



Item 17-10-8

Land Use & Natural Resources Committee Receive & File

September 28, 2017

Blueprint Implementation Activities

The purpose of this item is to regularly inform the Committee of SACOG land use related activities in support of local implementation of the Blueprint principles. SACOG conducts the following Blueprint Implementation Land Use Activities in response to requests from member agencies and/or developers or non-governmental organizations: 1) provision of data and/or technical support to member agencies implementing the Blueprint; 2) review and comment on development proposals regarding their consistency with the Blueprint principles or the MTP/SCS; and 3) educational presentations on the Blueprint.

In September, SACOG staff conducted the following Blueprint Implementation Land Use Activities:

- Responded to a Notice of Preparation of a draft environmental impact report for the 2035 General Plan Update in Folsom (letter attached).
- Responded to a Notice of Preparation of a draft environmental impact report for the Convention Center Renovation and 15th and K Street Hotel projects in the City of Sacramento (letter attached).
- With funding from a third-round Strategic Growth Council grant, attended an El Dorado County Transportation Commission meeting on community planning efforts in the unincorporated area of Cool and arranged for economic and community revitalization consultant Michele Reeves to make site visits and conduct workshops in selected communities in the region.
- Hosted and participated in a conference call for the SB 743 Technical Advisory Committee.
- Continued tracking and agency coordination on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) cycle 3.

Attachments

Key Staff: Kirk E. Trost, Chief Operating Officer/General Counsel, (916) 340-6210
Kacey Lizon, Planning Manager, (916) 340-6265
Jennifer Hargrove, Senior Analyst, (916) 340-6216

August 31, 2017

Mr. Scott Johnson, Associate Planner
City of Sacramento Community Development Department
300 Richards Blvd., Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
Sacramento Convention Center Renovation and Expansion and the 15th/K Street
Hotel Projects

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Auburn
Citrus Heights
Colfax
Davis
El Dorado County
Elk Grove
Folsom
Galt
Isleton
Live Oak
Lincoln
Loomis
Marysville
Placer County
Placerville
Rancho Cordova
Rocklin
Roseville
Sacramento
Sacramento County
Sutter County
West Sacramento
Wheatland
Winters
Woodland
Yolo County
Yuba City

Thank you for inviting SACOG's comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sacramento Convention Center Renovation and Expansion and the 15th/K Street Hotel Projects. The renovation and expansion of the Convention Center presents a great opportunity for the City to demonstrate its innovation in how it integrates and facilitates walking, biking, transit, and shared-mobility solutions.

The project areas are part of SACOG's 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 MTP/SCS) and longer-term Blueprint Vision. The projects, located in downtown, are included in the Center and Corridor Community Type in the 2016 MTP/SCS. In this Center and Corridor Community, which encompasses the entire downtown/central city area, the MTP/SCS forecasts 23,007 new housing units and 45,308 new employees. Next year SACOG will begin its quadrennial update of the plan (scheduled adoption in 2020) and will be working with the City to determine if there is a need to update the projections for this area for the next MTP/SCS. Additionally, the MTP/SCS includes significant transportation infrastructure investment in this area, including the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar project. A full listing of the transportation projects can be found in Appendix A of the MTP/SCS at: <https://www.sacog.org/metropolitan-transportation-plansustainable-communities-strategy>.

The MTP/SCS is measured by a number of performance goals. Specific to transportation goals, the plan aims to increase travel efficiency and multi-modal travel, and reduce congestion and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). We recommend you consider these transportation outcomes as you analyze the proposed projects and alternatives.

In pursuit of the above noted goals, the City and SACOG have been working together on a number of projects, including Grid 3.0, the Downtown Specific Plan, Streetcar, and Bike Share. We recommend you discuss how the Convention Center and Hotel projects interface with these mobility projects. In particular, it is important that the EIR analyze the impact of the proposed projects on Grid 3.0's low-stress bicycle network as 13th Street and K Street are identified as existing low-stress bicycle routes today.

Because the Convention Center and Hotel projects will be a major destination for people from within and outside of the region, it is imperative that the project intentionally plan and facilitate walking, biking, transit, and shared mobility options. The design details of the projects will be instrumental in influencing whether people will walk, bike, or take transit to the sites. In light of this, we suggest you analyze the impacts to and from all modes of travel as you analyze the project and alternatives.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or Kacey Lizon, Planning Manager, at klizon@sacog.org or 916-340-6265.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Corless'.

James Corless
Chief Executive Officer

JC:KL:JH:sm

September 15, 2017

City of Folsom
Community Development Department
c/o Scott Johnson, Planning Manager
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

Re: Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact
Report for the City of Folsom 2035 General Plan

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Auburn
Citrus Heights
Colfax
Davis
El Dorado County
Elk Grove
Folsom
Galt
Isleton
Live Oak
Lincoln
Loomis
Marysville
Placer County
Placerville
Rancho Cordova
Rocklin
Roseville
Sacramento
Sacramento County
Sutter County
West Sacramento
Wheatland
Winters
Woodland
Yolo County
Yuba City
Yuba County

Thank you for inviting SACOG's comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the City of Folsom 2035 General Plan. The basis of our comments is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and Blueprint. SACOG's primary responsibility is developing and implementing the MTP/SCS, a document that establishes transportation spending priorities throughout the region. The MTP/SCS must be based on the most likely land use pattern to be built over the 20+ year planning period and a forecast of reasonably foreseeable revenues for transportation investment. It also must conform with federal and state air quality regulations and demonstrate GHG reductions under SB 375. The foundation for the MTP/SCS land use forecast is local government general plans, community plans, specific plans, and other local policies and regulations. Other market and regulatory/policy variables that are considered help refine the sum of the local plans in order to determine the most likely future development pattern for a specific period of time. The Blueprint vision is based on the principles of smart growth and is intended to give general direction on how the region should develop to reap the benefits of the Blueprint Preferred Scenario (and related MTP/SCS). Implementation of the Blueprint vision depends greatly on the efforts of cities and counties to implement that vision through local plans and projects. The MTP/SCS and Blueprint are in alignment with each other because of these local efforts.

The current Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 MTP/SCS) was adopted in February 2016. The 2016 MTP/SCS includes a transportation project list and forecasts housing and employment expected through 2036. The Land Use Diagram and Circulation Diagram included in the Notice of Preparation appear generally in alignment with the MTP/SCS; however, there is not enough detail provided for an analytical comparison. The Land Use Diagram does show the planning area extending south of White Rock Road and the existing City limits. This area is not identified for development in the 2016 MTP/SCS. Although there are no land uses being planned for this area in the 2035 General

Plan, identifying the area on the map does signal that this is a potential new growth area that the City is considering. We suggest that the City include strong policies in the 2035 General Plan on the timing and conditions that must be met before new growth can occur in this area, as well as, policies that require phased growth in the area. In general, it is not uncommon that a General Plan will include more growth and transportation projects than what is in the MTP/SCS. General Plans typically envision the ultimate build out of the jurisdiction whereas the MTP/SCS is a financially constrained plan for a particular period of time, is updated every four years, and is subject to a transportation conformity requirement under the federal Clean Air Act.

SACOG will begin its quadrennial update of the MTP/SCS in early 2018 and will be working with the City of Folsom to determine if there is a need to update the project list and/or projections for the City in the next MTP/SCS. With limited transportation funds available, constrained growth projections, and a higher SB 375 GHG target for the next MTP/SCS, we will be encouraging all our member jurisdictions to identify their high priority areas for growth and transportation funding. We look forward to further discussions with the City throughout the General Plan update process and as the MTP/SCS update process moves forward next year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for continuing to engage us in this important process. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Kacey Lizon, Planning Manager, at klizon@sacog.org or 916-340-6265 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JAC', is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

James Corless
Chief Executive Officer

JC:KL:JH:sm