



Joint Regional Planning Partnership/Planners Committee

November 4, 2015

Food System Tools in the Sacramento Region – Rural Urban Connection Strategy Case Study

Issue: SACOG’s Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) looks at growth and sustainability objectives in the Sacramento region from a rural perspective. Working with numerous regional partners, RUCS has developed a suite of tools to showcase emerging opportunities in agriculture and rural economic development.

Recommendation: None, this item is for information only.

Discussion: Agriculture has deep roots in the greater Sacramento area and serves both as the cornerstone of many rural communities and also as a vital economic driver across the region. As the role of agriculture and food gains heightened exposure—exemplified by the region’s designation of America’s Farm-to-Fork capital—so too does the need for regional tools and collaborations supporting economic vitality across the full food system. At the November RPP meeting, SACOG staff will discuss recent work conducted under the RUCS program and by regional partners that call attention to important planning issues impacting the regional food system. In doing so, staff will showcase the interconnected nature of the regional food system, and how this core industry cluster supports economic development activity not just for agricultural producers but in communities throughout the entire region.

Key highlights of the discussion include-

- An overview of the RUCS program and how its tools and modeling can help support truly regional planning;
- A case study conducted for Yuba County that worked with stakeholders to apply RUCS tools to the local context. The study provides a market analysis of agriculture’s contribution to the local economy, explores new opportunities to diversity production and tap into emerging markets, models scenarios that showcase tradeoffs in production decisions and estimates fiscal and economic benefits of agriculture land conservation efforts;
- A discussion of the regional nature of the food system, and the work of numerous partners that also help call attention to challenges and opportunities in this industry cluster.

The Yuba County case study’s executive summary is attached to this agenda item. The full technical case study can be found at: <http://sacog.org/rucs/>

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