



Item #15-10-4 Information

Innovation Task Force

October 22, 2015

Update on UrbanFootprint Development and Use

Issue: Staff have been working to update UrbanFootprint for use by SACOG and member jurisdictions.

Discussion: UrbanFootprint was developed and deployed across the state by Calthorpe Associates (Calthorpe) as part of the Vision California process, and has been tested in other parts of the country. This tool replaced I-PLACE3S as the web-based, dynamic scenario creation and land use modeling platform used by SACOG. UrbanFootprint was developed using “open source” software. Open source software generally allows users to change and distribute the software without copyright and/or licensing issues or costs. As a result, open source programs are often developed in a very collaborative manner with a wider user base from which to learn and exchange information. SACOG continues to engage in discussions with the different agencies across the country on the development and use of the tool.

To date, SACOG has tested the tool using 2012 Base land use estimates; created neighborhood, city, and county-wide land use scenarios, tested and created cropping scenarios for the Rural Urban Connection Strategy project; and is beginning to test and update the tool for use at the local level.

SACOG recently began working with the City of Elk Grove and their consultants on the update of the city’s general plan. City staff would like to explore how UrbanFootprint can be used to create and test different land use alternatives for their process beginning in early 2016.

An overview of the tool, its use at different scales, and next steps will be discussed with the Innovation Task Force.

Approved by:

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