



San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council

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December 3, 2010

To: Mike Dozier, Lead Executive
California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

From: Barbara Steck, Deputy Director, Fresno Council of Governments
Program Manager, San Joaquin Valley Blueprint

Re: Partnership Work Groups – Transportation & Land Use, Housing and Ag
(LUHA)

ACTION: Propose reorganization of Partnership Work Groups under Regional Policy Council management.

BACKGROUND: Some time back, the Partnership reassigned management of its Transportation Work Group from the Great Valley Center to the Valley COGs. Since that time, the Valley COG Directors suggested that the Land Use, Housing and Agriculture (LUHA) Work Group might also be better suited for Valley COG leadership since many of the work products are Blueprint related. The Partnership's Executive Committee concurred with this assessment; hence, the Valley COGs (Regional Planning Agencies) – working through the Regional Policy Council – have now assumed responsibility for both the Transportation and LUHA working groups. The timing is right for this kind of reorganization as the Partnership is in the midst of reporting 5th year progress on its Strategic Action Plan and the COGs will need to participate in this activity.

This memo proposes further restructuring at the Work Group level. Because the transportation planning agencies are well aware of the need to integrate land use and transportation planning, we suggest combining the work of the Transportation and LUHA work groups into a combined Sustainable Communities Planning Work Group. While the Partnership is hoping for more stakeholder involvement in the process, that should not be a problem as the COGs already work under extensive requisites for public participation in all the work we do. Formation of the Land Use/Transportation Work Group still leaves us with the need for a strategy for the H (housing) and A (Ag) of LUHA.

Housing might likely form its own work group as that element of LUHA has actually formed a 501c3 non-profit known as the *San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative* (with its own governing board). Further discussion reveals that Ag issues are already being addressed in several working groups: Land Use (preservation of Ag land), Housing (affordability and accessibility for agricultural workers) and Economic Development (Ag as economic base).

The Partnership's work groups are usually "convened" by its board members and "managed" by a staff person. I am suggesting that Ted Smalley, as our new representative to the Partnership Board, co-convene the task force with Barry Hibbard (convener of former LUHA work group). I am volunteering to serve as the staff "manager" for this effort as part of my SJV Blueprint coordination activities.

While I had submitted a suggested *Short Term Strategic Action Plan* to you to accompany this newly proposed work group structure, the Valley COG Directors would like more time to work on that document. We will present a revised work plan once the restructuring issue has been resolved by your Board.