recognition award was given to Nader Kamal, PE, and Dokken Engineering, for their exemplary efforts in successfully delivering the City of Sacramento's Main Avenue Bridge project in record time despite an overwhelming number of obstacles.

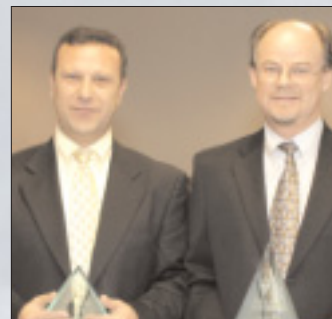
SACOG instituted the annual awards program in 1999 to honor outstanding regional work by organizations, businesses and individuals. Two new award categories were added this year: the Bill Hughes Elected Official of the Year, named for the visionary leader who was chair of the SACOG Board of Directors when he passed away unexpectedly in 2003, and the Blueprint Excellence Award, which recognizes a project or organization for unique approaches to smart growth.



Keith Martin, Yuba Sutter Transit and David Phillips, ATC Vancom, receive a Special Recognition Award.



Jody Jones and Tom Zlotkowski accept the award for Project of the Year.



Nader Kamal, City of Sacramento Department of Transportation and Richard Liptak, Project Manager of Dokken Engineering



Susan Frasier and Tom Stallard accept the Organization of the Year award for Valley Vision.

Regional Report



JANUARY 2005

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Preferred Blueprint Scenario Approved by SACOG Board

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Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon said. "We've decided to choose how we grow, rather than watch from the sidelines as traffic increases, air quality worsens and open space disappears."

The SACOG board's action capped three years of study and public involvement aimed at crafting a comprehensive land use scenario for the region. The scenario will serve as a framework to guide local government in growth and

transportation planning through 2050.

"The Blueprint project has really advanced our understanding of the connection between land use and transportation policies," said Ted Gaines, incoming SACOG Board Chair. "It has shown the impact our choices today will have on our future. The information is invaluable for a region that wants to define growth, instead of being defined by it."

Prior to the Board's approval, more than a dozen private citizens, non-profit, business, and political leaders voiced support of the process and vision. (See www.sacregionblueprint.org for community responses.)

"You are to be commended for launching a process that fully engaged this region and the public of this region in deciding what the future of this region is," said California State Assembly member Dave

Jones. "The State has a role to play in assisting and encouraging regions like this to come together in such an important, significant way to make sure that we improve and protect the quality of life here."

More information regarding the Blueprint Project can be found at www.sacregionblueprint.org or by calling (916) 340-6249.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Transportation/Air Quality Committee—10 a.m.

Administration Committee—1:30 p.m.

Monday, January 10, 2005

Housing/Land Use Committee—10 a.m.
Legislation & Public Affairs—1:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 20, 2005

SACOG Board of Directors—9 a.m.
New Board Member Orientation—Noon

Friday, January 28, 2005

SACOG Board Retreat—8:30 a.m.
William Jessup University
33 Sunset Blvd
Rocklin, CA 95765

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.