



Green Means Go – Accelerating Infill Development and GHG Reduction Goals

Green Means Go is a regional effort to meet California housing goals, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, and improve mobility by focusing on housing in the heart of communities. The program pairs investments in underground infrastructure (like sewer and water) with policy support and technical assistance to help cities and counties revitalize corridors and advance transportation priorities.

Green Zones at the Heart of Communities

26 of the region's 28 local jurisdictions have adopted Green Zones, which are key areas that have infill capacity but face market or other barriers to development. By pairing transportation planning and housing investments together in Green Zones, the region is building more complete communities where residents can meet their daily needs more holistically within their neighborhoods.

History of Green Means Go

Green Means Go was spurred by a requirement set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) that set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 19 percent in the region (SB 375). SACOG was the only region in the state to have its target conditioned on the successful implementation of a pilot. GMG formed through extensive outreach to regional partners and policymakers and has been a major focus for the agency and the region over the last seven years.

The GMG program is a critical implementation component of the region's long-range plan and vision for a vibrant community. First described in the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) which helps the region work towards its goal to have one third of all homes built in centers, corridors, or established communities.

\$50 Million in State and Federal Funding

GMG has received state funding through the Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP) and federal funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Grant, totaling more than \$55 million in new infrastructure and planning investments in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the region.

Program Timeline

2018

- SB 375 sets a 19 percent GHG emissions reduction target.
- Outreach and development of GMG pilot begins.

2020

- GMG key component of 2020 MTP/SCS

2021

- \$38M allocated to SACOG for GMG through REAP and SB 170.

2022

- GMG partners with ULI to provide technical assistance to four Green Zones.
- Board approves \$3.2 million in 'Early Activation' grant awards.

2023

- Board approves \$31.3 million in planning and capital infrastructure funding.
- Housing accelerator program in two communities

2024

- GMG Received \$22.5 million Reconnecting Communities Grant from U.S. DOT.
- GMG Workshop with state leaders on program framework.
- REAP funding secured after budget cut threats through advocacy from SACOG and regional leaders.

2025 & Beyond

- Certificate or leadership academy on infill development. Details coming soon.
- Potential PRO Housing grant award

Green Means Go in Action

City of Auburn Form-Based Code

The grant produced a comprehensive vision for Auburn's central commercial core (Old Town and Downtown) which includes higher intensity uses including an array of housing types and mixed-use developments.

City of Citrus Heights Sunrise Tomorrow Infrastructure Support

The GMG award funds preliminary engineering of backbone infrastructure to support the redevelopment of the Sunrise Mall, a transformation of the 100-acre site into a mixed-use, transit-oriented village comprised of 2,200 residential units, 480 hotel rooms, 320,000 SF retail, 960,000 SF office, 450,000 SF community/ institutional uses, and 25 acres of open and green space. The award will also support evaluation of infrastructure financing opportunities for the site.

City of Folsom 300 Persifer Street

The City of Folsom and partner Habitat for Humanity's 300 Persifer Street project has developed ten affordable for-sale housing units in a high opportunity and high resource area. The GMG award supported water, sewer, drainage, and non-transportation dry utility infrastructure needs.

City of Lincoln Downtown Green Zone

The City of Lincoln is developing a specific plan and urban design standards for the Lincoln Blvd downtown Green Zone. The work will evaluate the feasibility of adopting an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District to upgrade the zone's utility infrastructure while also providing an ongoing source of funding for affordable housing.

City of Rancho Cordova Mills Crossing

The Mills Crossing transit-oriented development is a mixed-use, mixed-income community hub including over 100 multifamily and townhouse units, 2+ acres of public parks and plazas, and approximately 100,000 square feet of community arts, culture, and wellness facilities. GMG funding has advanced civil and utility engineering technical studies as well as non-transportation capital infrastructure.

City and County of Sacramento San Juan Apartments by Mutual Housing—Offsite Improvements

San Juan Apartments by Mutual Housing is a 113- unit affordable housing development (including a childcare facility and 2,500 SF of commercial space) located at 5700 Stockton Boulevard, to serve families with incomes between 30 and 60 percent of the area median. The GMG award funded offsite improvements, including the extension of domestic water and sewer and stormwater services, as well as undergrounding of power lines that run through and adjacent to the site.

City of Sacramento Del Paso Blvd

GMG has funded a sewer system upgrade in the Del Paso area to enable denser infill development and eliminate infiltration into the collection system from heavy rain events. The program also funded associated storm drainage modeling in the area.

Project Contact

Garett Ballard-Rosa, gballard-rosa@sacog.org