




January 12, 2012

TO: SACOG Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Hill, Chair 

SUBJECT: Shared Services and New Initiatives Task Force

Background

In years past, SACOG has provided direct technical assistance services to many member cities and counties. This started in the late 1970's when SACOG's predecessor agency, the Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission (SRAPC), received a series of grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund direct services to member agencies. Aimed primarily at the smaller jurisdictions, assistance took the form of: preparation of general plans and housing elements and temporary assignment of staff to planning departments when staffing issues arose. Later, when the grant program ended, some technical assistance was provided on a reduced fee for service basis.

SACOG has also been asked to become involved in new initiatives. These requests involve a wide variety of activities. Some requests have asked SACOG to provide new agency planning, staffing and start up services. Some have asked for technical data and analysis. And recently, some have asked for leadership and coordination in areas of concern to member cities and counties.

The two-year period between development of MTPs is a unique time for the agency to consider strategic initiatives; past examples include the kickoff of RUCS and the regional efforts around the Delta Plan. We are also seeing continued pressures on the SACOG members through state budget impacts and other staff contractions. This is an opportune period for us to talk about how and where we want the agency to focus to better support and serve our needs, to develop revenue opportunities for project delivery and programs, and to save us money.

This idea has been discussed with management staff and they support the idea of starting an ad hoc task force. The main focus would be to save members money and improve the quality of service they receive from SACOG. It would serve as a place to begin to discuss how SACOG might provide shared services, such as traffic modeling to members. It would also provide a place to discuss how SACOG should respond to requests for involvement in new initiatives.

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### Task Force

This is a primary example of SACOG's Strategic Plan Goal #3.

*Strategic Plan Goal 3: Serve as a source of high quality information, convener, and/or advocate on a range of regional issues when the agency's involvement would provide unique, added value to promoting a sustainable future for the region.*

*Performance Indicator: Deliver cost savings to local governments by building the capacity of the agency in areas of highest need to member jurisdictions and/or leveraging new revenues in collaboration with local governments.*

The formation of the Shared Services and New Initiatives Task Force will provide an opportunity for staff and members of the task force to discuss the potential for assistance to member cities through shared services. It will also provide a forum for discussion on how SACOG should respond to new initiative requests from member agencies and others. The Task Force would report back to the full SACOG Board.

While this Task Force may eventually become a standing committee of the SACOG Board, it seems appropriate to start as an ad hoc task force of the SACOG Board of Directors, with a limited term of one year.

I am asking the following board members to serve on this Task Force:

John Knight, Chair  
Diane Hodges, Vice Chair  
Steve Miklos  
Leslie McBride  
Phil Serna  
Don Saylor  
Tom Cosgrove  
Mary Jane Griego  
Steve Miller  
Kevin Hanley  
Tom Stallard  
Peter Hill

If other board members have a particular interest in this project, I will consider expanding the task force.

PH:rt