

LATE DISTRIBUTION
Date 11:54 am, May 18, 2011

Quotes from the cover page of SACOG's Outreach; Public Participation Plan: A "How To" Guide for Effective Civic Involvement.

Quote #1 - "The Public Participation Plan is designed for SACOG staff, elected officials, and most importantly the public to understand the specific activities SACOG is committed to for different types of plans and projects"

COMMENT: It seems strange that since SACOG has stated that they intend to reach out for Public Input, that our own Board of Supervisors would consider agreeing to this Memo of Understanding without seeking comment from its own constituents. This SACOG Consortium and the plans it will develop will have major consequences for El Dorado County far into the future. To put this item on the Consent Calendar without Public Comment seems highly inappropriate given the impact this action will have on all county residents, *FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.*

SACOG includes pages of how they intend to involve the public in the planning process. This is a requirement for receiving Federal funding. Whether or not meaningful local public input happens in the process going forward is highly unlikely. Since the majority of the Advisors and Stakeholders live or work in the Sacramento area, and since the meetings are held during the day, it is a given that public attendance at meetings will be dominated by that group's input, *NOT EL DORADO COUNTY RESIDENTS.*

Today's failure to make the public aware of your pending agreement with SACOG is a good example of why the public is usually the last to know, always playing catch-up ball, to stay informed. We need to be engaged from the **beginning** of the process so that we can be true participants in the dialog.

EL DORADO COUNTY IS ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF GAINING FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS ON THEIR OWN, WITHOUT SELLING OUT OUR RURAL SOUL TO A METROPOLITAN DEVIL.

Quote #2 - "The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for developing a long-range regional transportation plan, required to cover at least a 20-year planning horizon, which must be updated every four years under Federal transportation law."

COMMENT: While I can understand the need for counties to coordinate their plans for regional transportation, I would like clarification on some other activities which this MOU includes. The advisory groups contributing to this Consortium include a laundry list of issues that need to be defined and an explanation given as to how they relate to a Regional Transportation Plan.

I'll name a few of these activities that, in my mind, go beyond coordinating on Transportation:

1. Energy Use & Climate Change
2. Social Equity.
3. Education.
4. Green Business Development.
5. Aquatic Resources.
6. Community Health Needs Assessments.
7. Natural Resources.
8. Habitat Conservation.
9. Environmental Justice.
10. Affordable Housing.

This sounds like an omnibus plan that needs to be sorted out before committing to join the Consortium. What are we signing on to? I object to signing SACOG's MOU.

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THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH TRANSPORTATION. IF THIS IS THE FUTURE SAILING DIRECTION OF SACOG, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT SHIP SAIL WITHOUT EL DO COUNTY ON BOARD. MICHAEL DROBESH, PLACERVILLE 5/17/11

On page 3, item 2e of the Memorandum of Understanding it states:

"The Parties acknowledge local authority over land use and other issues and will involve SACOG throughout the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development to ensure the work performed meets local needs for sustainable communities."

COMMENT: If I understand this correctly, we have local authority over land use **as long as we meet the criteria for "Sustainable Communities."** Is conformity to the definition of a "Sustainable Community" the criteria for receiving funding? I believe the residents of El Dorado County need to understand the full range of "sustainable" projects that could come as a result of this Consortium's plans being adopted and implemented.

I ask that you delay signing SACOG's MOU until we can focus more on the unintended consequences that may result from this Regional-Planning relationship.

On page 4, Item 7 of the Memorandum it states:

*"This MOU is intended to facilitate further agreements between the Parties, each of which is expected to be **more specific** as development of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development progresses and becomes more focused."*

COMMENT: As always, the devil is in the details. I would like to see you table signing this MOU so that you and the residents of El Dorado County can try to discern what some of those specific details should be.

Do you plan to conduct local workshops to facilitate informing county residents and allowing their timely input to the process? SACOG's Advisory Committees are making their plans for our county. What will our level of involvement be in identifying and defining those "more specific" details?

When comprehensive plans are developed by planning professionals who are funded by the Federal government, our local interests take a back seat to a Collective, Regional vision of what our future should be. **I believe this process by-passes local government. When public policy is developed by government-funded advocacy groups, administrators or bureaucrats, there is no accountability to the people.**

Speaking of SACOG's Advisory Committee, I saw no organization on the list that represents rural or agricultural interests.

MICHAEL DROBESH, PLACERVILLE
5/17/11

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY
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