

## REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT		MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Shasta <i>FORWARD</i> >> Regional Blueprint: Present Alternative Scenario Concepts to Local Agencies		12/9/08	5

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Direct staff to present community-driven alternative scenario concepts to local agencies for review and comment; and
2. Approve Second Amendment to Agreement between the RTPA and Moore & Associates to extend the agreement expiration date.

### SUMMARY

Seven conceptual alternative scenarios were identified as a result of extensive public engagement. Community and agency feedback will be utilized to reduce the seven scenario concepts to three in preparation for modeling. A fleshed-out version of the three scenarios will be brought to the Board in February for discussion and approval before proceeding with the 2-3 month modeling process.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Project Background**

The Shasta County RTPA was awarded a grant from the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program in 2006 (\$375,000) and again in 2008 (\$140,000). The Board authorized submittal of a third grant application (up to \$260,000) for FY 2008/09. Grant award announcements are expected sometime in December. Blueprint grants support regional collaboration and data gathering to effectively accommodate population growth and meet emerging state and federal requirements. Shasta County's regional blueprint effort, known as Shasta*FORWARD*>>, is currently underway.

Central to Blueprint Planning is a public engagement process designed around growth modeling and visualization techniques. The intent is to create a more approachable, accessible, and engaging planning process for all citizens. In lieu of technical and sometimes onerous reports, Shasta*FORWARD*>> utilizes maps, animations, and graphical performance measures to help 'tell the story' of Shasta County's future and better understand the long-term outcomes stemming from current trends, policies, and practices. This future is known as the 'Current Trend' scenario.

Through community-defined alternative scenarios, regions may explore new ideas and assumptions about growth and development. These alternatives are cross-evaluated and compared against the Current Trend scenario. Performance measures and consistency with local values and priorities are used to rank scenarios and select a preferred regional growth vision.

Each city and the County are involved throughout the visioning process. When completed, the Preferred Regional Growth Vision will be presented for consideration and possible incorporation into respective city, county, and RTPA plans and programs as appropriate.

Shasta*FORWARD*>> adds new data, technical modeling methods, public engagement tools, and a regional forum needed for future generation of a 'Sustainable Communities Strategy' under SB 375 as well as local agency compliance with AB 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) and

related CEQA requirements. In addition, consistency with a regionally adopted blueprint plan is now commonly included as a scoring criterion under various housing and transportation related grants.

It is anticipated that the ShastaFORWARD>> community visioning process will be completed by July 2009, followed by ongoing implementation activities. Key deliverables include the following:

- A final report describing the ShastaFORWARD>> planning process and the 'Preferred Regional Growth Vision';
- Scenario modeling outputs, including land use maps and projected progress toward regional goals and performance measures; and
- Regional GIS datasets and modeling outputs for use by local agencies and the RTPA.

### **Community-driven Alternative Scenarios**

ShastaFORWARD>> community workshops were held in October in Anderson, Burney, Redding, and Shasta Lake. Working in small groups, local residents weighed each of the fifteen community priorities (as documented in the Community Values & Priorities Assessment report), outlined desired long-range outcomes, and developed strategy recommendations for achieving their goals.

This input, viewed together with the more comprehensive Community Values & Priorities Assessment (see Attachment A), led to a range of seven 'scenario concepts' (see Attachment B). Note that these are not scenarios; rather they are a range of potential building blocks for use in constructing the final three alternative scenarios. Public and local agency feedback is needed to consolidate the community concepts down to three alternative scenarios for modeling.

To collect public feedback, scenario concepts have been posted on the project website, accompanied by an electronic survey tool. To collect local agency input, staff will continue to meet and consult with city and county staff. In addition, it is proposed that scenario concepts and draft scenarios be formally presented to local agencies to confirm direction. All city councils and city planning commissions have accepted and scheduled a presentation. The Shasta County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors have not responded.

At each presentation, local agencies and commissions will be asked to provide big picture feedback regarding the feasibility of draft scenarios within their jurisdiction. More specifically, to:

1. Highlight where the community's scenario concepts substantially diverge from existing local plans and programs; and
2. Identify major policy hurdles that may hinder or otherwise prevent the agency from possible future incorporation of the community's scenario concepts into local plans and programs.

Local agencies and commissions may also provide insights regarding modeling inputs and assumptions that would best accomplish community goals. Key variables used to create unique scenarios include:

- General plan land use designations
- Transportation investment strategies
- Location-based attractions for new development (natural, man-made, or policy)
- Location-based discouragements for new development (natural, man-made, or policy)
- Residential densities/average lot sizes
- Percentage vacant land vs. infill development
- Masks (areas where development is prohibited)

A fleshed-out rendering of the three scenarios – incorporating input from the general public, city/county planning departments, and local commissions/councils/boards – will be brought back to the Board in February for discussion and approval before proceeding with the 2-3 month modeling process. Each of the final three alternative scenarios will have a distinct area of emphasis – a packaged set of ordered priorities upon which to base modeling inputs and assumptions.

### **Second Amendment to Agreement**

The existing Agreement with Moore & Associates for public involvement services related to ShastaFORWARD>> will expire on December 31, 2008. Revisions to the project schedule and the addition of new work tasks made possible through a second grant award necessitate a time extension. The attached Second Amendment extends the term of the Agreement to December 31, 2009.

### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The ShastaFORWARD>> project study area encompasses all of Shasta County and all entities interested in transportation and land use. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provide grant funds.

### FINANCING

All Blueprint efforts to date are funded up to 80% through California Regional Blueprint Planning Program grants. In FY 06/07, \$375,000 was awarded to the RTPA. An additional \$140,000 was awarded in FY 07/08. The Board authorized submittal of a third grant application (up to \$260,000) for FY 2008/09. The required 20% match funds are budgeted in the Overall Work Program. Grant funds expended to date for ShastaFORWARD>> equal approximately \$328,000.

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Attachments: Community-driven Scenario Concepts  
Second Amendment to Moore & Associates Agreement