

Enclosure

Fact Sheet

San Joaquin Valley MPOs I-PLACE³S Pilot Project

Purpose: This project is the initial step in an overall effort to develop an I-PLACE3S application that represents the current conditions for the eight Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the San Joaquin (SJ) Valley, consisting of the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern. The GIS software tool I-PLACE3S facilitates scenario planning for integrated land use and transportation plans. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) developed I-PLACE3S as part of its award-winning Blueprint Plan (adopted in 2005). I-PLACE3S provides a web-based platform from which to communicate ideas, store data, and analyze potential outcomes of alternative growth scenarios.

Why: The I-PLACE3S web-based scenario planning tool can be used to conduct analyses of parcel-based geographies. The visual information and instant feedback that I-PLACE3S provides to participants makes it useful for workshops and meetings. I-PLACE³S enables planners and the public to evaluate several land use options and to objectively evaluate each scenario against quantifiable criteria. Scenario planning is more flexible and allows for more creativity than conventional planning, and can lead to solutions that are not initially obvious. Alternative development scenarios are compared to the “Base Case” to determine long term net change, while the “Base Case” represents how the community would be expected to develop if the current development trends remain unchanged.

How: SACOG, along with EcoInteractive (a private firm that currently provides computer services for I-PLACE3S), and UC Davis’ ULTRANS will partner to form an I-PLACE³S technical support team. This team will work directly with staff of the eight SJ Valley COGs to conduct training, identify and help load available GIS data into I-PLACE3S, set-up typical project “place types,” and provide other technical support to the COG staff. The role of EcoInteractive will be to provide robust access to the I-PLACE³S web service and to maintain the integrity and security of the system. UC Davis and SACOG staff will provide training and technical assistance in the use of I-PLACE3S so that the MPO staff can develop a “current conditions” dataset. The SJ Valley MPOs will contribute their staff time necessary to develop the data and receive training.

Products: This project will provide training and cooperative work sessions with staff of the 8 MPOs to:

- A. Provide training on I-PLACE³S data types, protocols, and procedures.
- B. Assess the applicability of data available for each of the eight SJ Valley counties.
- C. Develop a “current conditions” dataset for use in I-PLACE³S.
- D. Develop I-PLACE³S performance metrics based on available data as part of the validation process.

Project Amount: \$350,000.