



Connections

October 2009

Local Markets Workshop October 8

SACOG is hosting a workshop to wrap up the Local Markets working group and discuss next steps in the RUCS project. The workshop will include presentations on work to date for the Local Markets working group, as well as two other working groups — Land Use and Transportation. There will be a question and answer session and a small group exercise discussing Local Markets innovation priorities.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, October 8 at 8:30 a.m. 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



Sacramento Co. General Plan Addresses Ag

Sacramento County is drafting an update to its General Plan. The draft Agricultural Element adds two new sections: Agritourism and Agricultural Land Assessments.

Agritourism

The current Zoning Code restricts or prohibits many agritourism activities unless a conditional use permit is granted, including for on-site sales. The General Plan update strives to embrace and promote agritourism as a tool to assist the long-term economic sustainability, diversity, and viability for some of the agricultural industry. Draft policies would support flexibility in agricultural practices and market opportunities as well as county staff resources to provide coordination, education, and technical support to assess and evaluate new and expanded tourism-based economic opportunities for farmers.

Agricultural Land Assessments

The objective of Agricultural Land Assessments is to increase equity of assessments on agricultural land for services that primarily benefit urban residents.

Several assessment districts include both urban and rural residents; however, the services provided by these districts often benefit urban residents more than farmers or ranchers (e.g., fire protection, street lighting, and parks and recreation). The taxes and assessments to pay for these services are often applied as a fixed per-parcel fee and are therefore inequitable as the proportion of costs paid by farmers often exceeds the proportion of benefits received by farmers. This section of the draft document aims to increase the equity of property assessments.

For more information contact Kacey Lizon at (916) 340-6265 or klizon@sacog.org

Rural Traffic Safety in Sacramento County

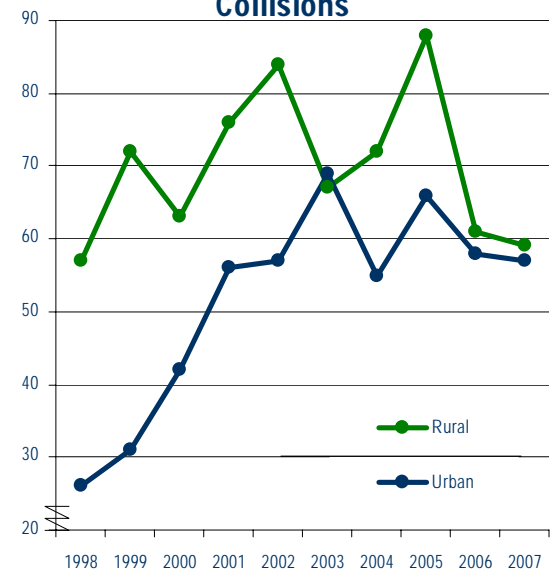
Rural roads in Sacramento County are experiencing a change in travel patterns as the region grows. Rural roads once used to transport goods to market or to move farm machinery from location to location must now accommodate commute and leisure trips that may clash with traditional transportation patterns. This influx of nontraditional traffic presents a growing safety concern for rural road users.

SACOG staff has compiled sample safety statistics from 1998 to 2007 to help bolster grant applications and inform policy decisions to improve rural roadway safety.

Rural and Urban Fatal Collisions

Fatal collisions in rural Sacramento County peaked in 2005, with 88. Total rural collisions have varied over the past 10 years, but have recently seen a rapid decline. By contrast, urban fatal collisions

Sacramento County Fatal
Collisions



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Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Rural Traffic (cont.)

have grown relatively quickly over the 10-year period, starting at 26 in 1998 and peaking at 69 in 2003.

Types of Collisions

Among fatal and non-fatal collisions, the most common type of collision was with another motor vehicle. However, a greater percentage of fatal or severe injury collisions were caused by collisions with fixed objects, pedestrians, and non-collisions. Rear end collisions were overwhelmingly the most common type of non-fatal, non-severe injury (other) collisions.

Causes of Collisions

Unsafe speed accounted for the majority of all collisions, and nearly 35 percent of other collisions. Driving or bicycling under the influence accounted for nearly 25 percent of fatal or severe collisions, but only 6 percent of other collisions. Other leading causes included improper turning and automobile right-of-way.

For the full report or to request technical assistance, contact Christine Scherman at (916) 340-6262 or cscherman@sacog.org.

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PLACE³S Model Adding Rural

SACOG has begun an effort to model the region's agricultural resources. As part of this work, the agency will be updating its I-PLACE³S land use model to include the various crops grown throughout the region. SACOG staff has been working with UC Davis to collect data on crop yields, prices, and production costs for the region. SACOG is vetting the data and model results with ag commissioners, Farm Bureau representatives and other local experts.

Fixed and variable costs and new sources of revenue (e.g., payments for

environmental services) can be adjusted to test sensitivity to various market conditions. The model will be integrated with the existing I-PLACE³S model providing a means to analyze simultaneously both rural and urban changes under various future scenarios.

Preliminary data from Sacramento County is shown below. For more information contact Raef Porter at (916) 340-6261 or rporter@sacog.org.

Average Prices of Crops in Sacramento County 2004-2008, averaged

Crops	Acres	Yield	Unit	Value	Water AF	Labor FTE	Truck Trips
Almonds	100	219,947	lb.	\$446,492	179	1	4
Grapes	24,770	161,003	ton	\$91,597,629	32,201	1,102	5,951
Olives	52	259	ton	\$130,499	104	1	0
Other Citrus	150	82,296	ton	\$876,455	374	2	59
Other Fruits & Nuts	3,195	7,348,970	lb.	\$10,656,006	11,503	27	1,267
Other Stone Fruits	780	5,461	lb.	\$5,460,835	2,340	8	309
Pasture	202,201	288,541	head	\$112,179,077	0	0	0
Peaches	44	745	ton	\$216,878	153	3	28
Pears	3,569	71,372	ton	\$23,577,143	8,922	64	137
Rice	2,404	188,578	cwt.	\$3,450,978	8,413	6	335
Walnuts	644	1,480,243		\$2,146,353	2,317	5	64

Rotations

Alfalfa	68,918	8,841,325	ton	\$45,580,318	144,913	102	55,353
Processing Tomatoes	2,563	328,845	ton	\$1,695,318	5,390	4	5,509

Non-Crops

Fallow	10,040						
Habitat	2,152						
Other	49,106						
Total	371,660			\$298,013,979	216,808	1,324	69,016

Notes: Model assumes 50% of farmers investing in new capital
AF = acre feet
FTE = full-time equivalent
CWT = hundred weight
Lb = pound