



## Innovation Task Force

August 14, 2014

### Tools Trainings

**Issue:** Report on the status of a series of training session for the Integrated Model for Planning and Cost Scenarios (IMPACS) tool.

**Discussion:** IMPACS was originally created by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to provide local governments a means of evaluating the fiscal challenges and opportunities of providing infrastructure and municipal services in their communities.

IMPACS allows communities to analyze infrastructure, parks, and certain public service requirements and understand the fiscal impacts of different development scenarios. The model can help jurisdictions perform the following tasks:

- Determine infrastructure demand from proposed development.
- Estimate the capacity of existing infrastructure.
- Determine whether new infrastructure is required for a proposed development project.
- Estimate capital costs and operational costs needed for the new infrastructure.
- Determine law enforcement, emergency service, library, and park and recreation per capita needs and related costs.
- Evaluate expected revenues from development and provide cost and expenditures comparisons.
- Identify thresholds in land use patterns that trigger the need for new, larger, or smaller infrastructure.

SACOG staff have promoted its use, and applied it to two case studies within the region. These efforts have produced some member interest in IMPACS, but limited external tool use apart from SACOG staff.

In order to determine if SACOG should continue to pursue the development and maintenance of IMPACS, SACOG staff held a focus group with staff from its member jurisdictions in June. Participants from eight jurisdictions received a brief overview of the tool and provided feedback on how it might be used in various planning processes. The focus group felt the tool could be useful in some planning processes with the right training. Based on focus group interest, SACOG staff decided to pursue a series of training sessions around the region for our member jurisdictions and their staff.

To date, SACOG has conducted one additional information sharing session and two formal training sessions. One additional training session is scheduled in August. More training sessions will be scheduled throughout the year, or on an as-needed basis.

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