



Connections

September 2009

Local Funds Count on the Census

Rural communities in particular rely on scarce state and federal funding for basic programs, many of which rely on Census information to distribute funding. Each person counted brings almost \$1,000 in federal funds to cities and counties, so a complete Census count in 2010 is critical.

With cuts to local governments, it is more crucial than ever to get complete counts. To help get the word out, SACOG is creating materials and providing information to local governments and community groups at:

www.sacog.org/Census2010. The website includes a Census timeline, maps of hard-to-count populations, sample newsletter articles, contact information for local public and private partners, and other resources for local governments and community organizations.

In the Sacramento region, some local governments are forming Complete Count committees. Funding for local community Census activities is limited. To support outreach in hard-to-count communities, the

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Water Legislation Moving In Legislature

Democratic lawmakers recently introduced a package of bills intended to address Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability issues. The proposals include: adopting a Bay Delta Conservation Plan by 2011, reducing urban water usage by 20 percent by 2020, creating an appointed Delta Stewardship Council that would approve the conservation plan and have other broad authorities, requiring new reporting requirements for water diversions from the Delta and water usage, a new Delta Conservancy, and modifying the Delta Protection Commission.

The bills address many aspects of Delta and state water issues, including: governance, groundwater, water conservation, and conveyance.

Lawmakers have held multiple hearings each week since mid-August, recently adding a proposal to attempt a water bond

initiative on the next ballot. A 14-member conference committee is working on the package through the legislative recess on September 11.

For more information contact Erik Johnson at (916) 340-6247 or ejohnson@sacog.org.



Local Markets Workshop Oct. 8

The Local Markets working group will meet on Thursday, October 8 at 8:30 a.m. for a wrap up workshop. The workshop will be at Sierra 2 Community Center in Sacramento.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Monica Hernández at (916) 340-6237 or mhernandez@sacog.org.

Workshop Identifies Key Innovations

On August 27, SACOG hosted a RUCS combined land use and transportation workshop. The workshop considered both challenges and benefits to innovations for rural land use, transportation, and goods movement that were developed by stakeholders at previous workshops and through Internet surveys.

Using spatial data on crops, rural housing, protected lands, small farms, and agritourism locations, SACOG crafted four themes in the rural landscape, which describe in more detail the functions of the rural lands in the Sacramento region for the land use exercise.

The four themes were: Commodity Agriculture, Small Farms/Agritourism, Large Lot Residential with Agriculture, and Open Space/Recreation. Participants were asked to think about innovative land

use policies or strategies that would regionally support or foster each of these themes, no matter where in the region a particular theme was at work.

Participants were also asked to think about subareas of the region that might need to be supported by a unique set of land use innovations. With the information gathered at this event, SACOG staff hopes to better understand the similarities and differences in land use policy issues and needs across the region.

The transportation portion of the workshop looked at the same four land use themes and compared them with a goods

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Workshop (cont.)

movement map and discussed what transportation innovations would best facilitate the land use or subarea needs for goods movement. Participants looked at the rural transportation system and identified benefits and challenges to transportation innovations that had been identified through stakeholder input.

For information on the land use topic contact Kacey Lizon at (916) 340-6265 or klizon@sacog.org. For the transportation topic contact Robert McCrary at (916) 340-6228 or rmccrary@sacog.org.

Census (continued)

Census Bureau is offering Partner Support Program funding to local governments and community organizations. Funds can be used for promotional materials, community workshops, and other outreach and educational activities. Applications are due no later than October 15. For more information on local Census activities, contact Monica Hernández at (916) 340-6237, or mhernandez@sacog.org.

Project Contacts

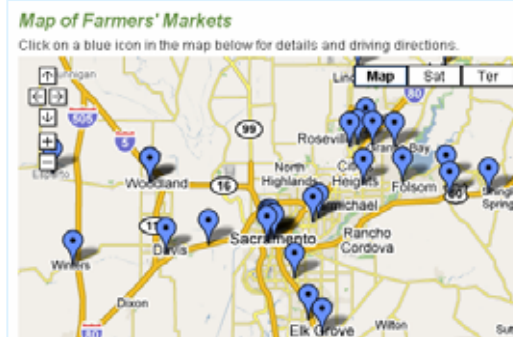
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Stay current on rural-urban issues
at www.sacog.org/rucs

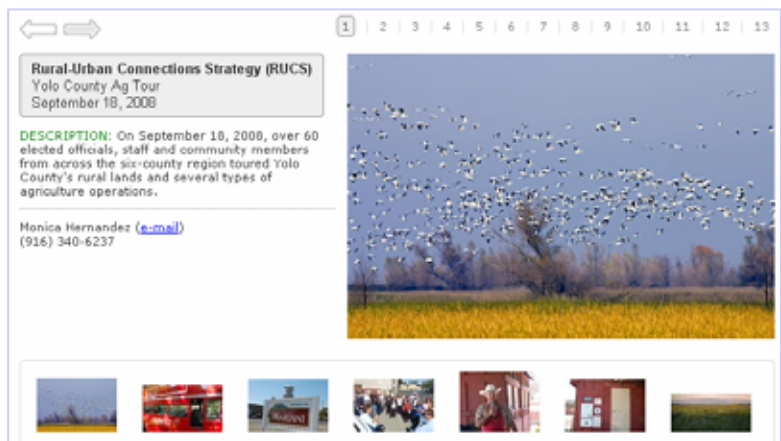
Ag Tour Videos, Other Materials Now Online



Find local farmers' markets at: www.sacog.org/rucs/events

Since the RUCS website launch last year, SACOG has added several new features: an Agricultural Lands & Rural Communities Tours section, a calendar and map of farmers' markets, and working group materials and presentations.

The tours section allows the public to see video clips of speakers from the county tours, as well as read descriptions and see photos from the various stops.



Photos and videos from tours are available at: www.sacog.org/rucs/tours

Regulatory Updates

Progress on Six-County Aquatic Resources Inventory

The Sacramento District office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently welcomed Michael Nepstad as the new Deputy Chief of Regulatory. He brings vast experience from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He will act as the lead for the Six-County Aquatic Resources Inventory, and will assume a lead role in management of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning initiative being spearheaded by Caltrans.

With Nepstad's arrival, there has been a surge of activity on the Inventory. Internal and contract work has been refined and requests for proposals will soon be issued. He is working closely with SACOG to ensure close integration of existing data, regional attributes, and overall goals of both environmental and economic benefit.

Corps To Look Closer at Blueprint

With the retirement of Secretary Woodley, interest in Corps support of Blueprint-compatible development passes on to his replacement, Jo-Ellen Darcy. Confirmed in August, Darcy most recently served as a Senate environmental advisor.

Of interest to SACOG, members of Congress have asked the Corps to find ways to streamline processes for blueprint-compatible development. SACOG staff and consultant Stacey McKinley have been in conversation with Corps staff to continue this as new leadership enters. A meeting to coordinate cross-agency and cross-policy support for Blueprint development has been scheduled for early October in Washington, D.C.

For more information contact Stacey McKinley at smckinley@sacog.org.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments