

Transcribed from fax copy of letter received by Dennis Lujan from Leroy H. Brown for distribution to COG Board members (original fax attached)

Lady and Gentleman, I am Leroy H. Brown, a person who is interested in the work force in construction in the Fresno and it's surrounding areas.

I am a person who have worked as a carpenter (unknown word) man at that and two other trade worker.

I see work going on around the areas I live and not anyone who live in the area working.

The work that is going on now, some jobs are not in compliance according to the public work rules.

In our area's we have many public housing going on and HUD have the public contract.

Fresno have not paid very much or little attention to the truth about the future of the people who line in the area were housing have been a problem since the redevelopment and its' re-location of neighborhoods people and the closing of business.

We have been hearing and seeing new home and (unknown word) hi way work new schools build and we are not getting of our share of what's construction going on NOW.

I worked as a Job Developer in the construction industry for over 39 years and a person with concern about other's work history.

In Fresno the last 9 yrs the residents have really suffered about what we see and what we get and that's not very much at all.

I see and believe what is going on as work continues and I Leroy can only blame the city leaders from the area hurts the most.

We have programs in the area that suppose to have the way to help the need in Fresno area funds approved by money from D.O.L. to help the needed to prepare for the future work to come and that have been given little attention.

I have been working with Bldg. Trade Union, Contractors and concern citizen about what our future in America will be like soon and our families are going to suffer.

I ask community program leaders for help to reach the needed in the 93706 area to get qualified for the Future of 93706 which have money (-1000) of million dollars to be used in the 06 area.

The help for the 93706 people who might will work the plan isn't really laid out for them – people in this construction industry if we had no leaders, people must be hand on recruited and spoken to, people with experience from the industry and we do not have these people working in place now.

The 06 area have work in the area. We are not prepared as people now how to (unknown word) and contractors know that and the agencies who have been given U. S. and other public funds alone with local governments who are to see that area's local people ready for employment that's not happening NOW.

I contacted Fed- Emp Equal Oppt program OFCCP office Federal contract compliance program about the need to get the help we need for our people who live in the area.

I have contact with the 13 Co. City Rule area to help with support to make a program work to help the rule area and 06 get learning and prep. to get employment.

With my experience in the Bldg. Trade industry help could be on it's way if you are willing to help. I believe I can work with the hard core as the needed.

City of Selma

1710 Tucker Street
Selma, CA 93662
(559) 891-2200
(559) 896-1068 FAX

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 6/25/07 Time: 11:10FAX No: 233-9645To: Barbara Godwin From: Dennis Lujan
by M. Carter6 pages are being transmitted, including this cover sheet

If you do not receive the entire transmittal, or if any of it is not clear,
please contact the sender at (559) 891-2200

MESSAGE: Barbara - Dennis asked me to fax
you this letter he received, for distribution
at the Thursday COG mtg.

Thanks,Mel.

Important Notice: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone, and return the original message to us at the above address via U.S. mail. Thank you.

dear gentleman, I am
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REQUESTS TO ADD TWO URGENCY ITEMS TO THE POLICY BOARD AGENDA

- 1) Requires Determination that the item is an urgent item and cannot be dealt with at a later meeting. (2/3 vote)
- 2) Requires a 2/3 vote to add the item to the agenda for action.

ITEM 1

WILLIAMSON ACT

Requested by: Councilmember Rico Aguayo, City of Fowler

Urgency Status: State Budget negotiations are proceeding, and if the Fresno COG Policy Board wishes to impact the process they should send a letter as soon as possible.

Issue: Proposal in the budget submissions is to eliminate the \$39.1 million Williamson Act subventions provided by the State. Fresno County is the largest recipient of these subventions, and it is possible that the contracts would end with the loss of the state funding. This would then likely lead to the loss of farmland for those farmers that can not break even without the property tax benefit provided by the contracts.

Recommendation: Authorize the COG Policy Board Chairman to send a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger (attached) asking that the Williamson Act subventions continue. A copy would be sent to our entire legislative delegation.

ITEM 2

AIR DISTRICT OZONE PLAN SUBMITTAL/CONFORMITY BUDGET

Requested by: County of Fresno

Urgency Status: The California Air Resources Board just approved the San Joaquin Valley Air District's Ozone Plan, but has not yet adopted nor submitted to EPA the State's Strategies, which will be needed for Valley transportation planning agencies to proceed with timely submission of conformity documents in the future. In addition there appears to be a mounting effort to have the CARB revisit the issue (pressure from the Governor, others) and perhaps withdraw the approval of the Plan which does not show attainment until 2024 and replace it with a 2013 Plan Attainment. An attainment by 2013 is not reasonable given the toolbox and funding available to the Valley District. If the Fresno COG Policy Board wishes to impact the process they should send a letter as soon as possible.

Issue: The Air District has carefully developed the 2024 Ozone Plan recently approved, and the Valley COGs worked closely with them to assure the transportation data and commitments contained within the Plan were accurate. We understand the challenges the District faces and agree the attainment date of 2013 is not reasonable. However, should the plan be withdrawn by CARB, and not submitted to the EPA, the federal sanctions would begin their countdown and Valley COGS would be at risk in their ability to make future conformity findings on transportation projects that need to move forward.

Recommendation: Authorize the COG Policy Board Chairman to send a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, legislators, CARB, and the Air District opposing any effort to revisit the decisions on the Ozone Plan. The letter should address the inability of the District to meet the earlier attainment deadline, and the penalties to the Valley. These penalties would hamper efforts to clean the air and slow down jobs creation needed to support healthy communities. Staff would like to coordinate the actual wording of this letter with the Air District, therefore a draft is not available, but it would follow the issues as stated above. Fresno COG would also work with the other Valley COGs to get similar actions, and appear before the CARB in July.

June 28, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger

On behalf of the Council of Fresno County Governments, I am writing to express concern over the Governor's budget proposal to eliminate \$39.1 million in Williamson Act subventions. This highly valuable program has a strong track record of preserving California's precious farmland and open space.

For cities and counties, the financial support provided by the Williamson Act subventions has provided a tangible incentive for local governments to stay in the program and initiate more contracts by partially replacing property tax revenues lost on enrolled land. If the subventions are not funded, there is no doubt that counties will be forced to discontinue their participation in the Act given local budgetary conditions. Property tax revenue growth has dropped considerably in many parts of the state and will continue to decline as the housing market slows. Many counties are adjusting their revenue growth downward to half of the previous year's growth due to the dwindling real estate market.

For California, eliminating the subvention payments is the first step toward a total unraveling of the broadest based agricultural conservation program in the State. California is losing its working landscapes at an alarming rate while simultaneously faced with tremendous population pressure that further jeopardizes the economic viability of thousands of farming and ranching enterprises. Even with the Williamson Act, the Department of Conservation estimates nearly 400,000 acres of farmland were converted to other uses from 2000 to 2002.

The preservation of agriculture is not just a local priority; it is – and must remain – a State priority. We urge you to support the continuance of the Williamson Act subventions.

Sincerely,

TRINIDAD M. RODRIGUEZ, Chairman
Council of Fresno County Governments
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Kerman

June 28, 2007



The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Fresno COG's Blueprint Roundtable strongly supports the inclusion of the Williamson Act subventions in the 2007-2008 State Budget. Bipartisan legislative action in the budget subcommittees have ensured this item will not go to conference, but will be included in the final budget bill presented for your signature.

The Williamson Act has been the state's premier agricultural land protection program for more than 40 years. The California Legislature passed the Williamson Act in 1965 to preserve agricultural and open space lands by discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion to urban uses. This is especially significant as California continues tremendous population growth while also preparing for an unprecedented era of infrastructure development through the passage of \$43 billion in bonds. Even with protections in place, over 1 million acres of agricultural land have been lost over the last 20 years; and the rate of loss continues to increase with time.

These losses take tremendous tolls on the state's economy, farming community and quality of life. For example:

- The Williamson Act is estimated to save agricultural landowners from 20 percent to 75 percent in property tax liability each year. One in three Williamson Act farmers and ranchers said in a survey that without the Act they would no longer own their parcel.
- Lands under Williamson Act contracts are not just working landscapes. They provide essential scenic open space and wildlife benefits for some of California's most sensitive species.
- While Williamson Act contracts can terminate after 10 years, land trusts often work with the landowners to protect these prime agricultural lands in perpetuity.

Eliminating the Williamson Act subventions is the first step towards irreversibly devastating the broadest based agricultural conservation program in California and paving the way for more leapfrog development. For these reasons, we urge you to continue your conservation commitment to California by supporting this essential quality of life program in your final 07-08 State Budget.

Sincerely,

Kirk Hunter, Chair
Blueprint Roundtable



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
ALAN WEAVER, DIRECTOR

June 22, 2007

Barbara Goodwin, Executive Director
Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Ste. 201
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

Subject: Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon the April 2007 draft of the Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan. The Council of Governments (COG) is to be complimented for the systematic and inclusive approach that has been taken in the compilation and refinement of the Housing Plan.

The County agrees that it is reasonable to use distribution of existing housing units as a starting point for allocation of new units through the Housing Plan. There are, however, mitigating circumstances and changing conditions that diminish the validity of some numbers produced by this methodology, especially with regard to the allocation of units in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) market area. The County advocates reduction of housing units allocated to unincorporated areas, especially in the metropolitan area, and adjustment in the income group allocation ratios.

Among the factors supporting these modifications is the County's General Plan. The Housing Plan acknowledges the guiding principles of the General Plan but does not fully reflect the County's level of commitment to these principles. The April 2007 draft of the Housing Plan makes reference to the County General Plan as methodology attribute 4 of its Study Approach (Page 2):

"The methodology reflects a city-centered and balanced development pattern that is substantially consistent with local agency general plans, including Fresno County's General Plan, adopted on October 3, 2000."

The Housing Plan's Estimated Housing Construction Need by Jurisdiction and Income Group Table (Table 18) calls for the unincorporated area to absorb 3,391 of 52,141 units.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor / Fresno, California 93721 / Phone (559) 262-4055 / 262-4029 / 462-4320 / 262-4022 / FAX 262-4893
Equal Employment Opportunity • Affirmative Action • Disabled Employer

One third of the unincorporated area allocation, 1,153 units, is assigned to the FCMA. Yet the FCMA is an area that is particularly subject to conversion of unincorporated territory to the jurisdiction of the cities. The Housing Plan's section on Allocating Household Growth (Page 9) indicates that in some prior RHNA Plans, the number of unincorporated households within the FCMA market area was projected to decline:

"Prior to 1990 there had occurred a historic decline in the population of the of the unincorporated area of Fresno County, with regard to both the overall ratio of the unincorporated to incorporated population and a real decline in actual numbers. For example, the 1990 RHNA Plan indicated the number of unincorporated households within the FCMA market area actually declined by 11,733 households between 1980 and 1989, or from 27.42 percent of total FCMA market area households in 1980 to 14.75 percent in 1989. And while the percentage change during the same period for the other market areas was generally positive (the Westside South market area being the exception), it was less than ½ to 1 percent.

"Two factors in particular contributed to this declining unincorporated population: County policy relative to urban development in unincorporated areas and aggressive city annexation activities, particularly annexation of inhabited areas by the City of Fresno, between 1980 and 1989."

In the 1990 RHNA, the trend of a declining unincorporated population with the FCMA market area was not projected to continue. A manual adjustment to the growth trend was applied to reflect this.

"This manual adjustment was based on a determination that "institutional barriers" were expected to reduce significantly the rate of inhabited annexation activity during the 1989-1996 planning period."

Current projects indicate that inhabited annexation activity by Fresno and Clovis will be on the increase. In September 2006, during the period covered by the 2007 RHNA Plan, the City of Clovis completed the Locan-Nees Annexation, an inhabited annexation covering 520 acres and containing approximately 100 housing units. The City of Fresno is in the processing of beginning a Proactive Island Annexation Program. These projects would result in a decline in the unincorporated population of the FCMA market area, similar to that seen between 1980 and 1989.

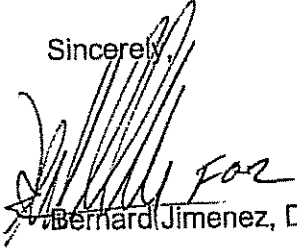
The Housing Plan calls for 32 percent (1,080 units) of housing developed in the unincorporated area to be affordable to very low-income households, and 18 percent (612 units) to be affordable to low-income households. Housing units likely to be constructed in unincorporated areas are those that can be developed as a matter of right on predominantly large parcels. Ranch houses and custom homes on estate-size lots are likely to be affordable only to those households in the upper income brackets. It is excessive to project that 1,692 housing units – half of the unincorporated area total – will be affordable to households with incomes that are 80 percent of County median incomes or less.

The cost of land and economies of scale dictate that the most affordable dwelling units can be developed at urban densities. With the General Plan directing such density of development to cities, the Housing Plan income group allocations for unincorporated areas are unattainable.

Council of Fresno County Governments
June 22, 2007
Page 3

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. Enclosed is a copy of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan Survey. Questions can be directed to me or to Bernard Jimenez, Manager of the Development Services Division, at (559) 262-4497.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard Jimenez", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Bernard Jimenez, Division Manager

BJ:JN:
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Enclosure

Survey

Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan

The purpose of this survey is to gather information regarding local government infrastructure, housing market, and other local conditions that could influence the development of a methodology for distributing the existing and projected regional housing need to cities within Fresno County and to the County itself. None of the information received in response to this survey may be used as a basis for reducing the total housing need established for Fresno County. Furthermore, the share of the regional housing need distributed to a jurisdiction represents a planning objective, not a construction quota, to be addressed by the jurisdiction in its Housing Element.

The methodology used in the development of the RHNA Plan, as with previous RHNA Plans, will be very objective. However, the final distribution of regional housing need may result in part from negotiations among various agencies. Information developed from this survey will be most appropriately utilized during this negotiation period, should it be necessary. Other sources of information will also be utilized including, for example, the COG Traffic Model, which has information on jobs/housing ratios.

In a few instances, it may be difficult to know what the survey question is trying to get at (the questions were taken directly from statute). Please do not hesitate to contact Clark Thompson at 233-4148 or by email at clarkt@fresnocog.org to discuss. For the other questions, please utilize only sufficient, **readily-available** data in support of your answer. Also, please let Clark know if you would like the survey emailed to you.

1. Would you say your jurisdiction is different than, or pretty much the same as, other jurisdictions in Fresno County regarding existing and projected jobs and housing relationship? If different, indicate how.

Fresno County differs from other jurisdictions within the County with regard to existing and projected job growth and housing. Fresno County generally plans and provides for more rural type development. Although many County residents work in the incorporated jurisdictions or other urbanized areas as these areas serve as the employment centers, there are also agriculturally based employment centers which tend to employ mainly residents of Fresno County. In 2000, agricultural employment accounted for 17.9 percent (58,900) of all employment in the County, according to the State Employment Development Department (EDD). As such, Fresno County also provides a disproportionate share of farm-worker housing when compared to other jurisdictions with Fresno County.

2. Opportunities and constraints to development of additional housing:
 - a. Is there a lack of capacity for sewer or water service due to state laws, regulations or regulatory actions, or supply and/or distribution decisions made

by a sewer or water service provider other than the local jurisdiction that precludes your jurisdiction from providing necessary infrastructure for additional development during the planning period? If so, please explain.

There are many areas within the jurisdiction of Fresno County that are known to be water deficient which has a direct impact on the ability to develop housing. In addition, there are areas which do not contain soils that are conducive to individual septic systems which may then require tertiary treatment facilities. The cost for construction/maintenance of such a facility may not be economically feasible.

In addition, there are unincorporated communities within Fresno County in which community services are provided via a Community Services District. These Districts are governed by an independent Board of Directors and, depending on the number of service connections, may be regulated by the State of California. In some cases, the systems in these communities (Biola, Friant, Del Rey) do not have adequate capacity to accommodate additional development without major infrastructure improvements.

- b. Is there available land suitable for urban development or for conversion to residential land use, including underutilized land use and opportunities for infill development and increased residential densities, within your jurisdiction and sphere of influence? If not, indicate why. [Note: In developing the RHNA Plan, COG may not limit its consideration of suitable housing sites or land suitable for urban development to existing zoning ordinances and land use restrictions of a locality, but shall consider the potential for increased residential development under alternative zoning ordinances and land use restrictions.]

There are some unincorporated communities within Fresno County that contain vacant land suitable for infill development. Fresno County is in the process of preparing updates for all the Community Plans and will be evaluating these communities with respect to opportunities for infill development, increased density, and mixed-use development.

In addition, there are areas within the County (County Islands) which are developed with very low density residential development on oversized lots. These oversized lots could present opportunities for infill development and increased residential densities.

- c. Are there lands within your jurisdiction that are preserved or protected from urban development under existing federal or state programs, or both, designed to protect open space, farmland, environmental habitats, and natural resources on a long-term basis? If so, please identify.

Within Fresno County there are vast areas protected under the State Williamson Act Program for agricultural land conservation. These parcels are either under Williamson Act Contracts or Farmland Security Zones. These parcels are located throughout the County totaling 1,529,265 acres and are typically zoned AE (Exclusive Agriculture), which limits land use generally to agricultural uses. In addition, the existence of the Contract further limits the land uses permitted on these parcels to strictly agricultural and uses that are closely incidental to the agricultural use.

There are also lands within Fresno County foothill/mountain areas) that are under Federal Jurisdiction (National Parks) which would preclude certain residential development. In addition, these are lands designated as open space in the vicinity of rivers (Kings and San Joaquin).

- d. **For Fresno County only.** Are there county policies to preserve prime agricultural land within the unincorporated area? If so, what are they?

The Fresno County General Plan contains visions, goals and policies specifically intended to protect agricultural land and direct growth away from these lands. The Vision Statement of the General Plan includes the following language:

"The County sees its primary role to be the protector of prime agricultural lands, open space, recreational opportunities, and environmental quality, and the coordinator of countywide efforts to promote economic development."

"The plan seeks to protect its productive agricultural land as the county's most valuable natural resource and the historical basis of its economy through directing new urban growth to cities and existing unincorporated communities and by limiting the encroachment of incompatible development upon agricultural areas."

The Plan's Vision Statement further states:

"The plan promotes compact growth by directing most new urban development to incorporated cities and existing urban communities that already have the infrastructure to accommodate such growth. This plan assumes over 93 percent of new population growth and new job growth will occur within incorporated city spheres of influence and seven percent would occur in unincorporated areas (see Appendix A). Accordingly, this plan prohibits designation of new areas as Planned Rural Community and restricts the designation of

new areas for rural residential development while allowing for the orderly development of existing rural residential areas."

The Goal of the County's Agricultural Land Use Element (Goal LU-A) States:

"To promote the long-term conservation of productive and potentially-productive agricultural lands and to accommodate agricultural-support services and agriculturally-related activities that support the viability of agriculture and further the County's economic development goals."

With regard to the specific policies that promote/require the protection of agricultural land, below are a listing of the relevant polices and text that seek to preserve agricultural land. Policies that prevent division or the further division of agricultural land preserve those lands by limiting the creation of parcels that are smaller than needed to provide for a viable agricultural use and, once divided, could be developed with residences that conflict with farming practices (or vise-versa). Also below, there are policies that encourage commitment to the Williamson Act program which preserves agricultural land.

Policy LU-A.1 *"The County shall maintain agriculturally-designated areas for agriculture use and shall direct urban growth away from valuable agricultural lands to cities, unincorporated communities, and other areas planned for such development where public facilities and infrastructure are available."*

Policy LU-A.6 *"The County shall maintain twenty (20) acres as the minimum permitted parcel size in areas designated Agriculture, except as provided in Policies LU-A.9, LUA.10, and LU-A.11. The County may require parcel sizes larger than twenty (20) acres based on zoning, local agricultural conditions, and to help ensure the viability of agricultural operations."*

Policy LU-A.7 *"The County shall generally deny requests to create parcels less than the minimum size specified in Policy LU-A.6 based on concerns that these parcels are less viable economic farming units, and that the resultant increase in residential density increases the potential for conflict with normal agricultural practices on adjacent parcels. Evidence that the affected parcel may be an uneconomic farming unit due to its current size, soil conditions, or other factors shall not alone be considered a sufficient basis to grant an exception. The decision-making body shall consider the negative incremental and cumulative effects such land divisions have on the agricultural community."*

Policy LU-A.12 *"In adopting land uses policies, regulations and programs, the County shall seek to protect agricultural activities from encroachment of incompatible land uses."*

Policy LU-A.16 *"The County should consider the use of agricultural land preservation programs that improve the competitive capabilities of farms and ranches, thereby ensuring long-term conservation of viable agricultural operations. Examples of programs to be considered should include: land trusts; conservation easements; dedication incentives; new and continued Williamson Act contracts; Farmland Security Act contracts; the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund; agricultural education programs; zoning regulations; agricultural mitigation fee program; urban growth boundaries; transfer of development rights; purchase of development rights; and agricultural buffer policies."*

Policy LU-A.17 *"The County shall accept California Land Conservation contracts on all designated agricultural land subject to location, acreage, and use limitations established by the County."*

3. **For Fresno COG only.** What is the distribution of household growth assumed for purposes of a comparable period of regional transportation plans and what are the opportunities to maximize the use of public transportation and existing transportation infrastructure?

4. Do you believe the market demand for housing in your jurisdiction, relative to the market demand for housing in other Fresno County jurisdictions, will change significantly between January 1, 2006 and July 1, 2013? If so, explain.

Permit activity for Fresno County has been on the rise since the mid 1990's and has not slowed. As additional residents are expected to arrive in Fresno County, it is anticipated that the demand for housing will increase. As indicated above, the County policies direct new urban development to the incorporated communities (cities). Housing demand for development within Fresno County has not typically included the very large urban subdivision projects, with some exceptions. It is anticipated however that as those areas within the cities and cities' spheres of influence develop, pressure will be placed on the surrounding unincorporated areas including the unincorporated communities which contain areas designated for urban development.

5. **For Fresno County only.** Do agreements exist between the county and the cities in the county to direct growth toward incorporated areas of the county? If so, please explain.

As indicated above, Fresno County's policies direct growth to cities (estimated 93%). Fresno County has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all incorporated jurisdictions within Fresno County (15). These MOU's stipulate and recognize the County General Plan Goals and Policies that direct growth to the

cities. Specifically, Goal LU-G is noted in the MOU's. Also, listed below are other Policies from the County General Plan that direct growth to the cities.

Goal LU-G "To direct urban development within city spheres of influence to existing incorporated cities and to ensure that all development in city fringe areas is well planned and adequately served by necessary public facilities and infrastructure and furthers countywide economic development goals."

Policy LU-G.1 "The County acknowledges that the cities have primary responsibility for planning within their LAFCO-adopted spheres of influence and are responsible for urban development and the provision of urban services within their spheres of influence."

Policy LU-G.7 "Within the spheres of influence and two (2) miles beyond, the County shall promote consultation between the cities and the County at the staff level in the early stages of preparing general plan amendments and other policy changes that may impact growth or the provision of urban services. Staff consultations, particularly concerning community plans, shall provide for meaningful participation in the policy formulation process and shall seek resolution of issues prior to presentation to the decision-making bodies."

Policy LU-G.14 "The County shall not approve any discretionary permit for new urban development within a city's sphere of influence unless the development proposal has first been referred to the city for consideration of possible annexation pursuant to the policies of this section and provisions of any applicable city/county memorandum of understanding."

6. **For Housing Authorities of Fresno only.** Has there been a loss of units contained in assisted housing developments that changed to non-low-income use through mortgage prepayment, subsidy contract expirations, or termination of use restrictions.

7. Do you think that high housing costs are more of a burden in your jurisdiction than they are in other jurisdictions in Fresno County?

No more than in any other jurisdiction within Fresno County.

8. Do you think that the housing needs of farmworkers are a more serious issue in your jurisdiction than in the other jurisdictions in Fresno County.

While there are provisions in the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance as well as recent legislation that provides for more flexible opportunities for farm-worker housing, as previously discussed, Fresno County provides a disproportionate share of farm-worker housing when compared to other jurisdictions with Fresno

County. According to the County's adopted Housing Element, it is estimated that, during the peak harvest months of April through October, the farm labor work force in the County more than doubles which further constricts the already strained housing supply and basic community services. .

Due to low wages and periods of unemployment, it is not uncommon to find farm-workers and their families living in extremely overcrowded conditions. Affordable housing is often lacking, so several families may live together in one house in order to share expenses. In addition to the general lack of affordable housing, another factor contributing to the housing shortage for farm-workers is the difficulty in renting housing with temporary lease periods which is the type housing needed based on the nature/duration of farm labor.

Based on these factors, additional affordable housing specifically designed for farm-worker households is needed in Fresno County and given the seasonal influx of farm-workers, farm-worker housing needs to be developed in enough housing to accommodate the peak demand. Therefore, addressing farm-worker housing is a more serious issue for Fresno County than in other jurisdictions in Fresno County.

9. Are there any other factors which in your view should be incorporated into the methodology that allocates regional housing needs to the individual jurisdictions?

As a County, Fresno County directs growth to the incorporated cities and urbanized unincorporated communities (noting that the majority of growth is occurring in cities – within the current Spheres of Influence). As such, allocations for Fresno County should take into account that it is the County's primary focus to protect agricultural land and not develop housing. Fresno County recommends that as the housing allocations are being developed, consideration be given to the County's share to reflect development in the expanding urban areas located within the various Cities' Spheres of Influence.

Fresno COG June Report

FROM CALIFORNIA CONSULTING, LLC

- Steve had several phone conversations with CTC staff and issued a memo regarding the Trade Corridor \$2 billion and the allocation schedule. See attached.
- Our office scheduled a meeting with the Governor's Cabinet Secretary in Sacramento to discuss several issues including Prop. 1B Air Quality mitigation money, Short Sea Shipping and Senator Lowenthal's Container Fee bill. Peter Weber from the RJI and the Partnership as well as the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District attended the meeting along with Steve Samuelian. See attached report.
- A few days after the meeting in Sacramento, our office organized a "follow up" conference call with the Governor's Cabinet Secretary to discuss the above 3 issues in more detail. Fresno COG was represented on the call by Tony Boren. See attached report.
- Steve had several conversations with Senate and Assembly Local Government Committee Consultants regarding SB 732 and AB 1253 which both propose to give money to cities for general plan updates. See attached report.
- Our office continues to work closely with Senator Florez's Office on the High Speed Rail issue. The only update to last month's report on the High Speed Rail is that the Budget Conference Committee is still meeting and Big 5 has yet to begin meetings. Sen. Florez has been an excellent leader on this issue. See attached report.
- Steve has been in consistent communication with Senator Cogdill's Chief of Staff regarding the surface level water storage issue/Temperance Dam. A letter was drafted and sent to all 5 members of the Big 5 on behalf of Fresno COG supporting these efforts. The letter will now be formatted to a "letter to the editor" and sent to various newspaper outlets to further publicize COG's support of this issue. Our office continues to work on the water storage issue. Sen. Cogdill and other Valley legislators have exhibited incredible leadership on this issue. The Governor has been a steadfast supporter as well. Mayor Lopez and Mayor Autry have led this issue among Valley Mayors and have done extensive work to push this issue to the forefront. Both Mayors deserve our gratitude on a job well done.

- We have been in contact with Sen. Lowenthal's Office regarding his container fee bill and we are pushing for adoption of our proposed amendments that the Fresno COG Board adopted.
- We have also spoken to the Committee Consultant about SB 286 which would speed up delivery of the local roads money for cities and counties. We have spoken to Mr. Lowenthal's Legislative Director about this issue as well and will continue to lobby for passage.
- Steve has had several meetings with Assemblywoman Parra and with her staff regarding various Valley issues including water, and the San Joaquin Valley Partnership (she has AB 27). Ms. Parra has done a great job working hard to preserve the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.
- California Consulting has had several conversations this month with Renee at Fresno COG regarding various bills and legislation. We have worked with Renee to develop the list of bills presented to the COG Board with recommendations. Renee is always hard working and right on top of the legislation.

Date: Fri, 15 Jun 2007 11:31:34 -0700 (PDT)

Based on my conversations with CTC, here is an update on the \$2 billion from the Trade Corridor portion of the Bond:

CTC has been having meetings and developing a "framework" for programming the funds. The last meeting is today at in Oakland. These working groups are formulating the guidelines and regulations for distribution of the funds by the CTC. A general very TENTATIVE schedule is as follows:

Fall: CTC adopts guidelines

Winter: CTC issues call for projects

April: Projects are awarded

I have informed CTC that the 8 Valley COG's are meeting and attempting to settle on a few projects that all 8 can agree upon. I informed CTC and our Valley legislative delegation that at that time, the COG's will nominate those few key projects that are "consensus" projects and ask CTC to fund those projects. The 50% match is challenging so identifying those few projects will be very important.

Date: Wed, 13 Jun 2007 04:55:57 +0000

Many of you are aware that fighting for the valleys fair share of the \$1 billion in prop. 1b for air quality mitigation is shaping up to be the major issue of the 2007 legislative session. Our office was asked by Peter Weber of the san joaquin valley partnership to convene a meeting with the governors cabinet secretary dan dunmoyer to discuss this issue. The meeting took place today in sacramento and was lead by mr. Weber with the participation of officials from the san joaquin valley air pollution control district. As usual, Peter was an excellent spokesperson for valley concerns. Although, the meeting was brief (mr. Dunmoyer was called by the governor to go meet with him during our meeting), it was a productive session. Dan understands our concerns about the poor air quality in the valley and receiving our fair share of the \$1 billion. We also agreed to do a conference call with dan in the coming days to continue to reinforce the points made today. The partnership, fresno cog, the air district and others have been doing an excellent job articulating the message for the valley and todays meeting was one more step forward. Steve.

Date: Fri, 15 Jun 2007 15:55:08 -0700 (PDT)

A conference call was convened today by our office with the Governor's Cabinet Secretary Mr. Dan Dunmoyer. The following individuals participated in the call along with myself.

Tony Boren, Fresno Council of Governments, Deputy Executive Director
Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Peter Weber, San Joaquin Valley Partnership Air Quality Working Group Chairman
Tom Jordan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Ron Silva, Businessman/Trucking Industry

The following issues were discussed on the conference call:

Short Sea Shipping:

After a briefing about the importance of this issue and how it will assist the Valley and the state a request was made for a "all hands" meeting. At the request of the group (and specifically Peter Weber) the Cabinet Secretary agreed that his office will coordinate a meeting with the major players from BTH, Cal-EPA, ARB, and other appropriate agencies to discuss Short Sea shipping. It was agreed that our office will work with the Cabinet Secretary's Office to coordinate a meeting date, time, place, and participants.

Senator Lowenthal Container Fee Bill:

The group has sent suggested amendments to Senator Lowenthal that would incorporate the Valley into this bill. As written, this bill would not benefit the valley and we are asking that funding for valley air quality mitigation/improvement be incorporated into this bill. We all have been working with Senator Lowenthal and his staff and advocating for these amendments. We are going to continue to work with Sen. Lowenthal's staff. The Governor vetoed similar legislation last year and we are all working to amend this bill to make it more acceptable.

Prop. 1B Air Quality Mitigation \$1 billion

The group had already met with the Cabinet Secretary two times previously (once in Selma and once in Sacramento earlier this week) to discuss this issue. It is imperative that the Valley receive its fair share of this money. The San Joaquin Valley legislative delegation (many have sent letters of support) along with Fresno COG, the Partnership, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District have all done an excellent job of making this case. We will continue to lobby hard to ensure the Valley gets its fair share of this money.

Date: Thu, 14 Jun 2007 11:21:33 -0700 (PDT)

I have had several discussions with the Consultants to the Assembly and Senate Local Government Committees in the Legislature. There are two bills dealing with essentially the same issue: giving money to cities and counties for general plan updates. One bill is a Senate Bill, SB 732 (Steinberg), and one is an Assembly Bill, AB 1253 (Caballero).

SENATE:
SB 167 started as the vehicle for this money. SB 167 was authored by Senator Gloria Negrete-McLeod, Chair of the Senate Local Government Committee. This bill was placed on the "suspense" or "hold" file in the Senate Appropriations Committee and is basically dead for this session. However, most of the contents of SB 167 have been amended into SB 732 by Senator Steinberg. Senator Negrete-McLeod is now the principal co-author of SB 732. After those amendments, SB 732 cleared the Senate Appropriations Committee and passed the full Senate. The bill is now in the Assembly where it will start the entire process over again.

Basically the bill proposed to allocate some of the \$90 million in planning money that the voters approved in Prop.

84.

I have attached a summary of SB 167 which is basically the new SB 732. Please review and let me know your thoughts.

If you choose to support the bill, please send letters of support to Senator Steinberg, State Capitol, Room 4035, Sacramento, CA. 95814.

ASSEMBLY:
AB 1253 by Assembly Local Government Committee Chair Anna Caballero has made it out of the Assembly and is now on the Senate side awaiting referral to a Committee. It would provide the necessary implementing language for the \$90 million earmarked in Prop. 84 for local and regional planning. The bill is still a "work in progress" according to Committee staff but in its current form it proposes splitting the money into a grant program, a loan program, and another loan program specifically for rural counties. Funds could be used for a variety of planning efforts that meet the criteria described in the bill. The \$90 million is split into three pots of money in this bill. One would be a grant program for local governments, one would be a loan program for local governments and other public agencies, and one would be a loan program specifically for rural counties. Each pot of money has its own criteria and eligible uses, and all would be administered by the Resources Agency with the assistance of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

If you wish to send a letter of support for Assemblywoman Caballero's bill you may send it to: Assemblywoman Anna Caballero, State Capitol, Room 3132, Sacramento, CA. 95814.

We will continue to monitor these two bills and work with the Committee Consultants and Staff as they move forward.

Date: Thu, 14 Jun 2007 12:39:23 -0700 (PDT)

More news on AB 1253, I just received a call from the Committee Chief Consultant.....the current version of the bill breaks the \$90 million into three pots, the first of which would go to cities and counties that have been good actors re: sustainable planning and would be in the form of grants. The second pot of money would go to cities, counties, and COG's to prepare general plans or regional plans that meet the Prop. 84 criteria. The third pot of money would be targeted to rural counties to encourage land use planning that preserves farmland and natural resources. The last two pots of money would be allocated as loans, but the recipients could have 50% of the loans forgiven if they demonstrate that the completed project meets the Prop. 84 criteria. The bill is going to be amended again next week. I will keep you posted when the new version is available. Steve

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We will continue to monitor these two bills and work with the Committee Consultants and Staff as they move forward.

High Speed Rail Update

- Senator Florez and Assemblywoman Fiona Ma are leading an effort to attempt to secure funding for High Speed Rail this budget year. Senator Florez deserves praise for his hard work on this issue.
- The Senate Budget Sub-Committee adopted \$40 million for High Speed Rail.
- The Assembly Budget Sub-Committee adopted \$60 million for High Speed Rail.
- The Joint Budget Conference Committee will now address the item. The Joint Committee has their first meeting tomorrow and may meet through the weekend and possibly beyond. The Joint Budget Conference Committee can adopt the Senate amount, adopt the Assembly amount, adopt another amount, or send the item on to the "Big 5" for them to decide.
- Big 5 will begin meeting at the conclusion of the Budget Conference Committee.
- Our office has worked closely with Senator Florez's Office on this issue for some time and will continue to work closely with them.
- We are also in the process of contacting the Joint Budget Conference Committee Chairman Assemblyman John Laird and other Conferees urging support of the High Speed Rail.
- The money would be designated for purchasing right of way and land among other items.
- A route has been discussed that would go from Anaheim to L.A. to Bakersfield to Fresno to Merced to San Jose to S.F. An additional line could be added to go from Merced to Modesto to Tracy to S.F. (Altamont Pass route).
- Recently members of the San Diego community have raised concerns that they are not listed on the currently discussed route. Senator Ducheny is a Joint Budget Conference Committee Member and represents the San Diego area. We will keep you posted as this issue develops.

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Forwarded Message

Subject: FW: High Speed Rail Authority, Item #2665
Date: Wed, 23 May 2007 10:25:17 -0700
From: "Brewer, Rod" <Rod.Brewer@SEN.CA.GOV>
To: "steve samuellian" <ca-consulting@sbcglobal.net>

HTML Attachment

Hi Steve,

Based on the information provided in the budget under the High Speed Rail, the route is listed in the attached table.

The agenda is now online at the following website, but I copied the HSRA issue below. The staff recommendation is an augmentation of \$40M.

http://www.senate.ca.gov/f?p/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/BFR/_home/NEWAGENDA.HTML

2665 High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) was created by Chapter 796, Statutes of 1996, to direct development and implementation of inter-city high-speed rail service that is fully coordinated with other public transportation services. The total cost to build the entire system was most-recently estimated at \$37 billion.

The January Governor's Budget proposed \$1.2 million and 6.5 positions for the HSRA, a decrease of \$13.2 million and no change in positions. Last year the Legislature augmented the HSRA budget by \$13 million and 3 positions to: (1) complete the draft environmental impact report for the Central Valley to San Francisco Bay Area route; (2) complete a financing plan to be submitted to the Legislature no later than May 1, 2007; and (3) commence site-specific environmental work, right-of-way acquisition, and identification of necessary grade separations to improve and preserve rail corridors. Current law provides for a proposition on the November 2008 ballot to provide \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds for the high-speed rail and related rail projects; however, the Governor proposes to delay this bond vote indefinitely.

1. **High Speed Rail Project Implementation (Report from HSRA).** The HSRA was provided \$13.0 million in the 2006 Budget Act to begin project implementation, including project-specific environmental work, right-of-way acquisition, and identification of necessary grade separations to improve and preserve rail corridors. In a report to the Legislature dated March 8, 2007, the HSRA indicated that an additional \$103.3 million would be needed in 2007-08 (above the \$1.2 million in the Governor's Budget) to continue implementation of the project. Funding at the \$103.3 million level assumes the state is proceeding to construction of the project, with additional funding to come from the 2008 \$10.0 billion ballot measure or other funding mechanisms. The total cost of the project was most-recently estimated at \$37 billion. The expenditure plan from the HSRA report is outlined in the table below (\$ in thousands):

AT&T Yahoo! Mail - ca-consulting@sbcglobal.net

Description	2006-07 Budget Allocation	2007-08 Budget Request*
Financing Plan	\$750	\$500
Visual Simulation	1,000	750
Program Management	3,094	12,000
Los Angeles - Orange County (Prelim Engr & EIR/EIS)	2,500	4,500
Los Angeles - Palmdale (Prelim Engr & EIR/EIS)	2,600	15,000
Los Angeles - San Diego (Prelim Engr & EIR/EIS)	900	7,000
Palmdale - Fresno (Prelim Engr & EIR/EIS)	1,100	11,000
Fresno - Sacramento (Prelim Engr & EIR/EIS)	500	5,000
San Francisco - Merced (Prelim Engr & EIR/EIS)		10,000
Right-of-Way Purchase		37,000
Land Use Planning	200	100
Program Management Oversight		150
3.0 New HSRA Staff		250
Bay Area - Central Valley "Next-Tier" EIR/EIS	350	
Total	\$12,994	\$103,250

* Amounts are HSRA Board requests beyond funding included in the Governor's Budget.

Staff Comment: As was indicated on the prior page and above, the Financing Plan due May 1, 2007, has been delayed to 2007-08. Therefore, the Subcommittee does not have information on expenditures and funding options beyond 2007-08. However, the table above indicates how the HSRA would continue implementation of the project in 2007-08 if \$103 million in new funding is provided.

Staff Recommendation: If the Subcommittee rejected the Governor's proposal to shift \$1.3 billion in PTA funds to General Fund obligations (see Caltrans issue #8), staff recommends using some of this additional Public Transportation Account (PTA) funding to augment the HSRA budget. Augment the HSRA budget by \$40 million (PTA) – this action would put the HSRA into the budget Conference Committee where the level of funding can be further reviewed and budget bill language developed to specify authorized expenditures.

- Rod

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