

SJV Blueprint ~ Fourth Year Tasks ~ Update

Note to Project Managers: Please comment / make suggestions on this list. Also – you are welcomed to participate directly on planning and carrying out any and all tasks. (Rev 1/6/2010)

- 1. Valleywide Blueprint Implementation Roadmap (Which will include former task #3 - Translate Valley Blueprint principles into local implementation strategies and develop local government commitment. It will also include former Task #2 - Toolkit for Implementation)**

Did not receive what we had hoped for from first RFP. Revised RFP was released on Dec. 1, 2009 with a scope change. Applications are due Jan 15, 2010. Selection Panel includes: Jesse Brown, Barbara Steck, Greg Gatzka, John Wright, Mike McCoy, Gordon Garry and Barry Hibbard. Interviews will be held (tentatively) on Jan 25, 2010 at Fresno COG.

- 2. Convene meetings with local officials to discuss funding challenges of local government (and related “fiscalization of land use”)**

The fiscalization issue referred to here stems from the unintended consequences of Prop 13 and how local government is now funded (often ‘zoning for dollars’). Our concern is that convening the fiscalization of land use discussions might result only in an academic exercise. A better approach to this task might be to track ‘California Forward’ and their efforts on governance and fiscal reform. (See <http://www.caforward.org/about/>.) The issue is far bigger than the SJV and really needs a statewide initiative in order to gain some traction.

- 3. Develop adequate modeling tools for compliance with SB 375 (Address new greenhouse gas directives [SB 375] as well as continuing to use adopted methods to measure the effectiveness of the Regional Blueprint Plan)**

The valley modelers have developed a short term and long term Model Improvement Plan (MIP) for meeting the requirements of SB375. The 8 valley MPOs applied to the Strategic Growth Council for \$2.5 million to assist in the model improvements. The Valley has been successful in its bid so that an RFP can now be issued to improve each of the valley models sensitivity to smart growth, implement the 4D process and develop a long range model improvement plan. The timing of the release of the RFP is dependant upon successfully obtaining the necessary funds.

- 4. Address the increasing of residential densities**

- a. Determine the impact of various development densities on the fiscal health of cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley. Develop a fiscal analysis tool to determine this.**
- b. Determine the market demand for higher density residential housing projects**

Mike Darnell of American Farmland Trust raised these issues (AFT has done similar studies). We are working with Ed Thompson, with input from the Valley BIAs, and should have a scope of work for both tasks during first quarter 2010.

- 5. Identify institutional barriers, such as lending practices that may inhibit Smart Growth initiatives from being fully realized. Investigate policies, regulations and laws that may hamper or impede these initiatives.**

This issue was raised by Jesse Brown after reading SF Chronicle article: “SF Buyers find it tough to get mortgages”. We have added this task to the 4th year list and have modified the budget accordingly.

- 6. Greenprint - incorporate Model Farmland Conservation Program mapping, that includes improved information on water resources into the Blueprint for each of the Valley Counties**

Fresno COG will take lead on outreach activities associated with this task once the model program has been endorsed in Fresno County. Currently, Fresno COG’s consultant is interviewing stakeholders. Working with AFT to develop Valleywide data.

- 7. Work with Central California EDCs and Partnership for SJV to address jobs/housing issue.**

Work on this task should reconvene in early 2010.

- 8. Continue Blueprint’s Valleywide presence by maintaining partnership with Great Valley Center for website oversight and production of one Valleywide Blueprint event**

Based on past work maintaining Valleywide website and production of one Executive Forum. Looking at late Spring 2010 as possible date for Executive Forum. Ongoing.

- 9. Continue extensive public outreach efforts as well as developing a Blueprint Awards Program for the Valley.**

All COGs continue with county level outreach. Initiated first annual Blueprint Awards program to recognize plans, programs and projects that exemplify and further the Blueprint’s Smart Growth principles. This year’s awards were presented at the awards luncheon at the Fall Policy Conference on October 2, 2009.