

# Regional Report



Sacramento Area Council of Governments

ISSUE 8, NO 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2008

## Final MTP Heads to SACOG Board March 20

The SACOG Board of Directors will be considering final action on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 (MTP) at its March 20 meeting. This vote comes after two years of public input from nearly 8,000 individuals. The \$42 billion plan invests in roads, transit, bicycle and pedestrian paths, and programs that help individuals move within and between their communities.



In June 2007, SACOG released a project list for public review. SACOG incorporated comments and Board direction into a draft MTP, released in October 2007. The draft MTP included the project list, along with an environmental impact report, policies, strategies, and chapter discussions on the six MTP principles.

In November and December 2007, SACOG received comments on the draft MTP, which led to text changes and expanded discussions to the chapters and appendices.

The Board originally intended to take action in February, but federal regulatory agencies asked us to extend the public comment period for the air quality conformity determination.

For more information visit [www.sacog.org/mtp2035](http://www.sacog.org/mtp2035).

## SACOG Salutes! Recognizes Regional Citizens, Businesses and Projects

SINCE 1999, SACOG HAS RECOGNIZED OUTSTANDING AND INNOVATIVE land use, transportation and air quality planning and programs through its SACOG Salutes! award program. On December 20, 2007, SACOG honored nine worthy recipients from throughout the region. Each of the awards is highlighted on page 4.

**SACOG Salutes!** ...  
*Continued on page 4*



*Please look for the 2008 SACOG Salutes! call for nominations in November, or visit [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org) for SACOG event updates.*

## New Committee on Climate Change

### SACOG Looks at Local Actions, Regional Impacts

ON FEBRUARY 7, SACOG HELD ITS FIRST MEETING of the Climate & Air Quality Committee. This new Board policy committee focuses on air quality, energy conservation, renewable energy, climate change and related technologies. The committee is the first regional forum for elected officials to discuss what activities local governments are participating in to reduce greenhouse emissions in our region.

The first committee meeting came just a week after a regional climate change discussion among elected officials and pub-

lic agency staff, co-hosted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, the Local Government Commission and SACOG.

During its first year, the committee is going to:

- help shape standards relating to transportation that the state is developing for implementing AB 32,
- implement measures included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and its Environmental Impact Report that will help to mitigate climate change,
- analyze transportation, air quality and land use

issues and their inter-relationships in our region for potential negative impacts that could inadvertently be created,

- serve as a regional forum for discussing air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, energy conservation, and climate change issues, and serve as a regional clearinghouse for ways to address these issues,
- direct SACOG activities relating to transportation conformity, and
- work with the region's air districts on air quality plans.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Cosgrove (Chair)  
*City of Lincoln*  
Helen Thomson (Vice Chair)  
*Yolo County*  
Harold Anderson  
*City of Winters*  
Ruth Asmundson  
*City of Davis*  
James Barrington  
*City of Wheatland*  
Christina Billeci  
*City of Marysville*  
Sherrie Blackmun  
*City of Colfax*  
Linda Budge  
*City of Rancho Cordova*  
Christopher Cabaldon  
*City of West Sacramento*  
Darryl Clare  
*City of Galt*  
Robby Colvin  
*City of Placerville*  
Jim Cooper  
*City of Elk Grove*  
Roger Dickinson  
*Sacramento County*  
Rusty Dupray  
*El Dorado County*  
Heather Fargo  
*City of Sacramento*  
David Flory  
*City of Woodland*  
Jim Gray  
*City of Roseville*  
Lauren Hammond  
*City of Sacramento*  
Kevin Hanley  
*City of Auburn*  
Peter Hill  
*City of Rocklin*  
Diane Hodges  
*City of Live Oak*  
Roberta MacGlashan  
*Sacramento County*  
Leslie McBride  
*City of Yuba City*  
Steve Miklos  
*City of Folsom*  
Susan Peters  
*Sacramento County*  
Gene Resler  
*City of Isleton*  
Rocky Rockholm  
*Placer County*  
Walt Scherer  
*Town of Loomis*  
Donald Schrader  
*Yuba County*  
James Shelby  
*City of Citrus Heights*  
Dan Silva  
*Sutter County*  
Jody Jones (Ex-Officio Member)  
*Caltrans District 3*

## MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE

# BOARD CHAIR

## Continuing Regional Dialogue



*Tom Cosgrove*

**SERVING AS THE 2008 BOARD CHAIR, I LOOK FORWARD to celebrating our shared successes and continuing our regional dialogue. SACOG is a transportation planning agency, but it has also become a place for regional dialogue on issues**

of mutual interest and concern.

In my first years on the SACOG Board of Directors, I fought to expand the Board to include seats for each of our 28 jurisdictions in all six counties of our region: Yuba, Yolo, Sutter, Placer, El Dorado and Sacramento. When we expanded the Board from 19 to 31 elected officials in 2003, we ensured that the SACOG Board truly could become the place for regional discussions. It is not by accident that many of the region's groundbreaking successes occurred following this restructuring of our governing body that offered everyone a seat at the table.

The Blueprint growth strategy project is an excellent example of regional collaboration. It explored how our region would want to grow between now and 2050 with input from 5,000 residents of our region. In 2004, the SACOG Board unanimously adopted smart growth principles and a preferred growth scenario map.

Cities and counties, planning together for our future, have benefited by adopting general plans consistent with our Blueprint smart growth principles. We are growing in our region in a smaller development footprint, using fewer natural resources, and as a result we are creating better transportation plans, saving money on infrastructure and contributing to a better environment.

We have benefited as a region by working cooperatively and have found a competitive edge in applications for federal and state transportation resources.

In Lincoln, we are eager to start construction possibly mid-year on the Highway 65 Lincoln Bypass, after receiving \$200 million from the California Transportation Commission a year early.

In El Dorado County and eastern Sacramento County, we received \$22 million in Proposition 1B funds to widen White Rock Road, the only non-state road project funded in the Congestion Mitigation Improvement Account.

And citizens from throughout the region hopefully will soon realize the benefits of early federal and state funding for the Sacramento Intermodal Station; a project with strong regional support. Beginning with rail relocation to improve rider safety and freight access through the rail station, this project will make it more convenient for those who currently use the system, and make it possible for even more people to begin using the system as more and more people in our region choose to leave their cars at home when traveling throughout our region, whether for work or recreation.

**TOM COSGROVE**  
Councilmember, City of Lincoln

## BOARD ACTIONS

*At its December, January and February meetings the Board of Directors:*

APPROVED state and federal advocacy strategies for 2008;

ENDORSED Northern California Trade Projects list for the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (Proposition 1B);

APPOINTED Lincoln Councilmember Tom Cosgrove and Yolo County Supervisor Helen Thomson as SACOG Board Chair and Vice Chair;

ADOPTED recommendations for 2008 Regional Air Quality and Bicycle & Pedestrian Funding programs;

ADOPTED recommendations for 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program

ADOPTED Regional Housing Needs Plan; and

PARTICIPATED in workshops on the regional Rural-Urban Connections Strategy and climate change activities.

# City of Citrus Heights

*This is the twelfth in a series of articles featuring local governments using BluePrint Project principles in built projects, plans or general plans.*

After only 10 years as a city, Citrus Heights is establishing a strong community identity by involving residents in current and long-term planning. The city began to reestablish a unique identity with the Sylvan Corners redevelopment. Planners worked hand-in-hand with business owners and area residents to bring new life into an area that historically was a lively public square. The success of Sylvan Corners spilled over into a revitalization plan for Auburn Boulevard in 2005. Citrus Heights is currently working on a large visioning project for Sunrise MarketPlace.



**Residents, property and business owners came together for several workshops to help shape and design plans for Sunrise Marketplace. To the right is one of the 3-D concept maps built from the workshops.**



## Sunrise MarketPlace Visioning Project

In mid-2007, residents, property and business owners came together for several workshops to help shape design plans, enhancements and modifications for Sunrise MarketPlace. Residents and property owners then worked in small groups at a design studio to review three 3-D concept maps built from the workshops.

The visioning project is now in the analysis phase. The final visioning document will cover circulation

and mobility, cultivation of open space, urban form and design, as well as land use and zoning issues that currently discourage property and business owners from making innovative changes. Visit [www.visionSMP.net](http://www.visionSMP.net) for more information.

“We are trying to remove barriers that limit quality designs, and create places that create community,” said SACOG Board Member and Citrus Heights Vice Mayor James Shelby. “The best ideas in the Sunrise Visioning Project and other community planning efforts have come from our residents.”

## Infill Development

Citrus Heights is providing a variety of housing choices with two new infill projects. Antelope Commons is a mixed-use project that very efficiently combines 10 townhomes and 5,700 square feet of offices on a one-acre lot. The building was designed with great care to fit into the existing neighborhood.

## Green Building

Sunrise Lofts brings 13 homes to an area previously zoned for businesses. The Zero Energy Home

development incorporates many green building features, including onsite solar systems built into the roof (rather than attached panels), tankless water heaters, high-efficiency air conditioners and other measures. Homeowners will save an average of 55 percent on energy bills. As Zero Energy Homes, SMUD was able to help both the builder and each homeowner receive a \$2,000 tax credit.

For more information contact Colleen McDuffee at the city of Citrus Heights at (916) 727-4740 or [cmcduffee@citrusheights.net](mailto:cmcduffee@citrusheights.net).



## Region Advocates for Goods Movements

### *Prop. 1B Trade Corridors Improvement Fund*

Just over a year after voters passed Proposition 1B, its implementation continues. Goods movement is the latest candidate for public funds, through the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF). In April, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will adopt an initial list of projects.

Over the past year, SACOG, on behalf of the Sacramento region, worked cooperatively with transportation planning agencies throughout northern California to develop a mutually agreeable list of projects to serve the greater trade corridors of northern California. Now, public officials and business leaders are lobbying the CTC to adopt this list.

Projects that would improve goods movement in the Sacramento region include:

- Downtown Sacramento Station Rail Re-alignment Project
- Port of Sacramento Channel Deepening Project
- Union Pacific Donner Pass Double-track and Tunnel Modification Project, (on the condition that it also benefits passenger rail service)

Together with the other northern California projects, these projects will greatly improve the goods movement system throughout the entire state. The list also includes a second tier of projects, should additional funding become available. Those in the Sacramento region include an Interstate 80 widening project and Capitol Corridor operational improvements.

The CTC approved the funding guidelines on November 27, 2007, despite opposition from Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles counties, who argued that they should receive more funding (between 75 and 85 percent), leaving the rest of the state to share between 15 and 25 percent of the funds.

In approving a 27/73 percent northern/southern California split, the CTC added \$490 million in State Highway Operation and Preservation Program (SHOPP) funds to the \$2 billion in TCIF funds.

This funding distribution is consistent with the estimate for regional trade activity in California in the Goods Movement Action Plan, released by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency in January 2007.

The CTC held a hearing on February 21, will release its staff recommendations on March 12, and will take final action on April 10.

## SACOG Adopts Advocacy Principles for 2008

WHEN SACOG ADVOCATES TO STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS THIS YEAR, it will mostly focus on influencing policies, with a limited number of projects. With the federal budget uncertain and a multi-billion dollar deficit in the state, funds for new local projects are scarce.

On the federal level, SACOG will advocate for six principles, many of them from last year. Relocating tracks at the Sacramento Valley Intermodal Station remains a key priority, along with discretionary funding for light rail extensions and bus replacements and bus facilities. SACOG will also continue to pursue funding for enhanced passenger rail service on the Capitol Corridor.

New priorities include: legislation that supports Blueprint programs, projects and policies; funding I-PLACE<sup>3</sup>S software modeling; influencing reauthorization of the surface transportation bill; and influencing legislation or administrative rules addressing climate change.

On the state level, SACOG will continue to work on: implementing propositions 1B and 1C; flood management; and SB 375 or other legislation to seek meaningful CEQA reform to help implement the transportation and land use elements for the MTP, while safeguarding SACOG and member interests related to transportation funding and land use authority.

SACOG will also support goods movement legislation such as SB 974, which could generate several million dollars annually for rail freight improvements and regional air quality through a \$30 container fee.

Climate change and air quality are also advocacy priorities on the state level, especially

measures dealing with transportation, land use and air quality. SACOG hopes to encourage reduction measures that support Blueprint and Metropolitan Transportation Plan objectives.

SACOG will also seek legislation that opens up local options to raise transportation funding, particularly for transit operations and road maintenance and rehabilitation, and look for opportunities to address rural transportation challenges through a variety of funding mechanisms.

To help Caltrans and local agencies deliver projects, SACOG will work at the state level to eliminate or reduce restrictions on project delivery, remove limits on design-build contracting and public-private partnerships, and streamline environmental review consistent with environmental protection objectives. SACOG also supports apprenticeship programs as part of legislation related to design-build contracting or public-private partnerships.

### *Advocacy Priorities*

#### **Federal Priorities**

- Rail Relocation
- Discretionary Transit Funding
- Blueprint Implementation
- SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization
- Climate Change/Air Quality
- Amtrak

#### **State Priorities**

- Infrastructure Bonds
- Goods Movement
- Land Use & CEQA Reform
- Climate Change/Air Quality
- Transportation Funding
- Project Delivery
- Flood Management

## AROUND THE REGION

### Double-digit transit ridership increases for Yuba-Sutter Transit

Since July 2007, residents of Sutter and Yuba counties have increased their use of transit by 13 percent. Local and commuter routes saw double-digit gains, with four new buses to downtown Sacramento helping drive the increase in commuter ridership. Overall, seniors, youth and disabled passengers are riding more. Yuba-Sutter Transit also benefited from a study released in November by CalPERS reporting that commuters could save an average of \$13,116 annually by using Yuba-Sutter Transit buses to get to Sacramento instead of driving.

### Transit planning comes to Google Maps

Transit trip planning has recently been added to Google Maps for the Sacramento Regional Transit and Roseville Transit service areas. Google gets transit data from Regional Transit, and presents it as an option alongside driving directions. Individuals can access the transit information in two ways: transit stops appear when zoomed in to a starting point, or "take public transit" appears as an option when getting directions between two points.

As Regional Transit adds more transit providers to the regional trip planner database, more routes throughout the region will start showing up on Google Maps. SACOG and Regional Transit expect to add information for e-tran, Folsom Stage Lines, YOLOBUS and Uni-trans during the first half of 2008.

### Rocklin is first municipality to enroll in ClimateSmart program

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has announced that the city of Rocklin is California's first municipality to officially enroll in the voluntary ClimateSmart™ program. By joining, the city of Rocklin will offset more than 1.6 million pounds of carbon dioxide every year or more than 4,600 pounds every day. The ClimateSmart program enables customers to voluntarily neutralize greenhouse gas emissions associated with their energy use.

The city of Rocklin signed up all of its 218 electric and natural gas metered accounts. These accounts include all city buildings, including the fire and police departments, the city's community center and all city parks and sports fields. Each city building will have on display a certificate from PG&E recognizing that building as carbon neutral.

"Partnering with PG&E in the ClimateSmart program is an outstanding addition to Rocklin's ongoing effort to protect and preserve the city's natural resources," Rocklin Mayor Kathy Lund said. "We are proud to work with PG&E, residents and local businesses on this and other important environmental protection initiatives."

## STAFF NEWS

### Sabrina Goff



Sabrina Goff joined SACOG in January as a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Clerk. As part of the Communications and TDM teams, she will assist with promoting carpooling and vanpooling, answering questions about travel options, and helping

with outreach for May is Bike Month and other TDM campaigns.

Prior to SACOG, Sabrina was an intern with Valley Vision and the Cleaner Air Partnership, where she assisted with research on AB 32 implementation, barriers to infill development, and other air quality related issues. Sabrina also worked with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary MERITO program on bilingual outreach related to watersheds and water quality. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Monterey Bay in Global Studies with a Minor in Spanish Language and Culture.

Sabrina may be reached at (916) 340-6211 or [sgoff@sacog.org](mailto:sgoff@sacog.org).

### Jenny Solis



Jenny Solis was hired as a Human Resources Technician in January. As part of the Human Resources Team, Jenny will answer employees' Human Resources questions and support other personnel functions.

A native of Auburn, Jenny joins SACOG from the Human Resources Department of the city of Victorville. Jenny began her career with the city of Victorville as an Office Aide for the Community Service department and quickly worked her way into the Human Resources department and up the ranks until she obtained the position of Human Resources Technician.

Jenny Solis received an Associate of Science in Business Administration from Victor Valley College and also completed some upper level college courses in Public Administration at the University of La Verne.

She may be reached at (916) 340-6242 or [jsolis@sacog.org](mailto:jsolis@sacog.org).

# Regional Report



FEBRUARY / MARCH 2008

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## EXECUTIVE

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*Director of Community  
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To comment on items in  
the *Regional Report*, e-mail  
[regionalreport@sacog.org](mailto:regionalreport@sacog.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

**Thursday, March 6—10 a.m.**  
Transportation Committee

**Thursday, March 6—1 p.m.**  
Climate Committee

**Monday, March 10—10 a.m.**  
Land Use and Housing Committee

**Monday, March 10—1 p.m.**  
Government Relations and  
Public Affairs Committee

**Thursday, March 20—9 a.m.**  
Board of Directors

**Thursday, March 27—2 p.m.**  
Regional Planning Partnership

### April

**Thursday, April 3—10 a.m.**  
Transportation Committee

**Thursday, April 3—10 a.m.**  
SAFE Committee

**Thursday, April 3—1 p.m.**  
Climate Committee

**Monday, April 7—10 a.m.**  
Land Use and Housing Committee

**Monday, April 7—1 p.m.**  
Government Relations and  
Public Affairs Committee

**Monday, April 9—1:30 p.m.**  
Sacramento Regional GIS Committee

**Tuesday, April 10—10 a.m.**  
Goods Movement Advisory Committee

**Thursday, April 17—9 a.m.**  
Board of Directors

**Thursday, April 24—2 p.m.**  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory  
Committee

**Thursday, April 24—2 p.m.**  
Regional Planning Partnership

All SACOG committee, advisory and board meetings are open to the public. Citizens are encouraged to attend. For more information or directions, please call SACOG at (916) 321-9000. To confirm meeting information, visit the calendar on our website at [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org). Dates, times and locations are subject to change.