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Mayor, Escondido

Patty Davis, Vice Chair  
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Councilmember, Chula Vista

Jack Feller  
(Representing **North County Coastal**)  
Councilmember, Oceanside

Jill Greer  
(Representing **East County**)  
Councilmember, Lemon Grove

Jim Madaffer  
Councilmember, **City of San Diego**

Ron Roberts  
Board of Supervisors  
**County of San Diego**

## Alternates

Judy Ritter  
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Councilmember, Vista

Patricia McCoy  
(Representing **South County**)  
Councilmember, Imperial Beach

Maggie Houlihan  
(Representing **North County Coastal**)  
Deputy Mayor, Encinitas

Jerry Jones  
(Representing **East County**)  
Councilmember, Lemon Grove

Vacant  
**City of San Diego**

Bill Horn  
Supervisor, **County of San Diego**

## Advisory Members

Pedro Orso Delgado, **Caltrans**

Susanah Aguilera, **Department of Defense**

Leon Williams, **MTDB**

David Druker, **NCTD**

Mike Madigan, **San Diego County Water Authority**

Jess VanDeventer, **San Diego Unified Port District**

Bob Leiter, **Regional Planning Technical Working Group (TWG)**

Carol Bonomo, **Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group (SWG)**

Gary L. Gallegos  
Executive Director, **SANDAG**



# REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, April 4, 2003

12 noon - 2 p.m.

**SANDAG**

401 B Street, 7th Floor Conference Room  
San Diego, CA

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **VISION AND VALUES – FEEDBACK RECEIVED AND PROPOSED REVISIONS**
- **OUTLINE OF BORDERS CHAPTER**
- **SHORELINE COMPONENT**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ SOCIAL EQUITY**

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Regional Planning Committee provides oversight for the preparation and implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan that is based on the local general plans and regional plans and addresses interregional issues with surrounding counties and Mexico. The components of the plan could include: transportation, housing, environment (shoreline, open space, air, water quality, habitat), economy, regional infrastructure needs and financing as well as land use and design components of the regional growth management strategy. Recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the SANDAG Board of Directors for action.*

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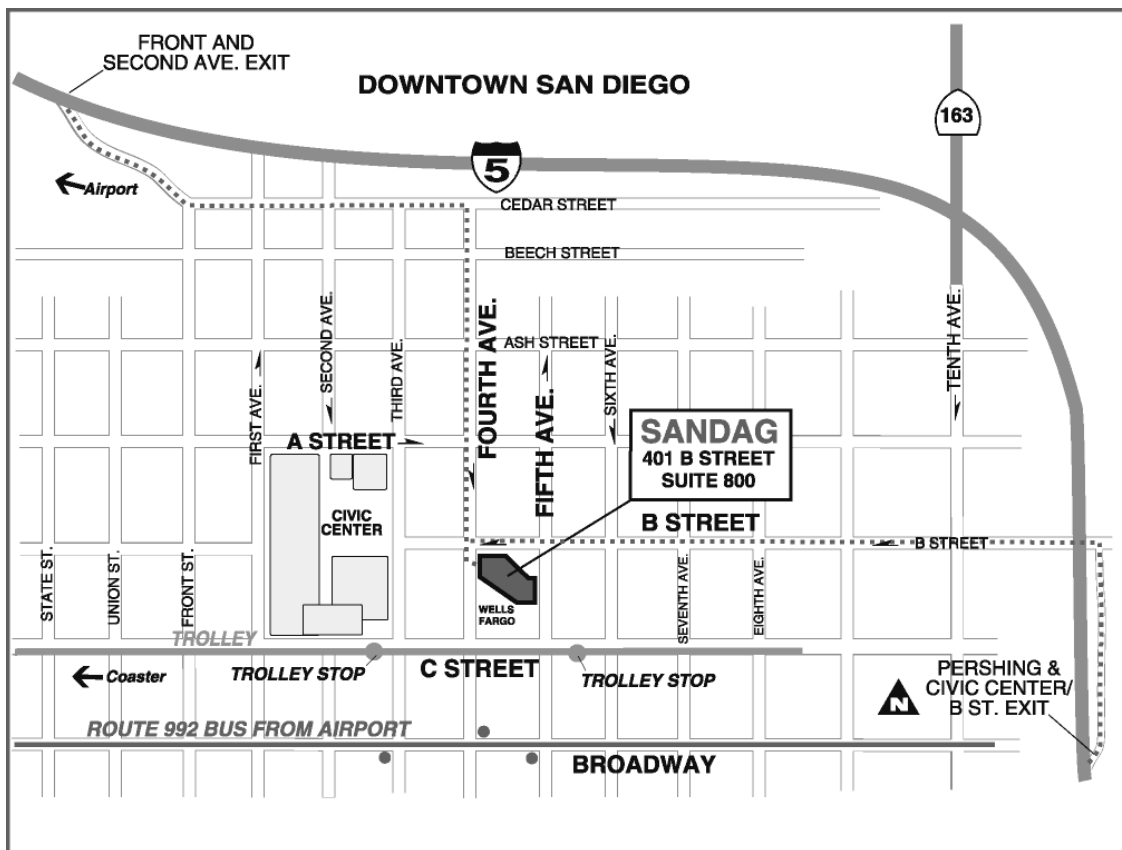


Welcome to SANDAG! Members of the public may speak to the Regional Planning Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker's Slip which is located in the rear of the room and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The Regional Planning Committee may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at [www.sandag.org/rcp](http://www.sandag.org/rcp) under Regional Planning Committee on SANDAG's Web site. Public comments regarding the agenda can be forwarded to SANDAG via the e-mail comment form also available on the Web site. E-mail comments should be received no later than noon, two days prior to the Regional Planning Committee meeting.

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# REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Friday, April 4, 2003

*The Regional Planning Committee may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.*

Staff Contact: Carolina Gregor, (619) 595-5399; cgr@sandag.org

ITEM #	ACTION
<b>CONSENT ITEMS (ITEMS 1- 2)</b>	
<i>The Regional Planning Committee will take action on the consent agenda without further discussion and with one vote unless an item is pulled by a Committee member or by a member of the public for comment.</i>	
+ 1. <b>ACTIONS FROM MARCH 7, 2003 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (pp. 5-9)</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
+ 2. <b>REPORT ON REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP) FROM MARCH 28, 2003 SANDAG BOARD MEETING (Carolina Gregor) (pp. 10-15)</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
Attached is a status report on the RCP that was presented to the SANDAG Board of Directors on March 28, 2003.	
<b>3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Regional Planning Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.	
<b>REPORTS</b>	
+ 4. <b>REGIONAL VISION AND CORE VALUES – FEEDBACK RECEIVED AND PROPOSED REVISIONS (Carolina Gregor) (pp. 16-21)</b>	<b>ACCEPT</b>
Based on input received by the public at the RCP Workshops, by the Regional Planning Technical and Stakeholders Working Groups, and via e-mail, staff is proposing a revised regional vision and core values. The Committee is asked to accept the proposed revisions, which will be incorporated into the draft Vision component of the RCP.	
+ 5. <b>DRAFT OUTLINE OF BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE RCP (Crystal Crawford, Chair of SANDAG's Borders Committee; Hector Vanegas, SANDAG Staff) (pp. 22-24)</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
The Borders Committee presents the attached draft outline of the Borders Chapter of the RCP. The outline reflects input by the Regional Planning Technical Working Group. The Stakeholders Working Group and the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) will provide comments at a later date. The Regional Planning Committee is requested to provide comments on the outline to the Borders Committee.	

<b>ITEM #</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p data-bbox="110 191 1120 220"><b>+ 6. DRAFT SHORELINE COMPONENT OF RCP (Steve Sachs) (pp. 25-29)</b></p> <p data-bbox="198 243 1177 451">Attached is a draft Shoreline Component of the RCP. The Shoreline Component will be included in the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter. Comments from SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation Committee and Regional Planning Technical Working Group have been incorporated. The Committee is requested to accept the Component for inclusion in the draft Healthy Ecosystems Chapter, which will be brought to the Committee this Spring.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>
<p data-bbox="110 495 1177 556"><b>+ 7. UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL EQUITY STRATEGY (Nan Valerio) (pp. 30-31)</b></p> <p data-bbox="198 579 1177 751">At its last meeting, the Regional Planning Committee discussed the proposed approach for addressing Environmental Justice and Social Equity issues within the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Several adjustments to the preliminary approach have been made, and have been discussed with the Regional Planning Technical and Stakeholders Working Groups. Attached is an update.</p>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<p data-bbox="134 795 714 825"><b>8. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p data-bbox="198 848 1177 1092">The next Regional Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for <b>Friday, May 2, 2003, from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. at the University of California San Diego (UCSD)</b>. UCSD has invited the Regional Planning Committee to host its next meeting at the Martin House and at the "VisCenter" (their 3-D Visualization Center) in order to exchange innovative ideas on regional planning, policy-making, science, and technology. A map and directions will be included in the next agenda packet. Please note the change of location and extended length of the meeting.</p>	<b>APPROVE</b>

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment



**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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MARCH 28, 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-03-14**  
**ACTION REQUESTED - INFORMATION**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE  
REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**What Happens When We Add Up Our  
Existing Local Plans and Policies?**

- ❖ **More urban sprawl, less open space.** Current plans would consume far more land than a smart growth development pattern would. Smart growth would emphasize additional redevelopment and infill rather than consumption of vacant land.
- ❖ **Fewer types of housing choices.** In general, most new development consists of single-family homes. On average, existing densities in the cities are relatively low, and planned densities on currently-vacant land are even lower. This pattern contributes to sprawl and limits our ability to develop an effective transit system.
- ❖ **Imbalance between housing and jobs.** Current plans allow for more growth in jobs than housing. This pushes up housing costs, leads to more (and longer) interregional and international commute trips, and can mean more persons per household. Additionally, residential areas are largely separated from job centers, contributing to more traffic and longer commutes.
- ❖ **Ineffective infrastructure financing.** Local governments compete against each other for sales tax revenues, generally resulting in a process that isolates and encourages commercial development, too few homes, and sprawl development patterns. Additionally, our infrastructure systems compete against each other for investment, without a regional framework to identify and implement our priorities.

**Introduction**

SANDAG currently is preparing a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) which will serve as a smart growth blueprint for land use, transportation, environment, and public investment decisions for the San Diego region. The work program calls for a Draft RCP by December 2003, and a final RCP by June 2004.

**Why We Need an RCP**

Collectively, our current local plans result in a number of impacts to our region's quality of life, such as consuming large amounts of undeveloped land and creating an imbalance between homes and jobs (See Box). The RCP will reach beyond our local policies and be more than just a compilation of existing plans — it will help us plan and prepare in advance, comprehensively, for our future growth and infrastructure needs.

Currently, various jurisdictions are updating their general plans. Many of them are pursuing smart growth in urban areas, and limiting development in rural areas. The RCP could assist these local efforts by rewarding jurisdictions that make or continue to make smart land use decisions. The RCP could provide the structure for linking local land use plans and infrastructure funding decisions in order to maximize infrastructure investments and implement smart growth.

Additionally, the RCP could address emerging issues along our county boundaries and our international border. Attached is the RCP Fact Sheet, which shows the draft components and structure of the RCP (Attachment 1).

## Decision-Making Context

SANDAG's Regional Planning Committee provides oversight for the preparation of the RCP. The Regional Planning Committee receives recommendations from two Working Groups: the *Regional Planning Technical Working Group* (the region's planning and community development directors), and the *Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group* (stakeholders appointed by the Committee last December). The Regional Planning Committee makes recommendations to the SANDAG Board.

## RCP Workshops

The RCP Work Program calls for an extensive public involvement program, including several rounds of subregional workshops on the RCP. The first round of workshops was held from January through March. Six workshops have been held throughout the region, and the last workshop will take place in Oceanside on March 25<sup>th</sup> for North County.

Attendance at the workshops by local elected officials and the public has been strong. The purpose of the workshops has been to initiate discussion with a wide variety of people throughout the region on the RCP, and to receive input on the draft regional vision and core values identified by the Regional Planning Committee. The vision and core values will serve as the foundation of the RCP.

Workshop participants provided a range of comments on the draft vision, varying from "just right" to "not bold enough," or "not reflective enough of the unique features of the San Diego region." Participants also commented on the regional core values, adding water availability, education, public health, citizen participation, natural topography, safe neighborhoods and schools, and cultural resources. Generally, across the workshops, participants were very well-informed, understood the interrelationships between the RCP components, and expressed general support for smart growth concepts.

The Stakeholders Working Group (SWG) also is providing input on the vision and core values. Input by the SWG and the workshop participants will be integrated into a revised version of the vision and core values. The Regional Planning Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors on these items in the future.

A verbal report will be made at the Board meeting on the results of the March 25<sup>th</sup> RCP Workshop hosted in Oceanside. Summaries of each workshop are posted on the Web site at [www.sandag.org/rcp](http://www.sandag.org/rcp).

## Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group (SWG)

As shown in Attachment 2, the SWG consists of a wide variety of interests. The SWG was formed in December 2002 by the Regional Planning Committee and held its first meeting in January 2003. Councilmember Patty Davis of Chula Vista serves as the Chair of the SWG, and Carol Bonomo of Cal State San Marcos serves as the Vice-Chair. To date, the SWG has focused most of its time discussing the regional vision and core values, emphasizing the need for fiscal responsibility, energy self-sufficiency, better neighborhoods, and public health as core values. The SWG meets monthly, and is anticipated to provide valuable input on concepts and chapters in the Plan.

## Work Accomplished to Date

The Regional Planning Committee has been meeting for almost one year. In that time, it has provided direction on the framework and organization of the Plan, as well as on policy actions that could be included in the various components. It has reviewed material and provided direction on the following topics:

- Vision, Core Values, & Regional Priorities
- Urban Form
- Housing
- Local Plans and Policies, Regional Growth Forecast

- Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS)
- Energy
- Borders
- Transportation
- Water Supply
- Shoreline Preservation
- Environmental Justice/Social Equity
- Public Involvement

**Expected Milestones**

The Board has called for a draft Regional Comprehensive Plan by December 2003 and a final RCP by June 2004 in order to coordinate the *TransNet* Extension efforts within the broader context of a regional plan. Additionally, the Board and other elected officials are calling for a strong tie between the RCP and our regional housing programs and state-mandated housing requirements. In order to meet these deadlines, the Regional Planning Committee and the Board will need to be prepared to meet the following key milestones during 2003:

- **Spring:** Draft Vision and Urban Form Components
- **Summer:** Draft Housing Chapter and Regional Share Goals; Draft Policies for Ecosystems, Borders, Economic Prosperity, Transportation, and Public Facilities Chapters

- **Fall:** Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS); Draft Self-Certification Goals
- **Winter:** Draft RCP; Final Regional Share and Self-Certification Goals

GARY L. GALLEGOS  
Executive Director

Attachments

Key Staff Contact: Carolina Gregor,  
(619) 595-5399; cgr@sandag.org

Funds are budgeted in Work Element #5.02



## REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- The RCP will help us define a regional vision and priorities, and then implement them.
- Public input is critical to the success of the Plan.
- An infrastructure needs assessment and a financing strategy will be important components of the plan.
- A draft is scheduled for release in December 2003, followed by a final RCP in June 2004.

## Our Vision. Our Future.

The San Diego region is a great place to live, work, and play. But we face a number of challenges... a serious housing crisis, congested roadways, and continuing sprawl into our rural areas.

SANDAG is dealing with these issues through the preparation of a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The RCP will help us define a regional vision and priorities, and then implement them.

As shown in the diagram on the back of this page, the RCP will focus on the interconnected issues of urban form, transportation, healthy ecosystems, our international and county borders, the economy, public facilities, and housing... and on improving these areas using smart growth strategies, an infrastructure needs assessment, and financing strategies.

Smart growth means limiting urban sprawl and improving our existing neighborhoods. It focuses future development away from our rural areas, and closer to existing and planned job centers, education and health institutions, and transportation corridors.

To date, more than 70 organizations, including all 18 cities and the county government, and hundreds of individuals in the region have signed on in support of smart growth.

With extensive input from the region's stakeholders, we believe that the RCP can result in:

- More transportation choices and less dependence on our cars;
- More walkable, mixed-use communities;
- Greater housing supply and housing affordability;
- A more protected environment; and
- Better preparation for the future.

### Getting involved

We need your involvement as we make critical decisions that affect our region's land use, transportation, the environment, housing, jobs, and the economy.

The first step is to visit our Web site at [www.sandag.org](http://www.sandag.org) for more information on the RCP, including meeting dates and times. Our Regional Planning Committee is currently meeting on a monthly basis. These public meetings allow for an exchange of ideas among elected officials, residents, and interest groups. We encourage your attendance.



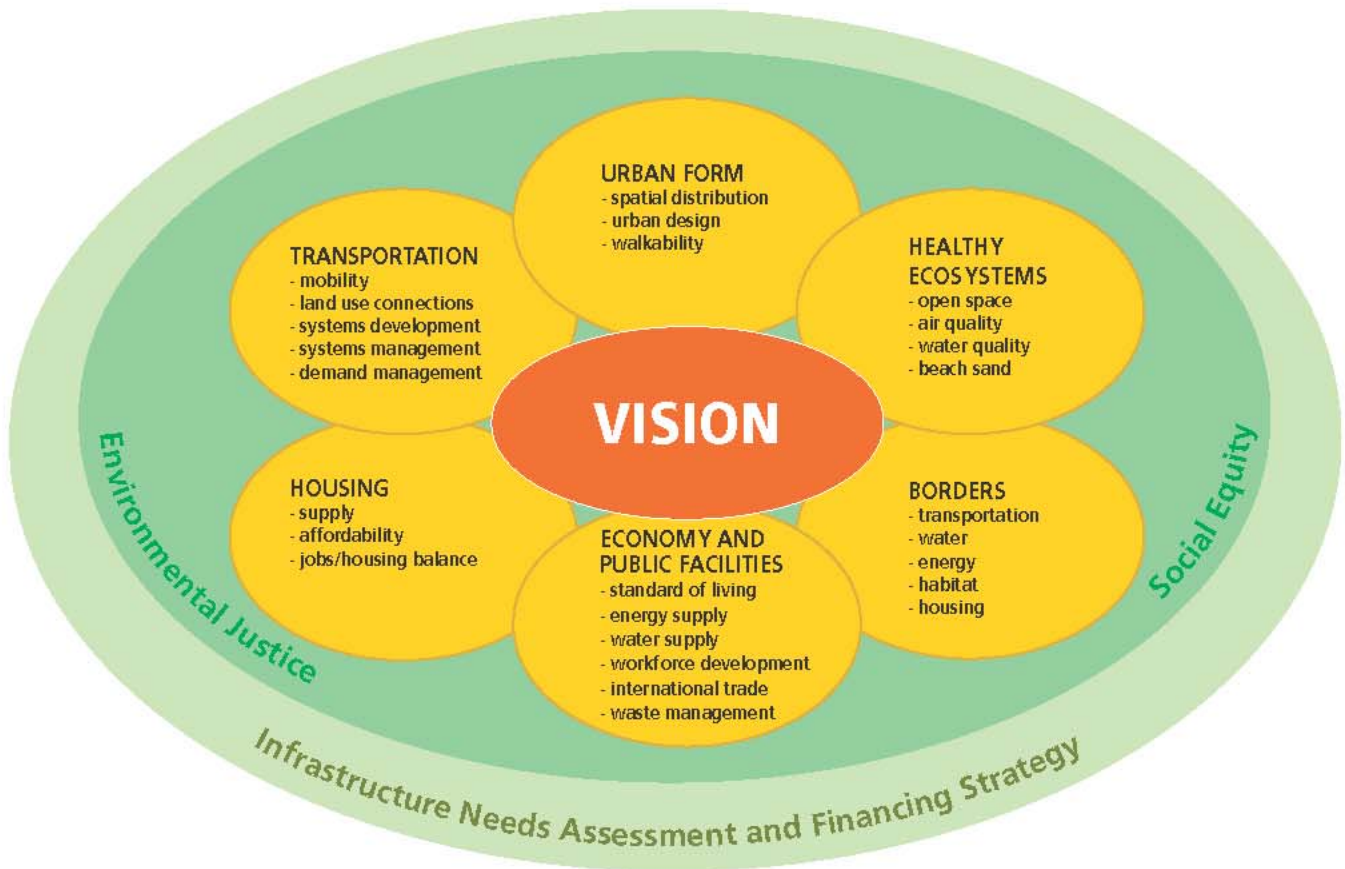
The next step is to contact us to be put on our newsletter list. This will keep you updated on the Plan's progress, and let you know about future activities and workshops. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list, contact SANDAG at 619-595-5347, or send an e-mail to [pio@sandag.org](mailto:pio@sandag.org).

### SANDAG

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# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN for the San Diego Region



Public involvement is critical throughout the planning process. You are invited to participate!  
Visit our Web site at [www.sandag.org](http://www.sandag.org)  
or contact us at (619) 595-5637 for more information on how you can get involved.



**MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL PLANNING STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP  
APPROVED BY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER 2002**

<p><b><u>Advocacy</u></b>  <i>Ramona Salisbury</i>, League of Women Voters, San Dieguito River Park Citizens Advisory Committee</p> <p><i>Deanna Spehn</i>, San Diego County Taxpayers Association, Quality of Life Coalition, San Diego Dialogue, The Nature Conservancy</p>	<p><b><u>Equity</u></b>  <i>Susan Carter-Robert</i>, All Congregations Together</p> <p><i>Rose Davis</i>, Indian Voices, Native American Advisory Board, Council of American Indian Organizations</p> <p><i>Paula Forbis</i>, Environmental Health Coalition</p>
<p><b><u>Agriculture</u></b>  <i>David Stepp</i>, San Diego County Farm Bureau</p>	<p><b><u>Housing</u></b>  <i>Tom Scott</i>, San Diego Housing Federation, San Diego Housing Coalition</p>
<p><b><u>Borders</u></b>  <i>Jaime Gonzalez-Luna</i>, Maquiladora Association, Tijuana Economic Development Council</p>	<p><b><u>Professional</u></b>  <i>Michael Stepner</i>, SD Economic Development Corporation, American Institute of Architects, C-3, San Diego Council of Design Professionals</p>
<p><b><u>Building</u></b>  <i>Brad Barnum</i>, Associated General Contractors, SD Regional Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><i>David Gatzke</i>, – Alliance for Habitat Conservation</p>	<p><b><u>Redevelopment/Infill</u></b>  <i>Claire Carpenter</i>, The El Cajon Collaborative, Cajon Valley Education Foundation, East County Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><i>Marco LiMandri</i>, New City America, Little Italy</p>
<p><b><u>Business/Economy</u></b>  <i>Dan Hom</i>, Asian Business Council, Chula Vista Planning Commission</p> <p><i>Harriet Stockwell</i>, East County Economic Development Council, El Cajon Women's Club</p>	<p><b><u>Transportation</u></b>  <i>Julianne Nygaard</i>, Citizen, Former City of Carlsbad Councilmember, Former Chair of NCTD</p> <p><i>Carolyn Chase</i>, SD Coalition for Transportation Choices, SD Earthworks</p>
<p><b><u>Environment</u></b>  <i>Janet Anderson</i>, Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council</p> <p><i>Lynne Baker</i>, Endangered Habitats League, Housing Action Network</p> <p><i>Wallace Tucker</i>, Fallbrook Land Conservancy, San Diego Land Conservancy Coalition, San Luis Rey Watershed Council</p>	<p><b><u>Other</u></b>  <i>Jim Bell</i>, Ecological Life Systems Institute, Mayor Murphy's Environmental Task Force, Regional Energy Advisory Committee</p> <p><i>Carol Bonomo</i>, Cal State San Marcos, SANDAG's I-15 Technical Working Group</p> <p><i>Marla Hollander</i>, Leadership for Active Living, San Diego State University</p> <p><i>Keith Pezzoli</i>, University of California San Diego (UCSD), Regional Workbench Consortium</p> <p><i>Dutch Van Dierendonck</i>, Ramona Community Planning Group, Past Participation in San Diego County's General Plan 2020 Steering Committee</p>

San Diego Association of Governments  
**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

April 4, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **4**

**Action Requested: ACCEPT**

REGIONAL VISION AND CORE VALUES --  
 FEEDBACK RECEIVED AND PROPOSED REVISIONS

At its December meeting, the Regional Planning Committee provided direction on a draft regional vision and core values to use as a starting point at the RCP Workshops. The regional vision and core values will serve as the foundation of the RCP.

The following tables show (1) the original vision and core values, (2) general comments received from the RCP Workshops, the Regional Planning Stakeholders and Technical Working Group meetings, and e-mail correspondence, and (3) proposed modifications based upon the comments and staff assessment.

**Recommendation**

The Regional Planning Committee is asked to accept the proposed revised regional vision and core values for incorporation into the Vision Component of the Plan, which will be presented to the Committee in draft form this spring.

**REGIONAL VISION**

ORIGINAL VISION	GENERAL COMMENTS	PROPOSED REVISED VISION
<p><i>"Make the San Diego region a better place to live, work, and play, with a healthy natural environment and an outstanding quality of life for everyone."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vague – Need to capture people's attention.</li> <li>▪ Make it more specific to San Diego, recognize uniqueness.</li> <li>▪ Should be more idealistic; doesn't need to be completely realistic.</li> <li>▪ Add "sustainability" and "innovative solutions."</li> <li>▪ Neither attainable nor affordable.</li> <li>▪ Replace "better" with "best."</li> <li>▪ Replace "better" with "a lot better."</li> <li>▪ Emphasize infrastructure as it relates to preventing sprawl.</li> <li>▪ Address long-term future needs vs. focus on present.</li> <li>▪ It is good – can stand alone.</li> <li>▪ Like that it includes a healthy natural environment.</li> <li>▪ Reflect beauty of the region.</li> <li>▪ Include a spiritual component.</li> <li>▪ Strive for most liveable, sustainable city.</li> </ul>	<p><i>"Preserve and enhance the San Diego region's unique features – its beaches, deserts, mountains, lagoons, bluffs, and canyons, its vibrant and culturally-diverse communities, and its international setting – and promote sustainability and an outstanding quality of life for everyone."</i></p>



## REGIONAL CORE VALUES

	ORIGINAL	GENERAL COMMENTS	PROPOSED REVISED CORE VALUES
A.	<b>Cultural Diversity:</b> Unique place to live, embracing cultural diversity and promoting healthy relationships with our neighboring counties and Mexico.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does cultural diversity include cultural resources, such as the arts?</li> <li>▪ Does it include ethnic diversity?</li> </ul>	<b>A. Cultural Diversity and Resources:</b> Maintain the uniqueness of the region as an international border community, embracing ethnic and cultural diversity and promoting a wide variety of cultural resources.
B.	<b>Reduce Sprawl:</b> Focus future development and redevelopment in our existing communities to reduce urban sprawl and preserve rural and agricultural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing sprawl is not a value; preserving and retaining open space is the value.</li> <li>▪ Reducing sprawl is not strong enough; the value should be to eliminate sprawl.</li> <li>▪ Sprawl is causing environmental and transportation problems.</li> <li>▪ We can't reduce sprawl because of our general growth patterns.</li> <li>▪ Land owners have fundamental property rights.</li> <li>▪ The only way to deal with sprawl is to provide more effective transportation choices.</li> <li>▪ Unless you have housing for all income levels, you will have sprawl. We need a full mix of housing in areas with a lot of jobs.</li> </ul>	<b>B. Livable Neighborhoods:</b> Create livable, walkable, safe, and healthy neighborhoods that include a mix of housing, parks, schools, jobs, health care facilities, and shopping opportunities. Provide a variety of housing and transportation choices at various price ranges. Preserve and maintain our open spaces and agricultural areas.
C.	<b>Mix of Land Uses:</b> Attractive communities mixing housing, parks, schools, jobs, and shopping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mixing land uses helps to reduce sprawl, and reducing sprawl helps the environment.</li> <li>▪ The primary cause for all of our symptoms is sprawl.</li> <li>▪ A thriving village center concept is what we should be striving for.</li> <li>▪ Creating livable neighborhoods is a better description of what we are trying to achieve.</li> <li>▪ Agriculture is a land use.</li> <li>▪ Energy self-sufficiency should be included.</li> </ul>	

D.	<p><b>More Housing Choices:</b> More apartments, condominiums, and single-family homes in all price ranges and closer to jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our children can't find affordable housing.</li> <li>▪ The discussion is really about how much or little we want to grow.</li> <li>▪ We are missing housing for young people and empty nesters.</li> <li>▪ Affordable housing is impossible.</li> <li>▪ Some people are living below the poverty line – rents are very high.</li> <li>▪ Government should lessen its role in housing and allow the building industry to take care of it.</li> <li>▪ The government needs to be involved in addressing the housing crisis and strengthening the nexus between housing, jobs, and public transit.</li> <li>▪ More housing doesn't equal affordable housing.</li> <li>▪ We need to recognize the housing supply shortage and push governments to ensure adequate land supply.</li> <li>▪ Demographically, what housing mix would best serve the projected population mix?</li> <li>▪ Provide developers with incentives for good infill housing, and provide buyers in those areas with incentives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>C. More Housing Choices:</b> Provide more opportunities for apartments, condominiums, and single-family homes in all price ranges and closer to jobs and transit.</p>
E.	<p><b>More Transportation Choices:</b> A transportation system that better links our jobs and homes, provides more transit, walking, and biking opportunities, and efficiently transports cargo and goods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The ability to move around is central to everything.</li> <li>▪ We need to look at the affordability of our transportation choices.</li> <li>▪ Convenience and timeliness of public transit are important.</li> <li>▪ Should say "better links jobs and transit."</li> <li>▪ Need to link communities and economic centers.</li> <li>▪ Need to link major origins and destinations, not just jobs and homes.</li> <li>▪ Need to provide transportation for people of all ages and abilities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>D. More Transportation Choices:</b> Provide a transportation system that better links our jobs, homes, and other major activity centers; ensures more transit, walking, and biking opportunities; efficiently transports people and goods; and provides effective transportation options for people of all ages and abilities.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus on transportation systems that are healthy to our environment.</li> <li>▪ Redesign communities so that they are not served just by the car.</li> <li>▪ Do not spend money to widen any more roads.</li> <li>▪ Tax those who drive their cars where public transportation is available.</li> </ul>	
F.	<p><b>Healthy Environment:</b> Healthy ecosystems. Clean water and air. Open space and habitat conservation systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We need a healthy environment.</li> <li>▪ Health of the coastline is important to tourism.</li> <li>▪ An unhealthy environment makes people sick, and it takes money to support ill people.</li> <li>▪ We need to preserve our natural topography.</li> <li>▪ All of our issues are driven by a healthy environment, and are dependent upon a healthy environment</li> <li>▪ We are getting to be too many; we're losing our healthy environment</li> <li>▪ This core value is just right.</li> <li>▪ Add "soil" to "clean water and air."</li> <li>▪ Reflect a healthy built environment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>E. Healthy Environment:</b> Strive for a sustainable region. Promote healthy ecosystems and a healthy built environment. Ensure clean water, air, soils, water bodies, and coastlines. Protect our open space and habitat conservation systems, and preserve our natural topography.</p>
G.	<p><b>Jobs and Educated Work Force:</b> Variety of jobs with competitive wages and an educated workforce to meet the demand for these jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beyond the environment, schools represent the future of our society.</li> <li>▪ Education goes a long way toward solving other issues.</li> <li>▪ We need an educated workforce to support our economy.</li> <li>▪ We need to increase education efforts in minority communities.</li> <li>▪ Schools are overcrowded</li> <li>▪ Language barriers need to be addressed.</li> <li>▪ "Competitive" wages are not necessarily "living" wages.</li> <li>▪ Focus on the local workforce.</li> <li>▪ Attract industries that don't pollute the environment or the workers.</li> <li>▪ Focus on a robust economy, with secure, balanced jobs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>F. Jobs and Educated Work Force:</b> Attract and retain a variety of jobs with competitive wages, and educate the local workforce to meet the demand for these jobs.</p>

H.	<p><b>Infrastructure Systems that Work:</b> Improved infrastructure systems that work for all residents in the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We need more recreational space.</li> <li>▪ Promote self-sufficiency in the areas of energy, water, and food supplies.</li> <li>▪ Promote shared infrastructure systems (ex. A fire station between two cities that both can use).</li> <li>▪ Highways and roads are important infrastructure systems.</li> <li>▪ Regional information systems are important – they provide access to knowledge.</li> <li>▪ Correct existing infrastructure problems; don't just look at new.</li> </ul>	<p><b>G. Infrastructure Systems that Work:</b> Provide infrastructure systems in both existing and new communities that work for all residents in the region. Strive for energy self-sufficiency.</p>
I.	<p><b>Intergovernmental Coordination:</b> Planning and coordination with our Native American Tribal governments, our neighboring counties, Mexico, and our military communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This value needs to reflect commitment by the cities and the County to cooperate with one another and implement regional planning.</li> <li>▪ Change to "Interjurisdictional Coordination."</li> <li>▪ Cities and special districts are left out.</li> <li>▪ Important to coordinate with tribes.</li> <li>▪ Include Homeland Security; make our region less vulnerable to terrorism and natural disasters.</li> </ul>	<p><b>H. Intergovernmental Coordination:</b> Enhance planning and coordination among local jurisdictions within the region, and with our Native American Tribal governments, our neighboring counties, Mexico, and our military communities.</p>
J.	<p><b>Other:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water availability is critical; we need to protect and conserve our existing resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>I. Water Availability:</b> Ensure a diverse water supply that meets the region's present and future water needs, respects the environment, and emphasizes water conservation and re-use.</p>
K.	<p><b>Other:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We need to encourage more citizens to participate in the decision-making process</li> <li>▪ More outreach to local communities and under-represented groups is needed</li> <li>▪ We need more ethnic diversity in the planning process.</li> </ul>	<p><b>J. Citizen Participation in the Planning Process:</b> Promote broader participation in the planning process and the allocation of resources.</p>
L.	<p><b>Other:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Responsibility should be a value. We should allocate public dollars to localities as an incentive to meet the values.</li> </ul>	<p><b>See Value J.</b></p>

M.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comprehensive healthcare; public health.</li> </ul>	<b>See Value B.</b>
N.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safe Neighborhoods and Schools</li> <li>▪ Parents drive their kids to school even in walkable neighborhoods.</li> <li>▪ Focus on safety at K-12 schools.</li> </ul>	<b>Schools as Community Assets:</b> Provide good, safe schools for our children, that provide a quality education and can serve as focal points for our neighborhoods.
O.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universal Design</li> </ul>	<b>See Values B and D.</b>
P.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Architectural Quality</li> </ul>	<b>See Value B.</b>
Q.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strict Code Enforcement</li> </ul>	<b>See Value B.</b>
R.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supporting Neighborhoods</li> </ul>	<b>See Value B.</b>
S.	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainability</li> </ul>	<b>See Vision, and Values B, D, E, F, I, and J.</b>

San Diego Association of Governments  
**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

April 4, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **5**

**Action Requested: COMMENT**

**DRAFT OUTLINE OF BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE RCP**

The Borders Committee presents the following draft outline of the Borders Chapter of the RCP. The outline is based upon an existing structure developed for all chapters of the RCP.

The Borders Committee discussed the outline at their last meeting, and provided direction on key components of the chapter. The outline also reflects input by the Regional Planning Technical Working Group. Additionally, the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO) and the Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group (SWG) will provide their comments.

The Borders Chapter is unique in that it addresses a variety of issues that will also be addressed in individual RCP Chapters. The Borders Chapter recognizes the international border as a unique, defining element of the San Diego region, and thus distinguishes it from our interregional borders with Riverside, Imperial, and Orange Counties. The Chapter addresses transportation, housing, infrastructure, and environmental issues from the borders perspective, building upon policies in the related chapters.

**Recommendation**

The Regional Planning Committee is asked to provide comments on the following outline to the Borders Committee.

**1. Issue Statement**

Overall discussion of the following:

- Importance of binational and interregional planning and coordination
- Building and maintaining strong relationships, information sharing
- Importance of interregional infrastructure and consideration of interregional impacts
- Considering national security
- Coordination with tribal governments

Make distinctions between:

- Interregional planning
- Binational planning

**2. Policies, Principles and Goals**

*Overall Principles (Core Values):*

1. Our region will pursue fair and equitable planning with consideration for interregional impacts and will maintain active and honest communication with our neighboring counties and the Republic of Mexico.

2. Our region will promote shared infrastructure, an efficient transportation system, integrated environmental planning and economic development with our neighboring counties and the Republic of Mexico.
3. Our region is a unique and dynamic place to live, which embraces cultural diversity, promotes interregional understanding, and benefits from our varied history and experience.

Overall Goals:

- To strengthen the ongoing relationship between governments and stakeholders from the surrounding regions.
- To develop formal mechanisms for interregional infrastructure development and financing.
- To consider the potential environmental, economic and social impacts that land use and transportation decisions may have upon our quality of life and that of our neighboring regions.

Specific Goals:

*Jobs/Housing Balance*

- Implement land use strategies to increase the San Diego region's housing capacity and which would be consistent with smart growth principles.
- Develop and implement strategies and policy recommendations that will reduce the demand for long-distance interregional commuting.

*Transportation*

- Complete major capital improvements along key trade corridors and interregional commuting corridors.
- Increase use of smart technologies at the Ports of Entry.

*Energy*

- Develop formal mechanisms ("rules of the game") for energy development in the Southern California/Northern Baja California region.
- Increase amount of energy produced through environmentally sustainable technologies.

*Environment*

- Pursue interregional habitat corridor planning.
- Develop a system to recognize binational airsheds.

*Water*

- Pursue diversification of local water supply to reduce dependency on imported water.

*Economic Development*

- Support economic development efforts along the border regions.

*National Security*

- Implement national security measures while protecting the Baja California/San Diego region quality of life.

### **3. Description of Interrelated Issues**

*Interregional*

- Jobs/Housing Balance
  - w/ Riverside County
  - w/ Imperial County

- w/ Orange County
- Transportation
  - Interregional congestion management- impact of jobs/housing imbalance
  - Key Domestic/International Trade Corridor Interregional Connections (5/805-15 & 8/905)
  - Multi-modal issues (SD&AE Railroad, California High Speed Rail, Maritime ports)
- Water Supply
  - CWA/MWD Connection
  - IID transfer
- Energy
  - Riverside transmission lines
- Environment
  - Habitat corridor planning (including hiking trails)
- Economic Development
  - Developing a strong Imperial economy

***Binational***

- Jobs/Housing Balance
  - w/Mexico
- Transportation
  - Key Domestic/International Trade Corridors (5/805-15 & 8/905)
  - Ports of Entry (including pedestrians and bikes)
  - Jobs/housing imbalance impacts on Ports of Entry & Economy
  - Multi-modal issues (SD&AE Railroad, Maritime ports)
- Water Supply
  - Emergency connection with Mexico
  - Parallel Conveyance/water reliability in Mexico
- Energy
  - Imperial/Mexico
  - Air Quality impacts
- Environment
  - Water Quality/Tijuana Watershed issues
  - Air Quality/Imperial County
  - Habitat corridor planning
- Economic Development
  - Developing a strong Mexican economy
- National Security
  - Impacts on the San Diego/Tijuana region

**4. Actions and Implementation Responsibilities**

**5. Performance Measures**

**6. Infrastructure Needs**

**7. Environmental Justice and Social Equity**



San Diego Association of Governments  
**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

April 4, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **6**

**Action Requested: ACCEPT**

DRAFT SHORELINE COMPONENT OF RCP

**Recommendation**

The Regional Planning Committee is asked to accept the draft Shoreline Component for incorporation into the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter of the RCP. The Healthy Ecosystems Chapter will include the following topics: Shoreline, Water Quality, Air Quality, and Habitat. These components will be presented to the Committee this Spring as they are developed.

**I. ISSUE STATEMENT**

The San Diego region's Shoreline, in particular its beaches:

- Are an environmental resource of local, regional, statewide, and national significance; and an integral part of the area's ecosystem, interconnected with nearshore ocean, wetland habitats, and water quality.
- Are an important part of the local, regional, and state economies and a considerable source of revenue to local governments, the state, and the nation;
- Are a priceless recreational resource and a key part of the region's positive image and overall quality of life;
- Protect important public infrastructure such as parks, roads, and rail lines;
- Have experienced, and will continue to suffer serious beach erosion, thereby reducing, and eventually almost eliminating, all of the aforesaid benefits;
- Were the beneficiary of over 2 million cubic yards of clean, beach quality sand in 2001 as a result of SANDAG's successfully implemented Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP), the first regional scale beach restoration project on the West coast of the United States.; and
- Will require a continuing active management program featuring additional projects like the RBSP, and annual funding levels of around \$7.5 million over the next decade or more to restore and maintain the severe sand deficit along the region's coastline.

**II. INTERRELATED ISSUES**

**Relationship to Other RCP Chapters and Topics**

- It is estimated that the region's beaches generate close to \$1 billion in visitor expenditures annually. Local government revenues associated with these expenditures are estimated at

almost \$40 million annually. This infusion of income from outside makes beach tourism a very valuable basic industry for our area. The region's strategy for economic prosperity is in no small part dependent on our beaches, and their preservation and improvement should be part of it.

- The region's beaches are integrally connected to the other important environments of our watersheds, including rivers and creeks, lagoons and wetlands. Sand flows with water through watercourses and wetlands to the coast, creating our beaches. The quality of our riparian, wetland, and beach habitats is therefore closely linked. Development of the region's coastal plain, mesas and foothills over the past century has drastically cut the supply of sand reaching the beaches, and resulted in the deterioration of the quality of these environments and the water flowing through them. Preserving and improving these environments must be approached comprehensively.
- Water quality in the region's waterways, wetlands, and urban drainage systems affects, and is affected by, our beaches. Polluted water from these sources reaches beaches and results in public health hazards, particularly at times of high rainfall and runoff. As sand moves along the coast, it can restrict tidal flow in wetlands and adversely affect water quality. Integrated management of these water quality issues is essential.
- Similarly, beach and rocky shoreline provide unique and high value habitats, and share close connections with valuable nearshore ocean and wetland habitats. Shoreline management actions must also consider and be integrated with effects to preserve and improve these related ecosystems.
- Shoreline Management is one of the issues addressed in the Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS) portion of the RCP. The Infrastructure Needs section of this chapter (Section IV) is a summary of the IRIS Shoreline evaluation.

### **Interregional Aspects**

- Beaches are an important factor in the region's economy. They are a key supporting aspect to virtually all of the region's tourism. In addition, beach visitors have a direct economic impact worth hundreds of millions of dollars per year in spending in the region. Up to one-half of this comes from visitors from other parts of the state and nation and foreign visitors.
- Beaches at both the northern and southern end of the region are part of the coastal systems of southern Orange County (connected to the Camp Pendleton to the La Jolla Coastal System) and northern Baja California (connected to the Coronado/Imperial Beach shorelines). Management activities undertaken in these areas should be coordinated through SANDAG's Borders Committee and Shoreline Preservation Committee.
- As the number one recreational destination in the region, and in the context of a national and global economy whose trends show steady increases in recreational demand, beaches should be viewed as one of the region's transportation access priorities. We not only need to make sure our beaches are wide enough and adjacent waters clean enough to accommodate this high demand, we need to focus more attention on providing reasonable ways to travel to the beach. In some cases, regional transportation initiatives will play a part along with local street, transit, and parking strategies.

## **Environmental Justice/Social Equity**

- As the most important free recreational resource in the region, beaches play a part in efforts to make public infrastructure equally accessible to all groups. American notions of justice and fairness dictate that public investment decisions strongly consider impacts on all groups and equitable access to the benefits of tax supported amenities. The region needs to know much more about the relationship between where different groups live in relationship to the beaches, what their recreational interests are, and how those factors can be addressed in future public investment strategies concerning beach preservation and access, versus other public investment.

## **Regional Priorities**

- Beaches are by far the region's most important outdoor recreational resource. A number of studies show that beaches attract many more visits annually than all other outdoor recreational opportunities combined. (This comparison includes local, regional, state, and national parks and commercial theme parks.) Planning, funding, and operating our recreational infrastructure should be coordinated and should set priorities for beaches, parks, and open space.

## **III. POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES**

The region's policy goals and objectives for our beaches are contained in the Shoreline Preservation Strategy for the San Diego Region adopted by SANDAG in 1993. The Strategy remains valid and up-to-date today. Following is some of the most important guidance from the Strategy:

### **GOAL: TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE REGION'S BEACHES**

#### **Objectives**

- Manage the region's shoreline to provide environmental quality, recreation, and property protection.
- Develop and carry out a cost-effective combination of shoreline management tactics that will have a positive impact on the region's economy.
- Develop a program to pay for the shoreline management strategy which equitably allocates costs throughout the region, and among local, state, and federal sources.
- Obtain commitments to implement and finance the Shoreline Management Strategy.

#### **Policies**

- The region should provide a cooperative, coordinated, and long-range preservation program for the region's shoreline.
- The region should consider the full range of shoreline management tactics, with emphasis on beachfilling to preserve and enhance the environmental quality, recreational capacity, and property protection benefits of the region's shoreline.
- Structural and mechanical management tactics to stabilize beaches, reduce sand losses and redistribute sand along the shoreline should be evaluated as complements to the regional

beachfilling program and implemented where they have a positive impact on cost-effectiveness and are locally and environmentally acceptable. Tactics which mimic natural processes should be preferred when they are equal in cost-effectiveness to other approaches.

- Policies and actions to promote the availability of offshore, coastal, and upland sources of sand for beachfilling and natural beach replenishment should be developed.
- The region should evaluate local, state, and federal policies and regulations and recommend changes to support the other policies and objectives, and proactively involve key agencies (such as the State Lands Commission) in the policy-making process.
- The region should base the Strategy on the best available scientific data and analysis, and on sound engineering principles.

#### **IV. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

##### **Level of Service**

The Shoreline Preservation Strategy calls for a performance-based level of service:

1. Beaches wide enough to accommodate recreational demand on summer weekends; and
2. Beaches wide enough to protect public infrastructure (e.g. roads, parks) and development at the back of the beach from erosion caused by winter storm waves.

##### **Overview and Geographic Coverage**

Beaches are an important part of the region's recreational and environment infrastructure. The Shoreline Preservation Strategy identified beach building as the primary tactic needed to enhance, maintain, and manage this asset. The region's shoreline and beaches stretch the entire north-south length of the region's western boundary (about 76 miles), extending north into Orange County and south into Baja California. The beach system includes not only the dry sand we usually associate with beaches, but also underwater sand that extends one-half to one mile out into the ocean, and the sandy bottoms of the region's lagoons, bays, estuaries, and rivers.

##### **Existing Needs and Projected Deficiencies**

Restoration of the region's beaches involves placing between 20 and 30 million cubic yards of clean beach quality sand on our beaches, to be implemented in 2 million cubic yard sand replenishment projects carried out every other summer at an annual cost of about \$7.5 million. The total amount of sand and the specifics of each project would be determined based on environmental constraints and coastal processes.

After completion of restoration, additional 2 million cubic yard beach replenishment projects could be required to maintain the restored beaches at a rate of one restoration every 4 or 5 years. The cost would be in the range of \$2 million annually.

State and national studies indicate that such a program will increase the region's income by several hundred million dollars per year, and provide a direct return in local tax revenues well in excess of the public investment.

## **Capital Improvement Plans**

There are no formal capital improvement plans adopted at this time. SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation strategy and the experiences of implementing the Regional Beach Sand Project in 2001 provide the beach restoration program and financing outline described above.

## **Relationship to Smart Growth**

In general, the region's most intense phase of development is located in the western third. Beaches provide a valued recreational opportunity relatively close to much of the region's population. When developing phase strategies for beach replenishment, the location of beaches in relationship to Smart Growth areas and transportation access should be considered.

## **V. ACTIONS, IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

### **Funding**

SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation Committee has developed a series of reasonable funding strategies for the beach restoration program (including environmental management and monitoring), based on local and regional funding sources. These sources could be supplemented by state and federal beach replenishment funding programs. The region needs to decide on and implement one or more of the funding options, in the context of the RCP's Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS).

### **Beach Restoration Project Planning, Designing, and Construction**

The region has proved it can successfully implement a regional-scale beach replenishment project through SANDAG's 2.1 million cubic yard Regional Beach Sand Project, completed in 2001. Once funding is secured, SANDAG should implement the next project.

### **Performance Monitoring**

SANDAG is currently implementing a comprehensive program of performance monitoring of the Regional Beach Sand Project which will continue through June 2005. Sand movement and environmental impacts to nearshore ocean habitats and lagoons are measured and evaluated. There is a mitigation fund available to address any problems encountered. In addition, SANDAG is working with the California Coastal Conservancy, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, state and federal regulatory and management agencies, and interested groups in the region to inventory, evaluate, and better manage nearshore ocean and shoreline flora and fauna, habitats, and water quality. These programs should be continued in support of future replenishment projects.

San Diego Association of Governments  
**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

April 4, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **7**

**Action Requested: INFORMATION**

UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ SOCIAL EQUITY STRATEGY

The concepts of environmental justice and social equity refer to examining plans, policies, or actions to ensure that they neither disproportionately impact nor benefit any one community. A chapter focusing on Environmental Justice and Social Equity will be prepared for Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). Additionally, other chapters of the RCP will include a section that addresses how these issues relate to the specific topics addressed in that chapter.

This is SANDAG's first attempt at an Environmental Justice and Social Equity program that spans a number of topic areas. It is especially important given the region's changing demographics. In addition, environmental justice analysis is required by federal and state laws.

**Environmental Justice and Social Equity Strategy – Outreach and Analysis**

Staff proposes the following definition for Environmental Justice and Social Equity:

*The fair treatment and equitable involvement of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies.*

The Environmental Justice and Social Equity program for the RCP consists of both outreach and analysis efforts. These efforts were described at the last Regional Planning Committee meeting.

The outreach efforts (RCP Workshops, Stakeholders Working Group, outreach to underrepresented communities, and mini-grants to community-based organizations) remain the same. However, the analysis portion of the strategy is being revised based on comments by the Regional Planning Technical Working Group and additional staff analysis. The revised strategy for conducting an Environmental Justice and Social Equity Analysis for the RCP proposes four key steps:

1. **Existing and Future Conditions:** Identify potential historic and future economic, social, and environmental disparities that need to be addressed in the RCP.
  - a. Identify very low income and minority populations to be included in the Environmental Justice/Social Equity analysis. (This step was included in the original EJ/SE analysis strategy)
    - Define "very low income" and "minority."
    - Map very low income and minority communities in the region.
  - b. Analyze 2000 Census data to determine economic, social, and environmental equity levels for very low income and minority communities in the San Diego region.
  - c. Analyze Final 2030 Cities/County Forecast to analyze potential impacts of plans and policies on equity levels for very low income and minority communities.

2. **Goals:** Use Existing and Future Conditions analysis to set Environmental Justice and Social Equity goals for the RCP.
3. **RCP Programs and Policies:** Discuss how implementation of the RCP will help meet Environmental Justice and Social Equity goals
  - a. Analyze key RCP programs and policies
  - b. Analyze smart growth policies to show their potential effects on very low income and minority communities
  - c. Analyze infrastructure spending in very low income and minority communities
4. **Performance Monitoring:** Identify performance monitoring measures to determine if Environmental Justice and Social Equity goals are being met.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will work with the Regional Planning Technical Working Group and the Stakeholders Working Group to develop a draft Environmental Justice and Social Equity Chapter of the RCP. An Existing and Future Conditions report also will be developed. A subgroup of the Stakeholders Working Group is being formed to assist with the development of these items, with particular emphasis on the development of Environmental Justice and Social Equity performance monitoring measures. An outline of the Environmental Justice and Social Equity Chapter and a draft Existing and Future Conditions report will be brought back to the Regional Planning Committee and the Working Groups for review and comment.