

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

October 3, 2003

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **1**

Action Requested: APPROVE

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

Meeting of August 1, 2003

The Regional Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Vice Chair Patty Davis (South County). Committee members in attendance were Jack Feller (North County Coastal), Ron Roberts (County of San Diego), and Alternate members Judy Ritter (North County Inland), Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal), and Jerry Jones (East County). Ex officio members in attendance were: James Bond (San Diego County Water Authority), Pedro Orso-Delgado (Caltrans), Dave Druker (NCTD), Bill Chopyk (San Diego Unified Port District), Niall Fritz (Regional Planning Technical Working Group), and Carol Bonomo (Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group).

CONSENT ITEMS (1 and 2)

1. ACTIONS FROM JULY 11, 2003 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (INFORMATION)
2. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/ SOCIAL EQUITY ITEM FROM JULY 25, 2003 SANDAG BOARD MEETING (INFORMATION)

Action: The Committee approved Consent Items 1 and 2.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

There was no public comment. Vice Chair Patty Davis introduced Bob Leiter, SANDAG's new Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning, to the Committee.

REPORTS

4. REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP): DRAFT OUTLINE AND DRAFT GOALS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES (DISCUSSION)

A presentation of the most recently updated version of the RCP outline was made. Staff noted that the Regional Planning Technical and Stakeholders Working Groups (TWG and SWG) provided input into the latest outline. The outline will continue to be refined, as concepts are discussed at the upcoming workshops and meetings.

Committee member comments included:

- We need a common definition of sustainability.
- A lot of work needs to be done with the local land use agencies on the RCP.
- People want to see the concept of limits expressed in the RCP – limits on our water and energy supplies, transportation systems, etc. There are differences of opinion out there as to whether we should control or manage growth. The RCP needs to acknowledge that we are facing challenges with regard to the limits.

There will be two levels of coordination in the land use area – first, at the long-range level with respect to general plan updates and how they relate to infrastructure investments, and second, at the short-range level with respect to specific plan/ redevelopment /master planned communities, and how they relate to public facilities and financing. The Existing Conditions and Future Trends section will reference the concept of limits, building upon the growth study that was presented recently to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

The Goals and Policy Objectives of each chapter were reviewed, with Committee input requested along the way. It was noted that the goals and policy objectives were also discussed with the TWG and the SWG, and that their comments were incorporated into the agenda report, except where noted. Following are Committee comments and staff responses (in italics) on the draft Goals and Policy Objectives of each chapter.

Urban Form

- Need clarification on the term mixed-use. *Mixed use can refer to both a horizontal or vertical mixture of land uses within a block or community.*
- Are we trying to protect high value habitat areas in addition to the adopted preserve areas? It should be indicated that the MHCP and other habitat planning efforts have been completed and implementation is underway. *The intent is to protect high-value habitat areas that have been identified in the MSCP and MHCP and to incorporate this information into existing plans.*
- How do you provide incentives for both infill development and open space? *The intent is to create opportunities to direct investments by regional and local agencies to both infill and open space areas through coordinated local and regional planning efforts. There are also non-funding incentives that can be applied to both areas.*
- The policy objective that reads "To protect public health and safety by avoiding and/or mitigating incompatible land uses" is right on point.
- The word "unique" in "unique sense of place" could be taken as a negative.

Healthy Ecosystems

- The SWG had strong feelings against sandy beaches being included in the overall healthy ecosystems goal at their last meeting. The SWG didn't want sandy beaches to get priority for funding over other important regional issues. The Committee felt that sandy beaches should remain in the overall healthy ecosystems goal.
- What will SANDAG's role be in the RCP in terms of achieving and maintaining clean air, given the work of the Air Pollution Control District (APCD)? *The RCP will position SANDAG to work and collaborate with the APCD and other regional agencies. SANDAG*

can help pull the information together so that people can understand the more complete picture. However, SANDAG doesn't have primary responsibility in this area, or several other areas of the Plan, and a note will be added in this and those other sections for clarification.

- Currently, transportation and habitat planning efforts take place in a piecemeal, corridor-by-corridor basis. Opportunities for transportation improvements should be incorporated into the policy objectives. *The Overall Smart Growth Framework and the Transportation and Healthy Ecosystems chapters will help make the connections.*

Housing

- The policy objective on gentrification sounds good, but should be re-worded for clarification, especially with regard to the reality of land costs as areas are improved. However, will infill development be discouraged if we promote strategies to prevent the displacement of lower-income and minority residents as housing costs rise? *There are mechanisms that could be used to minimize displacement when densification occurs.*

Transportation

- Need to add wording that connects and compliments all transportation modes – for example, how are our regional arterials affecting our freeways? *The concept of well-integrated transportation systems will be added to the first goal.*
- SANDAG should apply for additional federal and state funds to cover the increasing costs of transportation projects.
- Need clarification on how reducing peak period travel demand relates to the RCP. *Reducing peak period travel demand helps reduce long-term infrastructure costs. Additionally, incentive programs provided by major employers such as vanpools, flextime, carpooling, and transit subsidies, reduces the need for additional parking.*

Economic Prosperity

- The San Diego region will always have lower-wage workers, but the policy objective needs clarification as to whether improving the standard of living for lower-wage workers applies to people that are already here, or to people who will come here in the future. *The intent is to provide career development opportunities over time to all people within the region, to improve people's skills and ability to obtain higher-paying jobs.*
- Efforts to improve the standard of living for lower wage workers should focus primarily on transportation and housing. Additionally, a living wage ordinance could be considered (consensus on this point was not reached).
- Need clarification on what the unnecessary barriers are to the creation of new jobs in the region. *The unnecessary barriers consist primarily of land use regulations that prevent or reduce the creation of new jobs.*
- A new regional airport could be the region's largest economic engine. Whether we get a new airport, and where we might locate it is critical, and could serve as a point that the RCP could revolve around. SANDAG should seek input from the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) on this question. *SDCRAA Director of Planning was recently added to the TWG. A policy representative could be added to the Regional*

Planning Committee. The airport concept will be added into the policy objectives of the transportation chapter, as well.

Public Facilities

- Wastewater should be included in the goal. Huge infrastructure needs exist in the area of reclaimed water. Currently, we are not using all of the recycled water that we are producing in the region. If we are looking out 30 years and beyond, the use of reclaimed water is important. *In its initial phase, the RCP will not address the siting of wastewater facilities.*
- Public Comment: Telecommunications should be included in this chapter, as it will affect transportation.

Borders

- The public wants to see the RCP address our region's border issues.

Staff indicated that changes will be made to the draft goals and policy objectives based on Committee input.

5. UPDATE ON CONTENT OF SECOND ROUND OF RCP WORKSHOPS (INFORMATION)

Vice Chair Davis noted that the second round of RCP workshops will be held September 4 - 18, 2003, at different locations throughout the region. She encouraged all Committee members to participate, and to invite their respective city council members and community leaders to participate, as well.

The workshops will consist of an introductory presentation on the RCP, an activity where participants provide feedback on the draft RCP goals and policy objectives, and stations where the public can have discussions on various topics with stakeholders, community leaders, elected officials, planning directors, and SANDAG staff. Committee members were requested to sign up to participate at the workshops, and to provide input to op-ed pieces that could be drafted in advance of the workshops.

6. ADJOURNMENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)

The next two Regional Planning Committee meetings will take place on Friday, September 5, 2003 and Friday, October 3, 2003, as scheduled.

Vice Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

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