



STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Regional Blueprint Planning Pilot Study

MEETING DATE: July 17, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6 A

STAFF CONTACT: Michael Powers

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the executive director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments for the Regional Blueprint Planning Pilot Study.

SUMMARY

In January, your board approved a joint grant application with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) for a regional blueprint planning pilot study of the Santa Maria Valley and southern San Luis Obispo County. SBCAG and SLOCOG were notified that we were successful in receiving the grant but at a reduced funding level. Therefore, the focus of this grant program will be data collection and analysis with a later grant application to fund land use scenario development and public participation. An MOU has been prepared to clarify the goals of the project and identify the roles and responsibilities of SLOCOG and SBCAG.

DISCUSSION:

Background

SLOCOG received a Blueprint Planning Grant from the state in fiscal year 2005-06 to undertake a vision planning process. This process, called Community 2050, centered on having the community envision the region's future. SLOCOG started with its municipalities' 20-year general plans, and then asked how people wanted the region to develop from there over the next couple of decades. Similar activities are underway around the entire state—regional growth blueprint planning efforts are underway in virtually every urban county (Attachment 1).

Following the presentation by SLOCOG, the Board discussed coordination opportunities between SLOCOG and SBCAG, the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, and the County of Santa Barbara. The sense of the board was to pursue coordination opportunities with SLOCOG and take advantage of funding opportunities for improving the information to make decisions.

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

In October 2006, the Board authorized the chair to sign a letter of support for the grant application. The board also expressed interest in continued discussion of opportunities for development of a regional blueprint plan for Santa Barbara County. Unfortunately, our joint "Partnership Planning" grant with SLOCOG was not approved, probably because Regional Blueprints are funded through a separate program and the state funding available for Partnership Planning grants is very limited. Subsequently another opportunity arose as SLOCOG invited SBCAG to participate in a grant application for the Blueprint Planning Program, using the Santa Maria Valley as the test case.

SBCAG and local agencies in the Santa Maria Valley believed the opportunity to obtain grant funds should be taken in order to develop GIS capability and address topical issues of local interest such as the potential to expand urban areas in an environment that strives to retain agricultural viability. The purpose of the grant is to build up the base of information on which to make planning and policy decisions.

In 2006, the Board discussed the potential of this type of program to develop better information for decision making while being sufficiently controlled by local agencies that the program can mitigate the concerns about the intrusion of regional agencies in local land use planning. Staff believes these concerns can be addressed. Local agencies in SLOCOG had similar concerns and after two years are still actively engaged in the program. Since SBCAG is the only regional agency of significant size not fully participating in the Statewide Blueprint Planning Program your staff believes SBCAG may be put at a disadvantage with respect to existing and pending legislation that ties blueprints to housing bonds and other issues if we don't take advantage of this funding opportunity. Although the project does not include the entire county as other Blueprint planning efforts do (in some cases the Blueprints cover multiple counties), it does provide an opportunity to improve interregional cooperation with San Luis Obispo County and to learn more about what can be accomplished through a Blueprint planning process. Your staff clearly understands the concerns of our elected officials about the potential for state intrusion into local land use decision making but believe this project will improve the information base for decision making while maintaining local control.

SBCAG and SLOCOG were notified that we were successful in receiving the grant but at a reduced funding level. Therefore, the focus of this grant program will be data collection and analysis with a later grant to fund land use scenario development and public participation. SLOCOG is the lead agency and SBCAG would be the co-lead agency. The work in Santa Barbara County would be developed under the leadership of a technical committee composed of staff from the Planning Departments of the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, SBCAG, SLOCOG and the Lon Range Planning Division within the County of Santa Barbara. The grant request for the Santa Maria Pilot Program was for \$255,000; however, both agencies received \$165,000. Funding could be used collectively to secure consulting services to develop the information for all the agencies. The local 20% match requirement for the grant is available using in-kind services provided by SBCAG and local agency staff participating in the project. The work will take place this 2008-09 Fiscal Year.

Staff recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for the Santa Maria Valley Regional Blueprint Planning Grant

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

Attachments:

California Regional Blueprint Planning Program

Memorandum of Understanding Between the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for the Santa Maria Valley Regional Blueprint Planning Grant

CALIFORNIA Regional Blueprint Planning Program

The State of California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency has launched the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program to support efforts of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Councils of Government (COGs) to conduct comprehensive scenario planning that results in consensus by regional leaders, local governments and stakeholders on a preferred growth scenario – or “blueprint” – to achieve the goals shown below for a twenty-year planning horizon (through 2025). The new program makes \$5 million in grant funds available to the MPOs for regional blueprint planning in fiscal year 2005/2006 and potentially another \$5 million in 2006/2007.

Seven Regional Blueprint Planning grants are being awarded in the first year as follows:

1. San Joaquin Valley (SJV) includes the eight Valley MPOs
2. Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)
3. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
4. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
5. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) / Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
6. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
7. San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)

The grant program is intended to better inform regional and local decision-making, through proactive engagement of all segments of the population as well as critical stakeholders in the community, business interests, academia, builders, environmental advocates, and to foster consensus on a vision and preferred land use pattern. It is anticipated that the regional blueprint planning grants will build capacity for regional collaboration and integrated planning that will in turn enable regions to plan to accommodate all their future growth, thereby reducing need for sprawl.

The grants for regional collaborative decision-making will lead to adoption of “blueprint” plans that will:

1. Foster a more efficient land use pattern that (a) supports improved mobility and reduced dependency on single-occupant vehicle trips, (b) accommodates an adequate supply of housing for all incomes, (c) reduces impacts on valuable habitat, productive farmland, and air quality, (d) increases resource use efficiency, and (e) results in safe and vibrant neighborhoods.
2. Provide consumers more housing and transportation choices.
3. Improve California’s economic competitiveness and quality of life.
4. Reduce costs and time needed to deliver transportation projects through informed early public and resource agency involvement.
5. Secure local government and community support, including that of under-represented groups, to achieve the resulting comprehensive vision through including innovative computer models and public involvement activities.
6. Establish a process for public and stakeholder engagement that can be replicated to build awareness of and support for critical infrastructure and housing needs.

The regional blueprint efforts will include development of regional performance measures that can measure progress toward the region's own vision for future land use and transportation. Each region will also select several statewide performance measures to measure progress toward statewide transportation system and housing goals.

California has the opportunity to build on several existing scenario planning efforts including San Diego's Regional Comprehensive Plan, the nationally recognized planning processes known as Blueprint in the Sacramento region and the Riverside County Integrated Project in Southern California, and the Merced County Partnership in Integrated Planning of the Central Valley agricultural region.

While each project reflects the vision and character of their respective regions, each has valuable lessons learned on aspects of scenario planning such as use of growth scenario models, interactive public participation tools, engaging resource protection agencies in the transportation planning process, use of non-traditional performance measures that indicate changes in land use patterns, and gaining public and local government support for regional efforts.

WEBSITE:

More information on the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program and the statewide regional blueprint-planning workshop held August 2, 2005, are found on the California Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Planning web page at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/>

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, AND
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into on the date of the last signatory by and among these parties: San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for the purpose of cooperatively preparing maps, documents and supporting data relative to common issues and concerns addressed under the State's Regional Blueprint Planning Grant Program, Pilot Study Santa Maria Valley.

The purpose of this MOU is to set forth the program, respective party roles and responsibilities, schedule, funding, and decision-making process for the preparation of documents and information in support of SLOCOG's Blueprint Planning Program and good planning practices in the Santa Maria Valley area of Santa Barbara County.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will lay the framework for regional blueprint planning in the Santa Maria Valley by preparing land use, economic, and demographic data files and preparing maps and other visual representations of land use data and other variables. Models will be developed and tested to prepare the way for alternative land use scenario development. These actions will improve information used for transportation and land use decision making, facilitate communication between the two counties, and help in identifying effects of planning decisions in the SLO/SB region.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTY

- a. **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM:** All parties to the MOU shall be members of the program management team.
- b. **PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES:** Each party shall be responsible for performing the tasks and preparing the products identified in their respective Work Programs.
 - i. Each party is responsible for managing funds received in compliance with state and federal regulations.
 - ii. Each party is responsible for performing, monitoring and reporting work program elements, including work performed through consultant agreements.
- c. **PROGRAM MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEAD AGENCY:** The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) will serve as the Administrative Lead Agency and Program Manager. As such SLOCOG will:
 - i. Coordinate functions among the parties to this agreement and SLOCOG's member agencies;
 - ii. Administer the funding agreement with the California Department of Transportation;

- iii. Prepare and manage professional technical services agreements with the Cal Poly Corporation serving the Program;
- iv. Prepare and manage funding agreement(s) other entities as applicable, and;
- v. Other tasks as may be required to successfully complete the Program.

d. SBCAG RESPONSIBILITIES:

- i. SBCAG will coordinate functions with the City of Santa Maria, City of Guadalupe, County of Santa Barbara, and its other member agencies as needed;
- ii. SBCAG will subcontract consultant services as needed;
- iii. SBCAG will prepare quarterly progress reports and a completion report to SLOCOG;
- iv. SBCAG will conduct other tasks as may be required to successfully complete the Program.

3. SCOPE OF WORK, MILESTONE PRODUCT SCHEDULE The Program Scope of Work and Milestone Product Schedule is found at Attachment A.

4. FUNDING AND COST REIMBURSEMENT

a. Program Budget. The Program Budget is found at Attachment A. SLOCOG is responsible for \$9,560 of the required non-federal match and SBCAG is responsible for \$24,160 of the required non-federal match based upon the current budget projections, or 20% of the total grant funds received by the respective parties subject to future budget adjustments that may occur during the course of the proposed project.

- i. SBCAG will reimburse any contractors hired by SBCAG to conduct work on this grant.
- ii. SBCAG will present invoices to SLOCOG documenting the required in-kind match and certifying that any financial or in-kind match is not funded with federal monies.
- iii. SLOCOG will process invoices received from SBCAG with Caltrans and reimburse SBCAG upon receipt of reimbursements for these invoices from Caltrans.

b. Progress Reports. All parties shall submit written reports describing progress toward Scope of Work Tasks, Milestone Products completed, and Costs Incurred within thirty days of the end of each quarter.

5. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS: The Program Management Team will endeavor to arrive at strategic decisions and program guidance through consensus.

6. AMENDMENT: Amendment of this MOU may be proposed by any party. Amendments must be approved by all signatory parties to this MOU.

7. TERMINATION: This MOU may be terminated by any party given a 60-day written notice. Any and all financial commitments, should there be any, would be honored by all parties until the date of termination.

8. EXECUTION: This MOU becomes effective upon the approval by the governing board of both parties.

Signatures of Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding:

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Ronald L. De Carli, Executive Director

Date: _____

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

Jim Kemp, Executive Director

Date: _____

07/08 State Regional Blueprint Planning Grant		
Santa Maria Valley		
07/08 Grant Amount \$135,000 / \$33,750 Match		
BUDGET		
FY 2008/09		
ACCOUNT CODES	Professional (5050340)	Total
5050340	SBCAG Facilitation	\$60,800
5050340	Technology & Modeling	50,000
5050340	Technology Support	6,000
	Public Outreach	4,000
	Sub Total Professional	120,800
	Expenses	
5050015	Advertising Services	
5050040	Car Rentals	
5050045	Cell Phone Charges	
5050070	Computer Software	
5050075	Computer Supplies	200
5050085	Copying	
5050105	Dues and Subscriptions	
5050125	Food	
5050255	Memberships	
5050260	Mileage Reimb-Employee	2,000
5050265	Mileage Reimb-Non Employee	
5050280	Office Expense	
5050290	Other Minor Equipment	
5050335	Postage	
5050360	Publications & Legal Notices	
5050370	Registration, Seminar, Training Fee	
5050406	Rents & Leases-Other	
5050415	Significant Value Purchase	
5050440	Telephone	50
5050490	Workshop Expense	
5050490	Outreach	
5050490	Meeting Facilities	0
5050490	Steering Committee	500
5050490	Meeting Supplies	
	Sub Total SLOCOG Exp	2,750
	SLOCOG Salaries (5001210)	30,136
	SLOCOG Indirect Costs	15,064
	Sub Total Salaries	45,200
	TOTAL	\$168,750