

SMART GROWTH IN ACTION

Sacramento Blueprint: Transportation/Land Use Study

SACRAMENTO REGION, CALIFORNIA

More than 5,000 community members, elected officials, and business leaders shaped the future of the Sacramento region through a series of workshops, regional conferences, web-based dialogue, and surveys. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) initiated this two-year process—the Sacramento Region Blueprint: Transportation/Land Use Study—to examine current land use and future growth patterns and to plan where and how the region should grow.

SACOG partnered with Valley Vision, a nonprofit organization, to develop a broad community outreach strategy that would stimulate an inclusive discussion about the region's growth. During 38 neighborhood workshops held in each jurisdiction of the region, citizens worked from a "base case" scenario, which represented future growth if current trends continued, and used maps and stickers to try out various land use changes in their communities. More than 1,500 people took part in these neighborhood workshops.

The Blueprint Project used state-of-the-art modeling tools to estimate the effects of land use patterns on transportation, air quality, and the economy. For example, participants used interactive software that immediately demonstrated the effects of their land use choices on neighborhoods, cities, counties, and the region. SACOG also launched a public education program to highlight the ways in which smart growth techniques could create more housing and transportation choices, preserve natural areas, and enhance existing communities.

The Blueprint Project staff held more than 220 special presentations to engage groups that are generally underrepresented in the transportation planning process.

Translators helped conduct exercises and interpret the event for Spanish-speaking participants, and the staff distributed 50,000 multi-lingual flyers. Outreach partners included La Familia, Asian Resources, Gray Panthers, Resources for Independent Living, and local media outlets.

Results from the neighborhood workshops were compiled for a regional workshop in April 2004, where more than 1,300 participants voted on four future growth alternatives that showed different environmental and economic outcomes. The Blueprint Project changed how the Sacramento region approaches growth—it educated and engaged the public and gave them the tools to help them design the future they wanted. In recognition of its wide scope, the EPA awarded it the Community Outreach and Education Smart Growth Achievement Award in 2004. In 2003, the Blueprint Project was honored with the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

QUICK FACTS

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Website: [www.sacregionblueprint.org/
sacregionblueprint/home.cfm](http://www.sacregionblueprint.org/sacregionblueprint/home.cfm)

Implemented: 2003–2004



SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES SACRAMENTO REGION BLUEPRINT

#1	Includes Mixed Land Uses	✓
#2	Exhibits Compact Building Design	✓
#3	Provides Range of Housing Types	✓
#4	Promotes Walkable Neighborhoods	✓
#5	Exhibits a Distinct Sense of Place	✓
#6	Preserves Open Space	✓
#7	Utilizes Existing Development	✓
#8	Provides Transportation Choices	✓
#9	Practices Fair Decision-making	★
#10	Promotes Stakeholder Participation	★