

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

For the Agenda of October 26, 2006

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

From: Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Subject: Land Use Outreach Contract

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the attached resolution authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) to negotiate and sign a contract with the Local Government Commission (LGC).
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit the fully executed documents to concerned parties.

Purpose:

The attached resolution will authorize the Air Pollution Control Officer to enter into a contract with the Local Government Commission (LGC). Under the contract, the SMAQMD will pay LGC up to \$110,000 to conduct outreach to targeted stakeholders on the benefits of Smart Growth design approaches. The purpose of the effort will be to address perceived barriers to adopting and implementing Smart Growth's Air Quality Friendly Measures.

Background/Benefits

There is a growing recognition that a key strategy in reducing air pollution in the Sacramento region is to lower vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled by designing and retrofitting neighborhoods to support walking, bicycling and transit use. These Smart Growth approaches received strong support from policymakers and residents in the region through the Blueprint Process undertaken by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments in the past few years.

In spite of general support for these issues, there are still public agencies with a narrow focus that don't understand how Smart Growth can help them achieve they're agency's goals while also creating more livable. For example, school districts might opt to build new schools on inexpensive land that is less accessible to residents, even though over the long term they might have to spend more resources for busing. Similarly, retailers might object to limits on off-street parking or shared

parking arrangements without considering that compact residential and office development (uninterrupted by surface parking lots) typically result in higher retail revenues.

The requested funding will be used to engage the interest groups that are most concerned with these topics in discussions on strategies aimed at reducing the vehicle trips and miles traveled that contribute to mobile source emissions in this region. The three topic areas include:

Designing/Retrofitting Neighborhoods to Improve Safety- Some stakeholders have raised concerns about whether communities can provide adequate security for individuals in the event that Smart Growth leads to an increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as increased transit use. To address these concerns the Local Government Commission will work closely with staff from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District to prepare materials for outreach to law enforcement and fire fighting personnel and will organize a one-day seminar or workshop on how to design or retrofit neighborhoods in Sacramento County to improve safety.

Innovative Parking Strategies- Some stakeholders have questioned whether Smart Growth parking principals could lead to unacceptably low levels of public and private parking. To address these concerns The Local Government Commission will work closely with staff from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District to prepare materials for outreach to policymakers, planners and businesses on innovative approaches that can reduce the need for parking and lower costs related to the construction of parking facilities. The LGC will organize a one-day seminar or workshop on these innovative parking strategies that will include case studies from other regions in California.

Planning, Locating, Designing and Building Neighborhood-Friendly Schools- Some stakeholders have also voiced concerns that the Smart Growth principals could increase the cost of building and remodeling schools. The Local Government Commission will work closely with staff from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District to conduct outreach to school districts and school facility planners — along with local planners, architects and developers — in order to engage them in a discussion on how we can do a better job of locating and designing new schools — and retrofitting older ones — so that children and teenagers can safely get to and from school by walking and bicycling. Prior to conducting outreach, LGC will conduct some preliminary research on school site selection policies and on the level of awareness of Safe Routes to School programs in different school districts in Sacramento County. The second phase of the project will consist of convening small dialogue sessions with school district officials on how to build or retrofit schools to make them more neighborhood-friendly. A presentation will be developed to use at these meetings. The final phase will consist of a series of workshops in different parts of the County with school district officials, parents, teachers, facility planners, architects, public works departments and other agencies that are involved in the design, building and operation of schools

Fiscal Impacts

Sufficient funds are budgeted in the 2005/2006 SMAQMD Budget for this project

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Reviewed by:

Kathrine Pittard
District Counsel

Attachments