



Connections

February 2010

Placer Habitat Plan Moving Forward

On January 12, the Placer County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to incorporate a portion of the 5th Supervisorial District, and in doing so, finalized the mapping process for the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP). Work is currently underway to finalize drafts of the administrative document which will support the creation and implementation of the plan.

As chapters are finalized, The Ad Hoc Committee, made up of two elected officials from both Placer County and the city of Lincoln, will review the administrative record with the intent of releasing and seeking comment from the community.

The county-proposed PCCP aims to streamline the permitting process by allowing local entities to issue state and federal permits. The proposed PCCP is a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the Federal Endangered Species Act California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act.

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Agricultural Worker Transportation Program

Getting to work is a particular challenge for agricultural workers in the SACOG region. Having reliable transportation is essential for farmworkers not only because they work at different farms throughout the year, but also because farmworkers move among different fields daily.

In fact, the number of vehicle miles traveled daily per household in rural areas is more than double that in urban areas. In 2005, SACOG estimated rural households on average travel 94 miles daily, compared to urban households, which average less than half of that—41 miles.

The high mileage required is economically prohibitive when, for example, the average farmworker (including farming, fishing, and forestry occupations) in the Yuba City Metropolitan Statistical Area earns about \$9.50 per hour and less than \$20,000 annually, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Comparatively, the average worker in any occupation earns nearly \$20 per hour and over \$41,000 annually. Few farmworkers can afford a vehicle of their own.

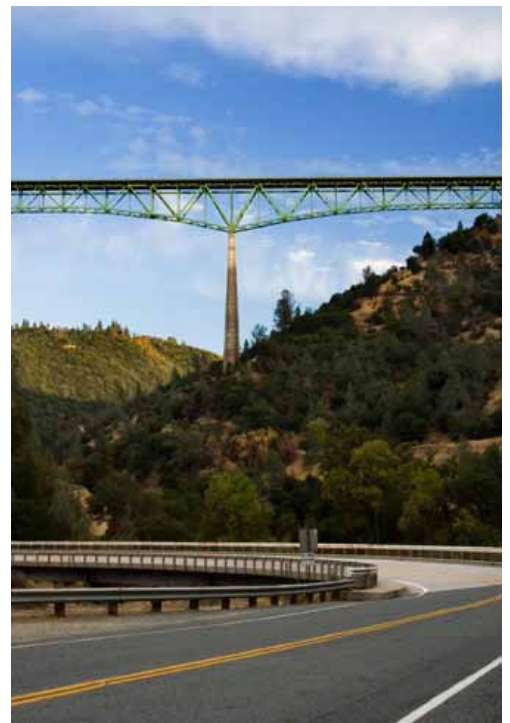
A 2003 report on agricultural worker transportation needs found that 72 percent of California farmworkers lacked reliable transportation. Instead, many farmworkers must ride with *raiteros*. Raiteros are often accused of providing unsafe riding conditions, as they may not have a license, insurance, or training, and charge workers \$5 to \$8 for a one-way ride.

In response to the need for better agricultural worker transportation, SACOG applied for and received over \$2 million to implement an Agricultural Worker Transportation Program in

Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The program would fill a transportation gap by providing safe, affordable, and dependable transportation for farmworkers. The program would operate vanpools, modeled after the successful agricultural vanpool program in Kings County.

SACOG has contracted with PRM Consulting to research market characteristics, profile target communities, and draft a business plan for successful implementation of the program. The business plan is now complete. The SACOG Board of Directors is currently considering its options for implementing and governing the proposed regional vanpool program.

For more information contact Robert McCrary at (916) 340-6228 or rmccrary@sacog.org.



Placer Habitat ... (continued)

As proposed, the PCCP Plan (NCCP) that would allow the County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP) to issue permits related to the Federal Clean Water Act and the California Fish and Game Code.

The CARP component would distinguish the plan as a national model of natural resource management. In this streamlined process, both costs and uncertainties would be reduced, thus ensuring a more efficient use of public dollars.

Furthermore, the proposed PCCP is a landscape-level plan so that each project would be issued permits based on how it contributes to the County's natural, social, and economic health.

SACOG consultant Stacey McKinley will assist Placer County and the city of Lincoln as part of SACOG's support of the Placer County Conservation Plan. Contact her at (916) 340-6261 or smckinley@sacog.org.

For more about the plan, visit the county's website: www.placer.ca.gov.

Project Information

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Crops in Placer County

SACOG has been developing crop data and compiling other information resources to help farmers, local officials, and community members have more information about their agricultural and rural lands. The information on this page comes from the 2008 Placer County Agricultural Crop Report.



Newcastle Produce sells local produce year round

Fruit and Nut Crops

Crops	Acres	Yield	Unit	Value
Apples	50.0	175	ton	\$131,250
Grapes, Wine	211.7	490	ton	\$497,740
Prune	153.0	378	ton	\$543,390
Oranges, Mandarins	163.4	507	ton	\$1,056,575
Peaches	81.8	157	ton	\$231,873
Pears	30.0	99	ton	\$104,075
Plums	102.0	480	ton	\$667,017
Strawberries	35.5	35,500	flat	\$639,000
Walnuts	1,128.0	2,368	ton	\$2,991,326
Miscellaneous fruits and nuts*				\$200,000
Total				\$7,062,246

Field Crops

Crops	Acres	Yield	Unit	Value
Hay, Grain	752	1,080	ton	\$127,735
Pasture, Irrigated	18,000	18,000	acre	\$2,376,000
Pasture, Other	130,000	18,000	acre	\$1,950,000
Rice	12,929	35,232	ton	\$14,621,065
Wheat	1,867	3,300	ton	\$739,880
Miscellaneous Field Crops	2,518			\$1,879,373
Total				\$21,694,053

Livestock and Poultry

Item	Head	Liveweight	Value
Cattle and Calves	15,500	89,900	\$8,990,000
Pasture, Irrigated	4,000	4,800	\$432,000
Other Livestock			\$8,988,609
Total			\$18,410,609
Miscellaneous Livestock and Poultry Products			\$2,509,968

Apiary Products

Value
Honey, package bees, queens, pollination, and wax
\$86,400

Gross Timber Harvest

Board feet	Value
Timber	23,129,000
\$86,400	

Vegetable Crops

Value
Melons, peppers, pumpkins, squash, and tomatoes (fresh)
\$558,225

Nursery Products

Value
Nursery Stock
\$9,241,108

Notes: Miscellaneous fruit and nut crops include apricots, berries, cherries, kiwi, nectarines, pecan, persimmons, and pistachios.

Miscellaneous Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn for fodder, and oats

Other Livestock includes chickens, fish, pheasants, turkeys, and swine

Miscellaneous Livestock and Poultry Products includes milk, eggs, and wool.