



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 25, 2003**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 03-04- 3-C
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS
Meeting of April 4, 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 Patty Davis (South County), Jill Greer (East County), Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal), and Jerry Jones (East County). Ex-Officio members in attendance were Pedro Orso Delgado (Caltrans), Leon Williams (Metropolitan Transit Development Board), Mike Madigan (San Diego County Water Authority), 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 were Ron Morrison, SANDAG Chair, and Crystal Crawford, Chair of SANDAG's Borders Committee.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. **ACTIONS FROM MARCH 7, 2003 REGIONAL PLANNING MEETING (INFORMATION)**
2. **REPORT ON REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP) FROM MARCH 28, 2003 BOARD MEETING (INFORMATION)**

Action: The consent agenda was approved.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no public comments or communications.

4. **REGIONAL VISION AND CORE VALUES - FEEDBACK RECEIVED AND PROPOSED REVISIONS (ACCEPT)**

Staff presented a brief overview of the comments received on the draft regional vision and core values at the seven RCP Workshops. The workshops were conducted throughout the region between January and March 2003. Based on public input received from the workshops, as well as from input by the Stakeholders Working Group, the Technical Working Group, and via correspondence, the Committee was presented with the following revised regional vision and core values for discussion.

Proposed Revised Vision: "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."

Proposed Revised Core Values: *Cultural Diversity and Resources; Livable Neighborhoods; More Housing Choices; More Transportation Choices; Healthy Environment; Jobs and Educated Workforce; Infrastructure Systems that Work; Intergovernmental Coordination; Water Availability; Citizen Participation in the Planning Process; and Schools as Community Assets.*

The Committee had a lengthy discussion on whether the original core value of "Reduce Sprawl" should be converted into "Livable Neighborhoods," as proposed in the staff report, or whether it should be re-inserted as a stand-alone value. Comments on this topic included:

- If we take out "Reduce Sprawl" as a core value, is it going to be clear that we want to avoid development in the back country?
- Smart growth sells the idea that we will preserve our rural areas.
- Smart growth attempts to address the housing shortage – when you promote livable neighborhoods and more housing, you provide people with more housing and transportation choices.
- The "Healthy Environment" core value promotes the preservation of open space. That core value should be moved up and placed adjacent to the livable neighborhoods value to emphasize the interrelationship between the two.
- The County of San Diego's General Plan update process reduces large parcels to low, rural-level densities east of the County Water Authority line. There is a lot of power in the concept of reducing sprawl.
- If you make the determination that you want to proceed with livable neighborhoods and higher densities, you have to provide opportunities for the market to perform. The region has to come to grips with what density means – more housing choices, more open space preservation, more transit. It becomes a matter of location, location, location.
- Cities have to come together to densify enough around public transportation corridors, for example, the East-West rail line from Oceanside to Escondido, and provide the necessary amenities in those areas for a good quality of life.
- The core values need to emphasize the exceptional opportunity that we have to improve our transit corridors through redevelopment and reuse around our transit stations, like we have done in our downtown area, where there was real emphasis, energy, and investment to improve the quality of the community and significantly diminish the impacts on the highways.
- If that is what the local jurisdictions want to do, it will require cities to become the master developers of those areas and assume the development and financial risks, somewhat like CCDC (San Diego's City Centre Development Corporation). That is the only way to achieve that desired outcome. Jurisdictions need to think proactively instead of reactively with respect to planning and zoning.
- In order for the RCP to work, each individual jurisdiction needs to be able to own and embrace the Plan, especially in their day-to-day decision-making process.
- When jurisdictions start applying for incentives to implement smart growth, that will show that they embrace the Plan.

Action: The Committee directed staff to insert the following language into the Livable Neighborhoods core value "*emphasizing redevelopment and infill in urban areas along transit corridors,*" instead of adding "Reduce Sprawl" back into the core values.

Additionally, the League of Women Voters suggested adding the following core value: "*Fiscal Responsibility: A fiscal structure that provides an equitable distribution of burdens and benefits, promotes efficiency of resource use, and provides clear incentives for achieving plan goals.*" It was also suggested that "schools" be added to the Intergovernmental Coordination core value.

Action: The Committee accepted these additions.

Regarding the proposed Vision, comments were made indicating that the vision should reflect a strong economy, and that "communities" should come before the region's "unique features." Also, it was felt that the "Jobs and Educated Workforce" value should focus on a robust economy with secure, balanced jobs, and that generally, the core values should place a greater emphasis on jobs/ housing balance, the notion being that although providing proximity between jobs and housing does not guarantee that people will work at those jobs, the opportunity to enhance the likelihood of reducing trips is provided.

Action: The Committee directed staff to incorporate these concepts into the regional vision, or the core values, as appropriate.

5. DRAFT OUTLINE OF BORDERS CHAPTER OF THE RCP (COMMENT)

Councilmember Judy Ritter, who serves on both the Borders and Regional Planning Committees, provided an overview of border issues with Baja California and Riverside and Imperial counties, and reviewed an outline of the content to be included in the Borders Chapter of the RCP, including goals related to the following areas: jobs/housing balance; transportation; energy; environment; water; economic development; and national security.

The Committee responded with the following comments and questions:

- The outline seems to be in sync with the chapters of the RCP.
- The Stakeholders Working Group is interested in discussing the Borders component.
- Why are energy and air quality issues addressed primarily with our Imperial County and Mexico borders and not the other borders? *Because we share an air basin with those two neighbors, and we have started to work with the Border Energy Forum to propose a proactive approach to addressing these issues.*
- It is great to include habitat corridor planning across the borders.
- The international border presents us with more institutional challenges, such as our different cultures and political systems, and our growing Homeland Security issues. However, there is a lot of enthusiasm from Mexico to work with us.
- The RCP can be truly visionary by incorporating and proactively addressing border issues.

6. DRAFT SHORELINE COMPONENT OF THE RCP (ACCEPT)

The draft Shoreline Component, which will be included in the Healthy Ecosystems chapter of the RCP, was presented for the Committee's review and acceptance. The region's shoreline focuses on the edge between our coastline's land and saltwater. It varies in size from 100 – 200 feet in the summer to 50 feet in the winter. The shoreline is one of the San Diego region's unique qualities. SANDAG is very involved with near-shore habitat and wetlands and their interactions, and is currently expanding the work program to reflect that. In 1994, SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation Committee adopted the Shoreline Preservation Strategy. A significant regional achievement has been the regional beach sand project. The draft Shoreline component is a summary of, and builds upon, the original Shoreline Preservation Strategy.

Action: The Committee accepted the Draft Shoreline Component for inclusion into the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter of the RCP.

7. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL EQUITY STRATEGY (INFORMATION)

At its last meeting, the Committee discussed a proposed approach for addressing environmental justice and social equity issues within the RCP. Staff reported that since then, several modifications have been made to the approach. The outreach component remains the same, but the steps in the analysis program have been changed as follows:

Analysis Program

- 1. Existing and Future Conditions**
 - a. Identify minority and very low-income communities
 - b. Analyze 2000 Census data to determine economic, social, and environmental equity levels
 - c. Analyze Final 2030 Forecast to analyze potential impacts of plans and policies on minority and very-low income 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** – Analyze how implementation of the RCP will help meet the Environmental Justice and Social Equity goals
- 4. Performance Monitoring** – Identify performance measures to determine if Environmental Justice and Social Equity goals are being met

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. Additionally, a subgroup of the SWG is being formed to assist with these items, particularly the performance monitoring measures.

8. ADJOURNMENT AND UPCOMING MEETING (APPROVE)

Action: The Committee approved the next Regional Planning Committee meeting, which will be held at the **University of California San Diego (UCSD) on Friday, May 2, 2003 from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. (extended length of time).**