



San Diego's Regional Planning Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 28, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-03- 3-C
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of March 7, 2003

The Regional Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland). Committee members and alternates in attendance were Jack Feller (North County Coastal), Jill Greer (East County), Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego), Ron Roberts (County of San Diego), Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Patricia McCoy (South County), and Jerry Jones (East County). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Pedro Orso Delgado (Caltrans), Susanah Aguilera (Department of Defense), Leon Williams and Bob Emery (Metropolitan Transit Development Board), David Druker (North County Transit District), Bill Chopyk (San Diego Unified Port District), Bob Leiter (Regional Planning Technical Working Group), and Carol Bonomo (Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group). Also in attendance was Bernie Rhinerson, Chair of the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA).

1. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (INFORMATION)

Chair Holt Pfeiler welcomed the new Committee members.

CONSENT ITEMS

2. ACTIONS FROM THE JOINT MEETING BETWEEN REGIONAL PLANNING AND BORDERS COMMITTEES ON JANUARY 17, 2003 (INFORMATION)

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FROM JANUARY 24, 2003 SANDAG BOARD MEETING AND EXCERPT OF MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING (INFORMATION)

Supervisor Roberts pulled this item off of the Consent Agenda, expressing concern over the formation of a regional energy development regulatory authority. Councilmember Jones, who serves on the Regional Energy Policy Advisory Council (REPAC), responded that the region needs some sort of energy oversight group, but a number of steps still need to be taken before any kind of entity is formed.

4. SUMMARY OF SANDAG POLICY BOARD MEETING ON INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (IRIS) ON FEBRUARY 14, 2003 (INFORMATION)

5. PRELIMINARY DRAFT SHORELINE CHAPTER OF RCP (INFORMATION)

Action: The consent agenda was approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no public comments or communications.

7. REPORT ON REGIONAL PLANNING STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS (INFORMATION/ COMMENT)

- a. **Status Report on the Stakeholders Working Group (SWG):** At its December 2002 meeting, the Regional Planning Committee approved the membership of the Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group (SWG). The SWG consists of 25 people from throughout the region representing a variety of interests, including advocacy, agriculture, borders, building, business, environment, equity, housing, professional, redevelopment, transportation, and others. To date, the SWG has met twice. Most of their discussion has focused on the vision and core values, with comments on fiscal responsibility, better neighborhoods, energy self-sufficiency, health, and other topics. Councilmember Patty Davis, Chula Vista, serves as Chair of the SWG.
- b. **Introduction of Vice-Chair of SWG:** The SWG selected Carol Bonomo, Associate Vice-President of External Affairs of Cal State San Marcos, as its Vice-Chair. Ms. Bonomo introduced herself to the Regional Planning Committee. Together with Councilmember Davis, she will represent the SWG on the Regional Planning Committee.
- c. **Results of RCP Workshops to Date:** SANDAG has held five workshops on the RCP throughout the region. The purpose of the workshops has been to initiate a dialogue on the RCP with residents from throughout the region, and receive input on the proposed regional vision and core values. The workshops have been well-attended. A report on the Workshops will be submitted to the SANDAG Board at its March 28, 2003 meeting.

8. DRAFT OUTLINE OF WATER SUPPLY COMPONENT OF THE RCP (INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION)

Bernie Rhinerson, Chair of the San Diego County Water Authority, made a presentation on the proposed water supply outline for the RCP. The overall goal is to ensure a safe, sufficient, and reliable supply of water to meet the existing and future water needs of the San Diego region. Policies to meet the goal include (1) diversifying the region's water supplies through water recycling, seawater desalination, groundwater, and water transfers; (2) continuing aggressive implementation of water conservation measures through programs such as landscape audits, public information programs, and voucher programs for water-efficient equipment, ultra low flow toilets, and high efficiency washers; and (3) pursuing capital improvement programs to increase the reliability of the aqueduct system, complete the emergency storage project, provide adequate carryover storage, add treatment capacity to satisfy the region's treated water needs, and develop regional seawater desalination facilities.

The Committee responded with the following questions and comments:

- Where in South County is the CWA considering locating a desalination plant? *Mr. Rhinerson responded that the CWA is looking at co-locating a desalination plant with the energy plant in South Bay, but that the feasibility studies are in very early stages. It was noted that the South Bay power plant may move from where it is currently located.*
- What is the status of the water transfer with the Imperial Irrigation District? *The CWA remains cautiously optimistic; intense negotiations are continuing.*
- Given that desalination will provide a larger portion of the region's water supply, does the CWA have any projections of water costs over the next several decades? *Water costs will continue to increase, reflecting current trends. The preliminary capital costs for a potential desalination facility next to the Encina Power Plant in Carlsbad is approximately \$250 million, and the region is planning at least two plants, possibly three. These facility costs will, in turn, drive up the costs of water provision.*
- Will the cost of desalination be reduced over time? *Yes. The membrane technology is expensive, but North County is at the center of the technological improvements, providing the side benefit of providing good jobs. The membranes need to be replaced every 5 – 7 years, so desalination will require operation and maintenance costs, but it is expected that these will decrease over time.*
- From the RCP perspective, what should the region be considering in relation to water availability? *The region needs to continue to identify with accuracy how many people will be living and working in the region, and where. The CWA incorporates the local and regional plans into its planning for facilities and water purchases.*
- The CWA and its member agencies should avoid duplication of planning efforts on development and treatment of local supplies. *It is also important for the water supply reliability of the region that the local water agencies construct the projects that they have included in local and regional plans.*
- The projected percentage of recycled water as part of the overall water supply in 2020 seems low. Some cities, such as Poway, have invested heavily in the use of recycled water, and are having trouble securing enough of it. A greater focus should be placed on water treatment and the distribution of recycled water. *The best scenario is to place purple pipes into new developments at the outset, minimizing the costs for subsequent retrofitting. Purple pipes are the first step, but the next step is to insure infrastructure for inter-jurisdictional transmission of the recycled water.*

SANDAG and CWA staff will continue to work on the water supply element, and will present a draft chapter to the Committee in the Spring for formal action.

9. UPDATE ON HOUSING ISSUES (DISCUSSION)

Last August, the Committee was presented with a draft outline of the Housing Chapter of the RCP. The Housing Chapter will help define and improve the linkage between housing, transportation, land use, and urban form. A draft Housing Chapter will be brought to the Committee for consideration in June.

In the meantime, SANDAG is working on the regional housing needs determination and allocation process for the 2004 – 09 housing element cycle, which is a responsibility assigned to SANDAG by State housing element law. Members of the Regional Planning Technical

Working Group (planning directors) and the Regional Housing Task Force are working on determining how many housing units we need to plan for in the region and how to allocate them by jurisdiction and income category. SANDAG is working with Senator Denise Ducheny to pursue a 6 month extension of the housing element due date deadline to better coordinate this work with the RCP (SB 491). SANDAG is also working with Senator Ducheny to pursue an extension of the housing element self-certification pilot program and granting of full eligibility to self-certified jurisdictions for all state funds and programs (SB 492).

The Regional Planning Committee will be involved in making recommendations on the regional housing needs determination and allocation process, and affordable housing goals for self-certification.

Comments and questions included:

- Who serves on the Regional Housing Task Force? *Staff responded that the group consists of local elected officials, realtors, developers, housing advocates, non-profits, and housing staff members from local jurisdictions.*
- A self-certification bill for Santa Clara County has been introduced by Assemblymember Salinas (AB 980). Senator Ducheny will be at SANDAG's Executive Committee on March 14, 2003 to discuss the housing bills, and discuss mechanisms to strengthen the tie between self-certification and the RCP.

10. **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / SOCIAL EQUITY STRATEGY FOR RCP (DISCUSSION)**

A proposed approach was discussed for addressing environmental justice and social equity issues within the RCP. The approach combines outreach and analysis efforts as follows.

Outreach Efforts

1. RCP Workshops throughout the Region
2. Stakeholders Working Group (SWG)
3. Outreach to under-represented communities
4. Mini-grants to community-based organizations

Analysis Program

1. Identify populations based on 2030 population projections
2. Select performance measures
3. 2030 projections for the performance measures
4. Comparison analysis of impacts and benefits
5. Integrate results into the RCP

The following comments were made:

- The definition of environmental justice is important – it should not focus solely on environmental impacts of policies, but rather on social issues, such as location of jobs and associated resources.
- The Committee should consider a broader discussion of the performance measures (e.g., where transportation corridors are *vis a vis* where minority and low-income communities live). Also, SANDAG should bring this item to the SWG for its discussion.
- SANDAG needs to be proactive in terms of engaging underrepresented communities. This will be an increasingly important issue in the future.

- Water availability and purity could be an environmental justice issue, especially in East County where many residents who are dependent upon groundwater are losing that resource.
- Several Committee members requested copies of the map that showed areas with projected minority and low income populations in 2030.

11. ADJOURNMENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)

The next Regional Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2003 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at SANDAG.

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Executive Director