

Sacramento Area Council of Governments

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June 12, 2009

*send to FRP.*

*GP/EIR in support*

David Morrison  
Yolo County  
Planning and Public Works Department  
292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, CA 95696

**Re: Yolo County Draft General Plan**

Dear Mr. Morrison:

The staff of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments has reviewed the Draft EIR for the Yolo County Draft General Plan and is hereby submitting the following comments.

Yolo County has a long history of embracing and preserving the rural character of the county and has a continuing commitment to supporting agricultural viability. The Yolo County Draft General Plan reflects these principles through policies that focus growth in the county's larger cities and existing rural towns, while preserving valuable agricultural resources. These policies strongly complement SACOG's Rural Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) planning effort. In the same way that Blueprint is an economic development strategy for urban areas, the RUCS project is a look at the region's growth and sustainability objectives from a rural perspective.

*1 noted*

A key component of the RUCS project is the identification of a network of roadways that are important for sustaining the economic viability of agriculture. Yolo County's commitment to the farm-to-market roads identified in the county improves the safety and efficiency of the road network by attracting truck trips to designated corridors, while making available other roadways for agricultural worker and farm implement transportation. SACOG applauds Yolo County's proactive approach in identifying farm-to-market corridors and its commitment to preserving agricultural resources.

*2 noted*

SACOG is also supportive of the mitigation measures identified to address the potential increase in vehicle miles of travel (VMT) in Impact CI-1: Build-out of the Draft General Plan could result in increased vehicle miles of travel. Mitigation measures CI-1a through CI-1e include effective policies and strategies to encourage travel alternatives to driving alone. The range of efforts identified is consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2035 and are key efforts to reduce VMT. Addressing land-use sources of VMT growth are also critical to consider. As a supplement to our earlier comments regarding the Dunnigan area and the critical need for jobs-housing balance in that area should it ever develop (see November 19, 2008 letter), we are very supportive of mitigation measure LU-4c that establishes a jobs-

*3 noted*

*4 noted*

- Auburn
- Citrus Heights
- Colfax
- Davis
- El Dorado County
- Elk Grove
- Folsom
- Galt
- Isleton
- Lincoln
- Live Oak
- Loomis
- Marysville
- Placer County
- Placerville
- Rancho Cordova
- Rocklin
- Roseville
- Sacramento
- Sacramento County
- Sutter County
- West Sacramento
- Wheatland
- Winters
- Woodland
- Yolo County
- Yuba City
- Yuba County


Mr. David Morrison  
June 12, 2009  
Page 2

housing ratio standard for specific plans and mitigation measure CI-1a that includes the VMT performance test for Dunnigan. These mitigation measures offer complementary policies and strategies to address land use sources of VMT growth. The VMT performance test is an especially innovative approach – we are unaware of any local government anywhere that has utilized this technique – and we are committed in whatever ways we can to assist the County in successfully implementing this mitigation measure.

4  
cont

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

Sincerely,



Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

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