



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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DATE: March 18, 2010
TO: Governing Board Delegates and Alternates
FROM: Gino Sund, Chair
RE: Housing Committee Report

Major work activities and accomplishments achieved during the last two months include but are not limited to:

SB 375

SB 375 is the implementation bill of AB 32. This legislation addresses local government's role in achieving greenhouse gas reductions through land use changes and the corresponding reductions in vehicle miles traveled. Recognizing the major impact this legislation will have on our cities, participants in COG's strategic planning session identified the development of a strategy for addressing of SB 375 as an ongoing objective for the agency.

Of particular importance to the SCAG region and the San Gabriel Valley, SB 375 identifies SCAG as the only MPO with the authority to sub-delegate the development of a SCS or an APS to its subregions. While the development of a subregional SCS may ultimately provide cities with additional flexibility and customization, issues related to funding and liability made it infeasible for the majority of subregions to undertake this responsibility. The COG voted in November 2009 not to accept subregional delegation due to these concerns, but rather to utilize a collaborative process with SCAG to provide input into the development of a regional SCS. At this point in time, only the Orange County COG and Gateway COG are planning to accept subregional delegation.

SB 375 Workshop

SCAG has organized an SB 375 workshop for the San Gabriel Valley to take place on Monday, March 29th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at West Covina City Hall. The purpose of this workshop is as follows:

- Provide an overview of SB 375
- Discuss local projects already being implemented or planned in the San Gabriel Valley that are consistent with SB 375
- Gather feedback from San Gabriel Valley's elected and appointed officials on possible future strategies that may be incorporated into the Sustainable Communities' Strategy (SCS)

We strongly encourage at least one elected official and one staff member from each city to attend.

City of Industry Affordable Housing Technical Assistance

One of the major areas of focus related to affordable housing in the San Gabriel Valley is the allocation of City of Industry set-aside funds. Based on prior analysis, it was determined that the cities in the Valley are not receiving their fair share of these funds. There are several factors that contribute to this dilemma and the Valley's ability to successfully compete for and receive these funds. One of the factors identified is that many of our member agencies lack the technical expertise to identify and develop affordable housing projects and package proposals needed to secure County funding. In order to address these concerns and at the request of the COG Housing Committee, the Los Angeles Community Development Commission (LACDC) developed a technical assistance program to provide a limited number of cities with consultant services for site identification, feasibility analysis, developer information, and financing scenarios for affordable housing projects.

Over the past eight months, LACDC has provided technical assistance to four member agencies (Azusa, La Puente, San Dimas, and South El Monte). Working with the consultant, the City of Azusa has identified a free-standing affordable housing project that is potentially eligible for City of Industry funds. The LACDC consultants will now provide project-specific technical assistance to this effort. They will also continue to work with the other participating cities to further define projects and identify opportunities. It is COG's expectation that this additional assistance will result in one or more projects receiving funding in the upcoming NOFA round.

LACDC staff has reported that a total of \$23 million was made available in the most recent LACDC Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Round 14. This includes \$16 million in City of Industry funds and approximately \$7 million in HOME funds. To date, 16 applications have been received. Of these, the LACDC has recommended ten applications be approved for funding. From these, seven are for affordable rental units and three are special needs housing. Three rental projects and one special needs project are located in the San Gabriel Valley.

San Gabriel Valley Housing and Homeless Services Coordinating Council

In April 2009, the Governing Board voted unanimously to:

- ✓ Adopt the regional homeless services strategy,
- ✓ Establish an ad hoc Homeless Services Committee ("Committee") that will spearhead the creation of the San Gabriel Valley Housing and Homeless Services Coordinating Council ("Coordinating Council"), and
- ✓ Allocate \$15,500 in matching funds for needed staffing resources to support getting the Coordinating Council organized and operational.

Since that time, the Committee has:

- Secured funding for the Coordinating Council's first year of operation,
- Developed a mission statement, guiding principles, and organizational structure, and
- Developed draft bylaws.

The Committee is in the process of completing a job description for the Coordinating Council Executive Director and will begin recruitment for that position in the next two months. It is anticipated that the organization will be operational by July and its status will be presented to the Governing Board at that time.