



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

April 30, 2012

Final Overall Work Program for Fiscal Year 2012-13

Issue: The Final Fiscal Year 2012-13 Overall Work Program (OWP) is ready for Board action.

Recommendation: That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Final Fiscal Year 2012-13 Overall Work Program (OWP).

Discussion: Each year, SACOG must prepare an OWP that becomes the agency's primary administrative document. The OWP contains both project details and budget information. Action Item #2 covers the budget portion of the Final OWP.

The Final OWP packet is comprised of three elements: **Attachment A1** contains the projects with the strategic plan goal they primarily support; **Attachment A2** is the executive summary; **Attachment A3** is the final draft OWP document; and, **Attachment B** includes the comments and responses from the OWP public comment period that result in the minor refinements made to the March draft version of the project descriptions.

As part of the OWP development process, federal, state, and local agency partners participated in the annual Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting with SACOG staff on April 27 to review various topics related to active or planned SACOG work efforts. The focus was on the FY 2012-13 OWP, but the discussion also included a review of recent accomplishments by the agency. SACOG was frequently described as an exemplary MPO by the meeting participants from Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD).

For the third year, the development of the OWP has been guided by SACOG's Strategic Plan. The summary below identifies key activities by the primary Strategic Plan goal they support; additional detail on the OWP elements are provided in the attachments.

Goal 1: *Sustain the agency's emphasis on information-based decision making by providing state-of-the-art data and tools to members, partners, stakeholders and residents to help them shape the future of their communities and the region.*

Goal 1 activities in the current OWP have focused on regional travel model enhancements and ongoing technical analysis to support the completion of the region's first Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) / Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and associated environmental impact report (EIR). In the new OWP, the focus shifts to sharing with member agencies the new tools and data developed that can inform and support local decision making. One of the means to achieve this outcome will be an update of SACOG's website to more easily share new maps and data from the MTP/SCS development process. In addition to increased technical support for member agencies, further refinements of existing tools are planned and new ones will be developed that integrate the agency's core expertise in transportation and land use planning with new topical areas, including land use economics and public health. Additional priority Goal 1 activities in the new OWP include increased education, engagement and policy work in support of SACOG's federal and state advocacy principles. Other activities include the deployment of a universal transit fare card, the

Connect Card, and new 511 traveler information tools.

Goal 2: *Maximize strategic influence for the region through developing and implementing integrated regional transportation plans that produce unique and significant quality of life benefits for residents of the region.*

The current OWP has primarily focused on the preparation of the MTP/SCS and associated EIR. With adoption of both documents this spring, realizing MTP/SCS implementation opportunities is a primary Goal 2 focus for the new OWP. The MTP/SCS strengthens transportation-land use-air quality connections and furthers the integration of the Regional Blueprint Strategy, Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS), and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) with ongoing core activities, such as transportation programming and air quality planning. Helping member agencies realize CEQA streamlining opportunities made possible by the MTP/SCS is a priority effort in the new OWP, as is the launch of new RUCS initiatives that include a feasibility study on the potential for specialty crops to be the foundation of a local food system that benefits the rural economy. Other planned work activities to support Goal 2 include finalizing RHNA, maintaining strong transportation project delivery, and developing implementation strategies for early year MTP/SCS investments. Short-range transit plans and a deeper analysis of new mobility options, including plug-in electric vehicles, are examples of new transportation-related MTP/SCS implementation efforts planned.

Goal 3: *Serve as a source of high quality information, convener, and/or advocate on a range of regional issues when the agency's involvement would provide unique, added value to promoting a sustainable future for the region.*

In the current OWP, there were limited staff resources available for Goal 3 work activities. Efforts during this period have largely focused on supporting the early implementation of transit priority areas (TPAs) and the development of the region's first Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD). Work activities in the new OWP focus on completing the RPSD, supporting regional economic development efforts, and facilitating a dialogue between member jurisdictions on opportunities for shared services. Outcomes from these planned efforts may lead to new SACOG initiatives later that reflect the agency's unique role as a forum for issues of regional concern.

Approved by:

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Attachments

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