

AGENDA: April 5, 2007

TO: Regional Transportation Commission -
FROM: George Dondero, Executive Director
RE: CalCOG Draft Policy Statement – Propositions 1-C and 84

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) was awarded a state grant to develop a Regional Blueprint Plan for Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties. This plan is expected to take two years to complete. Blueprint Plans are loosely defined as a land use plan that promotes better travel behavior. Provisions of Proposition 1C, the \$2.9 billion housing bond and three provisions, Chapter 9, of Proposition 84, the \$5.8 billion water and parks bond, call for legislation to direct how the funding is to be provided and include policy guidance promoting infill and resource protection in the same manner in which the Regional Blueprint programs are being established by regional planning agencies throughout the state. CalCOG is drafting a policy statement to assist state legislators as they draft a bill to guide the allocation of funds for Regional Growth Programs defined in Propositions 1-C and 84.

DISCUSSION

Although the funding programs do not fund transportation projects, they are tied to some key elements developed within a Regional Blueprint plan, which would tie land use and transportation planning policies more directly than is generally practiced. Blue print development is voluntary, yet the state has provided incentives for participation by incorporating criteria referencing blueprints to the allocation of funds available from the two bond programs in propositions 1-C and 84.

Regional Blueprints will be discussed at the CalCOG Regional Issues Forum in Monterey on April 12. The RTC CalCOG delegate, Commissioner Mark Stone and the RTC Executive Director will be attending the forum. There will be a progress report on potential opportunities to guide funds from Housing and Park bond measures. There will also be a discussion of comparative performance measures, mapping of habitat, farmlands and other important resources, as well as energy, water, global warming and other environmental issues. A report on the forum will be made at the April 19th RTC Transportation Policy Workshop.

Attachment 1: CalCOG Draft Policy Statement 3-5-07.