



Innovation Task Force

**Item #15-10-3
Information**

October 22, 2015

Update on Code for America

Issue: Staff attended the Code for America Summit and the Fellows are finalizing their products for delivery to West Sacramento.

Discussion: SACOG staff attended the CfA Summit on September 30th – October 2nd. The Summit included a large plenary session as well as smaller breakout sessions focused on bridging technology and the public sector. While there, staff focused on three areas: procurement, open data, and innovation.

The sessions on procurement highlighted different methods and tools public agencies can use in order to streamline the procurement process and make more efficient purchasing decisions.

Open data is a big area of discussion at the Summit. Discussions ranged from open data policies to how best to code applications to take advantage of public open data sources. SACOG will be integrating learning from the Summit into the regional open data portal currently underway.

While the best way to incorporate technology and innovation into public processes was a major theme of the Summit, there were many sessions on creating processes that allow for the introduction of innovation and technology. These technology agnostic sessions were focused on how to be open to changing processes to fit with the advancement of tools and technology.

In addition to these sessions, the Fellows for our region presented on the Acres app they have created. The tool advances the interaction between land owners and potential urban farmers, and provides both resource conservation and economic development opportunities.

The next phase of the CfA Fellowship will focus on delivering the two applications the Fellows create, Acres and Farmstand, to the staff at the City of West Sacramento. SACOG will begin working with staff on how best to deploy or scale these application throughout the region.

Approved by:

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