



Community and Regional Planning Center

Since 2007, the Valley Planner's Network has provided a platform for networking, collaborating and engaging with your fellow planning professionals throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Over the years, the group has evolved as various projects and activities have moved through initiation and into completion. The Network remains committed to keeping planners involved in regional issues and providing a forum for connecting planning professionals.

Regional Planning Efforts

- SB 375 / SCS (Sustainable Communities Strategies)
SB 375 is California state law that became effective January 1, 2009. This new law requires California's Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regional reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and prompts the creation of regional plans to reduce emissions from vehicle use throughout the state. California's 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) have been tasked with creating "Sustainable Community Strategies" (SCS). The MPOs are required to develop the SCS through integrated land use and transportation planning and demonstrate an ability to attain the proposed reduction targets by 2020 and 2035.
- Prop 84 – Blueprint Integration (Circuit Planners)
The SJV Blueprint Integration Project is a valley-wide program funded through Prop 84 grant funds providing assistance to the 46 smaller cities (populations under 50,000) of the valley in integrating Blueprint principles into their general plans and other guidance documents. For those small cities that elect to participate, this program will provide local circuit planner technical assistance aimed at integrating the 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into their general plans and ordinances. The eight valley Regional Planning Agencies (with the Fresno COG acting as the project manager) have contracted with URS Corporation and their partners to act as the consultant team providing Blueprint Integration services to each city that elects to utilize the services of this program. Three local planning firms, all with excellent knowledge, reputations and experience working with and for communities throughout the Valley, will work with URS to identify the planning needs and desires of the interested cities and provide the hands-on assistance needed to integrate the selected principles into their various guidance documents. Upon completion, this work will be made available as templates through the Blueprint Planner's Toolkit (www.toolkit.valleyblueprint.org) adding to the clearinghouse of tools available to all communities throughout the Valley. For questions regarding Prop 84-Blueprint Integration activities, please contact Fresno COG Senior Regional Planner Rob Terry, who can be reached at rterry@fresnocog.org.
- Blueprint Planner's Toolkit (www.toolkit.valleyblueprint.org)
The Toolkit is an educational guide and reference source for communities who want to translate the 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into action. Launched in the Fall of 2010, the Planners Toolkit is an online source for California planning law and topical case studies, templates, and other resources. The

Toolkit is designed to evolve and expand over time as conditions change and new challenges emerge. To this end, the Toolkit enlists the ideas, experiences, and input of its users. Through its interactive interface the toolkit asks the user to critique and modify existing tools, request new tools, and recommend new case studies, templates, and other resources. The Toolkit is overseen by an Administrative & Maintenance Committee (AMEC) which includes city and county planning representatives from throughout the Valley, who consider input from the Peer Review Network (PRN); a group made up of both private and public individuals with focused areas of expertise who provide feedback for changes, additional tools and updates.

- Greenprint

The Greenprint Program, a counterpart to the Blueprint Program, is currently focusing on data collection, mapping and the description of opportunities and challenges for open space, water, farmland, habitat corridor preservation and urban/rural connections, which will culminate in a State of the Valley report. These tools will then be used to identify and evaluate resource management options and strategies to be published and disseminated as a Guide to Resource Management.

- Demographic Forecasting

The Valley Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) have recently contracted with a firm to develop demographic forecasts for the San Joaquin Valley, including each of the eight counties of the SJV, to assist in determining the impact of various development densities on the fiscal health of cities and counties in the Valley and identifying market demand for higher density residential housing projects associated with the Preferred Blueprint Growth Scenario. The provided demographics will also be used to formulate items such as Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) associated with SB 375 and to provide further cohesive insight to the RPAs and their member agencies regarding regional and local demographics for modeling and housing studies and allocation with updated projections that take into account the recent economic downturn. Draft numbers became available in February of 2012.

- Valley Goods Movement

The San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan will identify a future preferred goods movement system for the Valley implemented through a comprehensive interregional strategy. The planning effort is occurring over a 24 month period, which began in May 2011 and includes numerous stakeholders including the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, ports, private trucking industry, railroads, regional transportation agencies, the agricultural industry and others. The plan process has included such reporting efforts as existing conditions and industry specific profiles, and will culminate in a preferred goods movement system for the Valley.

- Fiscal Analysis Tool

The Valley RPAs are in the early stages of formulating a fiscal analysis tool intended to provide local governments with an excel-based tool that will allow for the fiscal impacts of plans and developments proposed within their community to be analyzed; showing the immediate and projected long-term revenues/costs associated with land use approvals. The contact for Fiscal Analysis Tool activities is Fresno COG Senior Regional Planner Rob Terry, who can be reached at rterry@fresnocog.org.