NOTE: A new member orientation was held at 11:30 a.m. prior to the beginning of the Regional Planning Committee meeting.

The Regional Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler at 12:02 p.m. The attending Committee members and alternates were as follows: Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland); Judy Ritter (North County Inland); Patricia McCoy (South County); Maggie Houlihan (North County Coastal); Jerry Jones (East County); Bill Horn (County of San Diego); and Pam Slater (County of San Diego). Advisory Members present include: Gail Goldberg (Regional Planning Technical Working Group); Bill Figge (Caltrans); Leon Williams (MTS); David Druker (NCTD); and Lynn Baker (Regional Planning Stakeholders Working Group). Ron Morrison, the SANDAG Chairman, was also in attendance.

Self introductions were made. Chair Pfeiler announced that the Regional Planning Committee reached a major milestone when the SANDAG Board recently accepted the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for distribution. She thanked all members for their efforts in producing a quality report.

1. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

   Action: A motion and second was made to approve the November 14, 2003 meeting minutes. Two members abstained from the vote. The minutes were approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

   There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA (Items 3 and 4)

3. WORK PROGRAM TO COMPLETE FINAL REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (RCP)

   At its December meeting, the SANDAG Board of Directors accepted the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan for distribution to the public for review and comment. The work program to complete the final RCP was included in the agenda report.
4. **PROPOSED JOINT MEETING WITH WORKING GROUPS AND RESULTING CHANGE TO MEETING SCHEDULE**

It was proposed that the Regional Planning Committee host a joint meeting with the Regional Planning Technical and Stakeholders Working Groups in May to review and provide input on a Revised Draft RCP and a summary of key changes. The proposed meeting would be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 24, 2004. As a result of this change, the June 4, 2004 meeting would be cancelled.

**Action:** A motion and second was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

5. **RCP PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (DISCUSSION)**

Staff reported that the current RCP public involvement program has two components: (1) presentations on the RCP that will be made to all interested groups and organizations; and (2) the third round of public workshops on the draft RCP and the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The presentations started in January 2004 and will go through March 2004. 36 presentations have been scheduled to date. Staff mentioned that if anyone was interested in setting up a presentation or if anyone knows of a special interest group that would like a presentation, they should contact staff. CD's for the Draft RCP are available. The CD includes the PowerPoint images that will be used at the presentations. All new members were encouraged to review the CD prior to the presentation being made to their jurisdiction.

Proposed dates, times, and locations for the third round of workshops were distributed to the Committee for review. Staff recommended that the third round of workshops be held in the form of an open house to receive input from the public on the draft RCP and draft EIR and answer any questions residents may have on the documents. Staff suggested an informal setting where four stations would be set up to receive comments. SANDAG representatives would be available at those stations to answer questions and take comments. Proposed themes at the stations are: (1) The ABC’s of the RCP; (2) The EIR; (3) RCP Goals, Objectives, and Actions; and (4) Implementation and Performance Monitoring. A registration and materials table also will be set up. Comment cards will be made available at each station, and participants will be encouraged to fill them out. This information has been discussed with the Working Groups, whose suggestions are included the staff report.

Committee member comments on the local presentations and the upcoming workshops included:

- It would be helpful to have elected officials from neighboring cities at the presentations, as the level of importance is raised when elected officials attend.
At a minimum, each Committee member should be at the presentation that will be made in their respective jurisdiction.

A workshop should be held in Encinitas. It might be difficult for people in the surrounding areas to get to the Oceanside workshop by 6 p.m.

The La Mesa workshop should be moved to El Cajon to provide easier access for those that live in the back country.

Committee members should attend the workshop in their own subregional location.

Advertising for the workshops should be done with greater lead time than the previous round of workshops. Workshop notices should be sent to community weekly newspapers at least two weeks in advance, in addition to publishing the announcements in the daily newspapers.

The workshop notices should also be given to the local Chambers of Commerce to be included in their newsletters, and to each jurisdiction to be posted on their websites and to be sent out using their individual mail distribution lists.

6. RCP EARLY ACTIONS (DISCUSSION)

In order to get a good start on implementing the RCP, a series of “early actions” are proposed. The early actions primarily relate to land use and transportation issues addressed in the draft RCP, including:

- Refinements to the “Smart Growth Opportunity Areas” concept map;
- Preparation of guidelines for incorporating “Smart Growth Opportunity Areas” into local general plans and community plans;
- Development of guidelines for a smart growth incentive program;
- Development of guidelines for preparation of transportation corridor and network studies; and
- Development of guidelines for preparation of subregional transportation and land use plans.

Additionally, work is currently taking place on three additional key issues:

- Development of the TransNet Extension Expenditure Plan and Ordinance;
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment update; and
- Ongoing work on regional funding for habitat conservation and other environmental programs.
Both the Regional Planning Technical (TWG) and Stakeholders (SWG) Working Groups have discussed the early actions and recommend two sub-working groups consisting of representatives from the TWG, the SWG, and the public works directors to focus on refining the Smart Growth Opportunity Areas concept map and preparing guidelines for the subregional plans and implementation programs. The working groups would provide input to the Committee to help develop ideas and gain consensus before being included in the final RCP.

Committee Member comments:

- Staff is heading in the right direction on the early actions. However, the public needs to be informed of what smart growth is not. Some concerns are that if a community cannot incorporate smart growth, their infrastructure funding will not be provided, and they will end up with pot holes, sewer spills, no parking, etc.

- Demonstration projects should be developed that can be used as models and included in the Plan. A timeline should also be included. Projects need to be deliverable so that people can see that the Plan is actually being implemented. The Committee shouldn’t be planning just to plan.

- The City of San Diego has criteria which indicate that its Pilot Village projects need to be built in 3-5 years, and that they must have community buy-in. Staff added that the RCP could identify the City of San Diego projects and other “ready-to-go” smart growth projects as demonstration projects, illustrating implementation techniques and coordination with member agencies.

- Several jurisdictions in the region have similar issues and do not want to lose the feeling of their small town atmosphere. The Plan needs to identify areas where smart growth makes sense in each individual jurisdiction. If projects are done right, once they are started, they will grow from there. Once successful projects come on line, local communities will be more apt to buy into the concept.

- A visual poster board of good smart growth projects should be created and taken to the RCP presentations as an illustration of how smart growth can work in our region.

- The question was asked, given local growth control initiatives, how smart growth can work in Escondido or Encinitas. Chair Pfeiler replied that in downtown Escondido, a proposed condominium project will be built which will add 400 units. The downtown urban core still has room for development. Mayor Houlihan added that in Encinitas, along El Camino Real, there are potential opportunities for smart growth.

- While San Diego is discussing smart growth, Riverside is continually building. The longer the San Diego region takes to implement housing projects, the economy will be negatively affected because companies will relocate where their workforce is supported. In approximately five to seven years, Riverside will be faced with the same regional issues that San Diego is facing now.
• The State knows that no matter what the region does for revenue, nothing can be done unless future housing is placed where the current infrastructure is. The old solution was to build more freeways, but that will not solve congestion.

• The Committee has a lot of potentially contradicting decisions to make, and a lot of different problems need to be addressed. San Diego is not going to be able to have the kind of sprawl that Riverside has. Therefore, the region needs to be able to supply a different type of housing for residents, and builders will need to pay to tie into the transportation system.

Public Comments:

Dutch Van Dierendonk, a back country resident, commented that people in the back country have expressed concern that changes are going to occur in the back country without their consent. If there is not community buy-in, it will be difficult to implement the Plan in this area. Staff responded that they will work with subregional areas to develop approaches on how to solve those issues. This Plan will not be a one size fits all project.

Jim Whalen, representing J. Whalen and Associates, asked if the Plan takes into account tribal reservations and whether any plans have been considered, even if Proposition A (Rural Lands Initiative) does not pass. Staff commented that the Borders chapter of the RCP provides information on working with tribal governments. Staff’s focus over the next year will be on how to work with the tribal governments on a government to government level, how to understand their land use plans and their sovereignty.

A Committee member mentioned that a measure will be on the ballot to allow gambling in non-gaming areas.

7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING FOR THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (DISCUSSION)

The passage of AB 361 (Kehoe) requires that SANDAG monitor progress on the RCP through quality of life indicators and performance standards that are both realistic and measurable. Chapter 8 in the draft RCP discusses this issue. The task is to develop a realistic set of indicators that can be implemented and monitored on an annual basis. Three fundamental criteria should be kept in mind while developing indicators.

1. The indicators should be limited in number and kept to a reasonable amount;
2. The indicators should use data that is both readily available and practical; and
3. The indicators should be determined within a reasonable amount of time.

The Technical and Stakeholders Working Groups will make recommendations on indicators for the Committee’s consideration. The Committee expressed support for the criteria, and directed staff to limit the number of indicators.
8. ENERGY WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM (APPOINT)

The SANDAG Board approved the formation of an Energy Working Group and directed it to report to the Regional Planning Committee on the implementation of the Regional Energy Strategy and on the steps needed to coordinate regional energy planning.

The Committee was requested to appoint elected officials from each of the sub-regions and the City and the County of San Diego, and to direct the Energy Working Group to initiate its activities. The SANDAG Board designated 14 business, environmental, government, and other organizations that comprise the remainder of the representatives on the Energy Working Group.

The Working Group will direct coordination of energy planning, policy, and consensus building. It also will coordinate with the Border Energy Issues Group and other inter-regional energy interests. It will review and advocate for legislation to help the region work towards energy self-sufficiency and to achieve other goals of the Regional Energy Strategy.

Staff added that some organizations have already made their appointments to the Energy Working Group. The San Diego-Imperial County Labor Council has decided to assign its own representative to the Working Group. Several different parts of labor want to sit at the table. Working through the Labor Council could prove to be more fruitful and would be more beneficial. Staff also offered to work with the Regional Planning Committee representatives to select the appropriate geographical representatives to sit on this group.

Staff mentioned that the SANDAG budget needed to be reviewed to determine how much funding would be available for this work. Approximately $120,000 has been identified as being left over from last year. Staff will be going before the Board to request that the funding be dedicated to this effort. SDG&E is willing to match that amount and other stakeholder groups will also be requested to contribute funding.

Chair Pfeiler noted that the Energy Working Group should be advised that they report to the Regional Planning Committee, and the Regional Planning Committee reports to the SANDAG Board, where the actual policy will be set.

Committee comments:

- There are different perspectives on what has been or what needs to be done throughout the region regarding energy. There needs to be first steps taken, and SANDAG has taken those steps.

- The Borders Committee has formed an energy group that is working with Tijuana on energy issues. The Regional Planning Committee should coordinate their efforts with the Borders Committee.
Public Comment:

Scott Molloy, Public Policy Advocate for the Building Industry Association (BIA), requested that the BIA be added to the membership list for the Energy Working Group. He noted that the BIA will be providing energy solutions to the region through its work and has a major stake in this issue.

Staff responded that the Board's intention was to keep this group to a minimal size. Chair Pfeiler added that the BIA is welcome to attend the meetings and provide input. After the Working Group has met several times, it will be determined if an element is missing from the membership. If so, the Regional Planning Committee will need to go before the Board, where the Working Group membership was decided, to have the membership list modified.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS (INFORMATION)

The next meeting will be held from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2004.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Holt Pfeiler adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

BOB LEITER
Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Key Staff Contact: Carolina Gregor, (619) 699-1989; cgr@sandag.org