

SMART GROWTH STRATEGY REGIONAL LIVABILITY FOOTPRINT PROJECT

FACT SHEET

Updated July 2003

Current Status

The Project is currently engaged in three critical project components:

1. Identifying and obtaining fiscal incentives and regulatory changes that would help local governments plan a future reflects the Regionwide Smart Growth Vision and the Smart Growth Preamble & Policies.
2. Planning outreach and engagement efforts that will generate support for smart growth
3. Identifying and developing programs that would support smart growth implementation.

Projections 2003

The jobs and housing data from the Regionwide Smart Growth Vision were used as a starting point for *Projections 2003*. Local governments and stakeholders provided input to draft forecasts before the final forecast was adopted by the ABAG Executive Board on March 20, 2003. *Projections 2003* will:

- Underscore the Bay Area's commitment to growing in a "smarter" way, and increase chances that regulatory changes and incentives can be obtained at the state level.
- Serve as the basis for Metropolitan Transportation Commission's *2005 Regional Transportation Plan*.
- Influence other regional agencies' regulatory decisions and incentives

Serve as a benchmark to evaluate how well the Bay Area moves toward a smarter land use pattern.

Smart Growth Preamble & Policies

Project staff and partners developed a set of policies that embody the objectives of the Regionwide Smart Growth Vision. Adopted by four of the five regional agencies, the Smart Growth Preamble & Policies will provide a framework for the pursuit of incentives and regulatory changes and serve as a tool to implement smart growth in the Bay Area.

The Birth of the Regionwide Smart Growth Vision: The Smart Growth Visioning Process

To develop a Regionwide Smart Growth Vision, over 2,000 people participated in two rounds of public workshops convened in all nine Bay Area counties¹ in Fall 2001 and Spring 2002. Workshop participation comprised of:

- ~40% Business, environmental or social equity advocates and representatives from non-profit groups
- ~30% Unaffiliated individuals and concerned private citizens
- ~30% Public sector employees and representatives including elected officials

The Regionwide Smart Growth Vision reflects the desire for a more livable, sustainable future for the Bay Area. The Project Steering Committee adopted the narrative Vision in August 2002.

Project Background, Mission and Goals

In 2000 the five regional government agencies'² Smart Growth Strategy and the Regional Livability Footprint Project of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities³ merged to form a united regional planning effort. The Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project seeks to lay out strategies for how the Bay Area can grow smarter and become more sustainable over the next 20 years and beyond. From the outset, the Project identified three goals:

- 1. Create a smart growth land use vision for the Bay Area** to minimize sprawl, provide adequate and affordable housing, improve mobility, protect environmental quality, and preserve open space.
- 2. Identify and obtain regulatory changes and incentives** needed to accomplish these objectives.
- 3. Develop 20-year land use and transportation projections** based on the vision that will in turn guide the infrastructure investments of regional partners.

¹ Contra Costa County developed and conducted its own public planning process called Shaping Our Future which consisted of 2 countywide workshops and 5 subregional workshops. The Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project was fortunate to be able to partner with Shaping Our Future in conducting the Round One Workshop in October 2001. Information and data from the Shaping Our Future process were incorporated into the Vision.

² The five regional agencies are the Association of Bay Area Governments, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

³ Formerly the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, the Alliance is a multi-stakeholder coalition representing the business, environmental and social equity communities.