

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM III. B.

**Council of Fresno County Government's
2008 Legislative Platform**

Council of
Fresno
County Governments

Council of Fresno County Governments

2008 Legislative Platform

Policy Board

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Barbara Goodwin – Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE OF THE 2008 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Fresno COG, in coordination with our member agencies, has established a 2008 Legislative Platform that reflects the current priorities of the Fresno COG in state and federal legislative matters. The Legislative Platform represents a unified voice when communicating legislative priorities to our state and federal legislators as well as to relevant state and federal agencies. It also provides guidance to the Fresno COG staff and our lobbying partners when advocating on behalf of the Policy Board.

The goal of the Legislative Platform is to have a document in place that outlines the legislative priorities of our region that will direct advocacy efforts for improvements in areas such as air quality, transportation mobility, and regional prosperity that will ultimately contribute to an improved quality of life throughout Fresno County.

ABOUT THE FRESNO COG

Our Role:

The Council of Fresno County Governments, better known as Fresno COG, brings together mayors, city council members and county supervisors to work on regional issues for Fresno County. Since its inception in 1969, Fresno COG has primarily acted as the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for Fresno County. Fresno COG functions as both the state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and for federal purposes, as the county's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Organization:

A 16-member Policy Board gives Fresno COG policy direction. The Board consists of the mayors from each of the 15 incorporated cities in Fresno County and the Chairman of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Fresno COG offers each of these agencies an opportunity to come together on a level playing field to discuss and resolve transportation and related air quality issues that go beyond their own jurisdictional boundaries.

Regional Profile:

Fresno County is classified as an urban county (despite many rural characteristics) and is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley within the state of California. Fresno County is the first most populous county and second geographically largest county in the San Joaquin Valley, encompassing approximately 6,000 square miles. With \$4.8 billion a year in commercial crop production it is the nation's leading farm county. The January 2007 population of 917,500 places Fresno as the tenth most populous of the 58 California counties and the City of Fresno is the sixth most populous city in the state, with a population of 481,000. There are fifteen incorporated cities and the county contains a federally-recognized urbanized area – the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area – with a January 2007 population of over 650,000.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Protect and enhance current funding levels for transportation-related programs.
- Continue to advocate for transportation-related improvements in state and federal legislation through face-to-face discussions with and written letters to state and federal legislators.
- Continue to coordinate advocacy efforts with our local and regional partners to advance common goals and shared interests that will contribute significantly to an improved quality of life for Fresno County residents.

TRANSPORTATION

Funding – Federal

- Actively participate with Caltrans and other interests on the development of state and national consensus principles and priorities that will be favorable to the Fresno County region for the next Federal Surface Transportation Program due to be enacted in 2009.
- Support FY 2008 and FY 2009 appropriation requests for Fresno COG One Voice projects.

Funding – State

- Support increased funding by the state for transportation purposes.
- Support legislation to implement and fund the remaining provisions of Propositions 1B (state transportation bond), 1C (state affordable housing bond), and Proposition 84 (state water and parks bond) that will maximize Fresno County's regional share of funding.
- Actively participate in developing guidelines and/or criteria necessary to implement Proposition 1B, Proposition 1C, and Proposition 84.
- Support the Policy Board's approved criteria to be part of the funding guidelines for the State-Local Partnership Program (Proposition 1B).
- Protect Proposition 42 (Transportation Congestion Improvement Act) and other transportation funds from being diverted to other purposes in the state budget.

Funding – Local

- Support efforts to reward self-help counties in funding programs and policies.
- Oppose revisions to state transportation programming and funding reform legislation not consistent with SB 45 (1988).
- Support legislation that lowers the threshold required to pass transportation initiatives to 55%.

Streets and Highways

- Support legislation that includes the use of design/build, public/private partnerships, and other innovative financing for transportation infrastructure projects.

Highway 99 as an Interstate

- Continue supporting efforts to designate State Route 99 through the Central San Joaquin Valley as a federal interstate.

Public Transportation

- Support protection of Federal Transit Administration funding and oppose budget cuts that will transfer transit funds to other non-transit programs.
- Support, in coordination with the local transit operators, efforts to identify additional transit operating funds to meet long-term needs.
- Support high speed rail serving the entire San Joaquin Valley.
- Support funding for the High Speed Rail project and oppose any decrease in funding in the state budget.
- Support the High Speed Rail ballot measure for the 2008 ballot.
- Support Federal contributions to high speed rail and the establishment of a Federal High Speed Rail Authority.
- Support both Pacheco and the Altamont corridors for connecting the San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area. However, if the High-Speed Rail Authority selects only one corridor, the preferred corridor should be Altamont.
- Support efforts to secure additional funding from Proposition 1B, Intercity Rail Improvement Program, for high speed rail.

- Support adequate funding for passenger service and capital improvements on Amtrak's San Joaquin Rail Corridor.
- Seek increases in funding levels for grade separation projects and the evaluation of the state's funding program to improve access to funds.
- Support legislation that includes additional funding and economic development activities for municipal general aviation airports outside the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area.

Goods Movement

- Support goods movement legislation that includes the San Joaquin Valley region as a recipient of any new port container fees collected at the California ports to mitigate the emissions associated with freight movement to and from the ports through the Valley.
- Support including the Central Valley Trade Corridor in legislation pertaining to Goods Movement funding and programs.
- Maximize regional share of Proposition 1B funding to mitigate the impacts of goods movement in the Central Valley Trade Corridor.
- Support legislation pertaining to the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund and the Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program that include the Policy Board's approved criteria when considering funding allocations.
- Educate state officials and legislators that the San Joaquin Valley carries more truck traffic than any other major goods movement corridor in the state, and the resulting impact is significant.
- Support the inclusion of a dedicated funding program for Goods Movement infrastructure projects in the next Federal Surface Transportation Program due to be enacted in 2009. Work with the appropriate state and federal agencies and legislators to ensure that the San Joaquin Valley receive an equitable share of this funding to complete goods movement projects of regional significance.

Other

- Monitor legislation pertaining to the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program.
- Monitor legislation impacting the Freeway Service Patrol Program.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Blueprint Planning

- Support consistent and ongoing funding in the state budget for the development, implementation, and update of regional blueprints.
- Seek a dedicated set-aside from Proposition 84, Sustainable Communities Program, for Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) to develop and update regional blueprints and support legislation that allows all RTPA's to be eligible for funding whether or not they have existing funds for blueprint planning.
- Support the Office of Planning and Research in their efforts to incorporate strategies in the general plan guidelines for implementation of blueprints.

Alternative Growth Strategies

- Support federal and state initiatives that provide funding for local agencies to implement alternative growth and affordable housing initiatives.
- Support federal and state policies and incentives that encourage compact growth, mixed use development, better transit connections and walkable communities.

Housing

- In coordination with local agencies, participate in activities related to legislative and administrative reforms of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).
- Ensure that there is sufficient funding to carry out the RHNA process.
- Monitor legislation and other activities that would establish a San Joaquin Valley Rural Regional Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Eminent Domain

- Support clean-up language of current Eminent Domain law so that both the needs of the public agency and the rights of the property owner are met.

Transportation Modeling

- Monitor legislation that modifies modeling practices or imposes new standards on transportation modeling in transportation planning agencies.

AIR QUALITY

- Monitor air quality issues affecting the Fresno region.
- Partner with the San Joaquin Valley Air District and support their efforts where appropriate.
- Seek the establishment of a new San Joaquin Valley designation as an Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone at the state and federal level.
- Support increased funding to replace the oldest school buses in the Valley and adding flexibility to existing funding programs to allow for the replacement of more school buses.
- Support efforts to pursue funds for the Diesel Truck Retrofit Program and the Triangular Truck Trade Program.
- Work with state and local government and other key stakeholders on the development of legislation and regulations to incorporate climate change policies into regional transportation planning.
- Monitor efforts by the federal, state and local governments to establish common environmental standards related to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

PROCESS STREAMLINING

- Support legislation and/or administrative reforms to streamline the federal and state government's project delivery process and to eliminate unnecessary and/or duplicative requirements.

ONE VOICE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Continue to pursue federal and state support for the projects and policy issues identified through the Fresno COG One Voice efforts.

WATER SUPPLY, STORAGE and QUALITY

- Support legislation and bond proposals that adequately address the water supply, water storage, and water quality needs of Fresno County with special recognition for the importance of agriculture to the county's economy.

- Support legislation and bond proposals that would aid in developing new above-ground water storage facilities on the San Joaquin River to provide adequate supplies of water for agricultural and municipal purposes while providing water and temperature control for river restoration and enhancing flood management and control.
- Support efforts of the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum and other integrated water management planning efforts to enhance beneficial uses of available water, particularly during flood events, through additional groundwater recharge and water banking facilities.
- Support federal and state legislation and administrative activities directed at achieving meaningful and effective environmental and physical repairs and improvements to the Delta (including, but not limited to, levee and channel rehabilitation, conveyance facilities, water quality improvements and solutions to fishery and environmental problems) to permit exports of full supplies of water to water agencies and users along the western San Joaquin Valley.

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

- Support efforts to establish in statute, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and to provide a continuing stream of funding for its existence.
- Partner with the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley for the successful implementation of their strategic action plan.

FLOOD CONTROL

- Support legislation in partnership with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to provide funding that helps local flood protection efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Partner with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County, the Five Cities Economic Development Authority, the I-5 Business Development Corridor, Inc., the region's Chambers of Commerce, and any other relevant organization, to advocate for improvements, when appropriate, to enhance the economic well-being of Fresno County residents.
- Evaluate proposed formulas in state and federal legislation that provide program or formula funding to ensure Fresno County and the Central Valley entities can be competitive for the funds.

IMMIGRATION

- Oppose indiscriminate enforcement actions by the U.S. Government that are conducted in a manner that violates the civil rights of Fresno County area residents for the purpose of deporting undocumented foreign nationals residing and working in Fresno County.

REAUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL FARM BILL

- Monitor legislation pertaining to the federal reauthorization of the 2002 Farm Bill and support the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Farm Bill priorities, where appropriate.

OTHER

- Oppose unfunded federal and state mandates on local and regional governments, and support proposals that would prohibit the passage of legislation that impose new unfunded mandates.
- Work with staff from other Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, both in the San Joaquin Valley and in other regions of the state, to identify issues of regional significance in legislative proposals and policies and coordinate advocacy efforts to advance common goals.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM III. D.



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Fresno, California 93721

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Website Address: www.fresnocog.org

TO: Policy Advisory Committee
Fresno COG Policy Board

DATE: November 7, 2008

FROM: Todd Sobrado, Planner

RE: Tribal Environmental Justice Grant

Questions have been raised by PAC members regarding the tribal Environmental Justice grant awarded to the Kern Council of Governments in the amount of \$250,000. There was interest in whether or not this project addressed access to transportation funding. Having read through the scope document as well as the contract, it is the opinion of Fresno COG staff that the project is oriented towards outreach to tribal communities. The project description is outlined below:

Kern Council of Governments as lead for the eight San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Councils of Governments (COGs) is partnering with a local tribal consultant and chairwoman for a SJV tribe to outreach to approximately 30 California Indian Tribes in the eight county SJV region (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern) to accomplish the following goals:

Goal 1: To build a knowledge base of tribal related Transportation Environmental Justice issues and priorities – through meetings and workshops.

Goal 2: Promote tribal participation and reporting on Tribal Transportation Environmental Justice issues and other long-range planning issues through the SJV Blueprint and SJV Partnership processes – through workshops, meetings, surveys.

Goal 3: Promote preservation of our cultural heritage while adding certainty to the timely delivery of projects in the region by developing a Cultural Sensitivity Tribal Resource Map and protocol for tribal monitoring the Eight SJV Counties – through meetings, analysis, workshops and collaboration.

Goal 4: Explore the possibility of creating a tribal coalition for the region that could encourage streamlined participation of tribal nations in government planning and delivery of projects and services – through workshops and meetings.

This project will be lead by the tribal consultant and grant/contract managed by Kern Council of Governments. This is a two-year project with estimated costs of \$250,000. In-kind will be provided by Tribal governments while the eight Councils of Governments will be providing both a cash and in-kind match. In addition, expert knowledge of Tribal Leaders and Elders, Anthropologist, Archeologist and Environmental Justice Resources will be included in the project activities and workshops.

Documentation such as the project scope and contract can be provided by contacting Todd Sobrado at Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148.

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM III. F.

2009 One Voice
Proposed Projects
Updated: 10/29/2008

2008 Finals	Name of Project	Project Description	Project Location	Total Request	Applicant	Contact Person/Presenter	Presentation Time
✓	State Route 180 - Temperance to Academy Ave.	Completion of construction of the segment of SR 180 from Temperance to Academy	Southeast Fresno County	\$3,000,000	Fresno COG (City of Sanger) Fresno COG	John F. Mulligan 876-6300 X1210 - jmulligan@ci.sanger.ca.us	1:20
✓	Highway 269 Bridge Project	Build a 500 foot bridge across the Arroyo Pasajero Creek	City of Huron	\$1,500,000	(I-5 Business Dev. Corridor)	Richard Fosse - 855-6850, ref12@fresno.com Lynn Gorman, 262-4091, lgorman@co.fresno.ca.us	1:30
✓	Golden State Corridor Ec. Dev. Infrastructure Improvements	Roadway rehab., improvements and enhancements to facilitate economic development.	G.S.Blvd. through Kingsburg, Selma, Fowler, and portions of Fresno Co.	\$3,000,000	Fresno COG (Fresno County Public Works)	Fowler: Randy Deaver 834-3113 Kingsburg: Don Pauley 897-5821 Selma DB Heusser 891-2200	1:40
✓	Recycled Water System Infrastructure System - Phase D	Complete build-out of main water transmission lines. Developed in 5 phases - Total Cost - \$35M	City of Clovis	\$1,500,000 - Phase D	City of Clovis	Kathy Millison 324-2074, kathym@cityofclovis.com	1:50
✓	Veteran's Boulevard	Diagonal connection between Herndon Ave. and Grantland in NW Fresno	NW area of City of Fresno	\$3,000,000	City of Fresno Public Works	Bruce Rudd 621-7770 bruce.rudd@fresno.gov	2:00
✓	Manning Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.	Manning Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.	Manning Avenue entrance to Reedley over the Kings River	FY2009/10 for PE & RW; \$3,000,000 FY2010/11 Construction	City of Reedley Public Works	Rocky Rogers - 637-4200 ext. 213, rocky.rogers@reedley.com Dana Ritschel dana.ritschel@reedley.com	2:10
✓	NEVER GIVE UP - Fresno County Gang Prevention Initiative	Institute first step of countywide Gang Prevention Initiative proposing to increase concentration of fluoride ions in drinking water to reduce incidence of tooth decay	Cities and unincorporated areas of Fresno County, CA	\$3,000,000 OVER 3 YEARS	Fresno County	Jeanette Ishii - 488-1710 jishii@co.fresno.ca.us	2:20
	Fresno County Fluoridation Project		County of Fresno	\$1,000,000	First 5 Fresno County County of	Rafael Trujillo: Kendra Rogers 241- 7444, 241-6516 rtrujillo@first5fresno.org; krogers@first5fresno.org	2:30
	Regional Data Interoperability Project	provide true interoperability between regional law enforcement, ambulance and fire by adding data compilation	County of Fresno	\$3,000,000- could be tailored to spread across additional years	Fresno - Administrative office/ Information Technology Services Dept.	Gary Osmondson 494-3255 gosmondson@co.fresno.ca.us	2:40

Updated: 10/29/2008

[illegible]

ONE VOICE 2009 PROJECT SCORE/RANKING

RANK		TOTAL SCORE	\$ REQUEST	Congressional District
1	State Route 180 - Temperance to Academy Ave.	29.3750	\$3.00 M	21
2	Fresno Yosemite International Airport	29.3590	Support*	21
3	Air Quality Enterprise/ Empowerment Zone Designation	29.0238	Support*	18, 19,20,21
4	Fresno County Gang Prevention Initiative	28.5958	\$3.00 M	20,21
5	Golden State Corridor Ec. Dev. Infrastructure	28.5882	\$3.00 M	19,20,21
6	Veteran's Boulevard	26.5882	\$3.00 M	19
7	Recycled Water Master Plan System - Phase C	26.1176	\$1.50 M	21
8	Regional Data Interoperability Project	25.8000	\$3.50 M	18,19,20,21
9	Manning Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	24.8750	\$.50 M	21
10	Highway 269 Bridge Project	18.2500	\$1.50 M	20
11	Fresno County Fluoridation Project	12.3791	\$1.00 M	21
#N/A	FHA SAFETEA-LU Rural roads and Rehabilitation			
#N/A	FHA SAFETEA-LU - State Route 99 Improvements			
#N/A	FHA SAFETEA-LU - State Route 180 Improvements			
#N/A	FHA SAFETEA-LU - Priorities and Principles			

* No money is requested for these projects. The request is for support of the project or the support for the restoration of project funding.

Fresno COG "One Voice" ~ 2009 Recommended Regional Priorities

Project/Bill/Account	Project Description	Project Location	Congressional District	Total Request	Requesting Agency
State Route 180 - Temperance to Academy Ave. THUD (STP)	Completion of construction of the segment of SR 180 from Temperance to Academy	Southeast Fresno County	21	\$3M	Fresno COG
Never Give Up - Fresno County Gang Prevention Initiative Justice: Commerce, Justice, Science	Institute first step of countywide Gang Prevention Initiative	Countywide	18, 19, 20, 21	\$3M	County of Fresno
Golden State Corridor Economic Development Infrastructure THUD (TCSP)	Roadway rehabilitation, improvements and enhancements to facilitate economic development.	Golden State Boulevard through Kingsburg, Selma, Fowler, and portions of Fresno Co.	20, 21	\$3M	Fresno COG
Veterans Boulevard THUD (STP)	Diagonal connection between Herndon Ave. and Grantland in NW Fresno	NW area of City of Fresno	19	\$3M	City of Fresno
Recycled Water Master Plan System – Phase C Interior (EPA-STAG)	Complete build-out of main water transmission lines. Developed in 5 phases – Total Cost - \$35 million	City of Clovis	21	\$1.5M	City of Clovis
Regional Data Interoperability Project	provide true interoperability between regional law enforcement, ambulance and fire by adding data compilation	Fresno County	18, 20, 21	\$3.5M	Fresno County
Manning Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. THUD (TCSP)	Manning Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.	Manning Avenue entrance to Reedley over the Kings River	21	\$500,000	City of Reedley
Highway 269 Bridge Project THUD (STP)	Build a 500 foot bridge across the Arroyo Pasajero Creek	Near the City of Huron	20	\$1.5M	Fresno COG

Fresno COG "One Voice" 2009 Policy Priorities

Priority	Policy	Requesting Agency
Fresno Yosemite International Airport DHS (Authorization)	Establish FYI as an international Port of Entry (POE) with the US Dept. of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP)	Fresno Yosemite International Airport
Air Quality Enterprise/ Empowerment Zone Designation Federal Tax Legislation (Authorization)	Establishment of new designation	County of Fresno

LIST WILL GO TO THE FRESNO COG POLICY BOARD FOR FINAL APPROVAL ON NOVEMBER 20, 2008

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM III. G.

May 22, 2008

To: Fresno COG Policy Board

From: Barbara Steck, Senior Transportation Planner
Fresno COG Blueprint Project Manager

Re: Fresno COG's Blueprint Concept: "Highly Connected City Centers"

This is an update following the Blueprint Roundtable's technical subcommittee meeting of May 14, 2008. At that meeting, the subcommittee met to refine the Blueprint elements outlined at the Blueprint Roundtable's workshop on May 1st. During the May 1st meeting, the committee had reached consensus on a hybrid concept that borrowed elements from several scenarios, but was based on Scenario E's Metro Rural Loop transportation network. The Roundtable is recommending that the COG Policy Board submit this hybrid to U.C. Davis as Fresno COG's Preferred Blueprint Concept that will be included in the Valleywide analysis. Knowing that the concept still needs to be modified a bit, time and budget suggest that we forward it as is to U.C. Davis with the caveat that specific elements be "tweaked" during the Valleywide modeling runs.

The elements of *Fresno COG's Preferred Blueprint Concept* note that:

- It borrows from other proposed scenarios.
- It is based on a high capacity, multi-modal transportation network that provides connectivity throughout the region. The transportation system includes east-west transportation corridors connecting to Interstate 5.
- Overall, new growth between now and 2050 will average 8 dwelling units/acre. Growth priority will be to existing cities and planned development areas (recognizing the growth needs of smaller communities). It will involve infill development, redevelopment (at levels somewhere between those projected in Scenarios C and E [or averaging 983 units per year countywide]), and greenfield development.
- This scenario allows for growth to meet regional housing needs and general plan growth areas, consistent with the smart growth principles of Diversity, Density, Design and Destination (adjusting allocations to deal with RHNA and future adopted General Plans). (This does not preclude expansion of spheres of influence under certain circumstances that include smart growth principles.)
- It would discourage, but not prohibit, growth on strategic farmland and resource conservation/open space land. (Strategic farmland maps will be provided as part of the Blueprint toolbox.)
- It will provide for employment centers to serve the west side of Fresno County either along the I-5 Corridor or other appropriate locations.
- It will require collaborative planning in order to ensure that policies are in place for planned, orderly growth within planned growth areas while allowing flexibility in meeting the performance goals.
- It will allow some flexibility in allocating growth, but in a manner that will ensure acceptable performance outcomes.

A principal objective of the preferred scenario is competitive economic development. Job growth should be balanced with housing growth in order to reduce VMT (vehicle miles traveled), and should include appropriate job growth for west side cities.

The attachment shows the modeling assumptions of the "Scenario E - Metro Rural Loop". In an effort not to "reinvent the wheel", staff suggests using the performance measures associated with this scenario to make the comparison with the "Scenario A - Current Trends" with Scenario E, which we will adapt to form the preferred hybrid concept. This will allow us to move forward with the process and forward Fresno's Preferred Blueprint concept on to U.C. Davis for Valleywide analysis. The elements listed above further define Fresno COG's Preferred Blueprint Concept. Specific edits to the Valleywide modeling of Fresno's submittal will capture those elements as well as include:

- Removing discouragement of Strategic Farmland within cities' SOI.
- Adjust redevelopment numbers to achieve annual countywide average of 983 units per year.
- Modify "Community Allocation Tiers" shown below to allow growth to be more evenly distributed throughout county. (This will require further discussion on how the tiers will be weighted.)

Staff and PAC recommend that the COG board submit the hybrid scenario to U.C. Davis with the elements and caveats mentioned above, with the understanding that these items will be included in the Valleywide modeling and that the Blueprint is still a work in progress