

**DRAFT**  
**I-15 Interregional Partnership (I-15 IRP)**  
**Technical Working Group**  
**Meeting Summary**  
Thursday, June 12, 2003

**Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions**

Jeff Martin, SANDAG, welcomed everyone and called for introductions.

**Agenda Item #2: Summary of the May 8, 2003 I-15 IRP Technical Working Group Meeting**

The meeting summary was approved.

**Agenda Item #3: Public Comments/Communications**

No public comments or communications were made.

**Agenda Item #4: Regional Comprehensive Plan Update – Draft Outline of Borders Chapter**

The Draft outline of the Borders Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) was included in the agenda packet for review by Technical Working Group (TWG) members.

Lynne Baker, Endangered Habitats League, raised a couple of issues and made suggestions regarding the draft outline.

- Under #3: Interregional: Transportation; The multi-modal issues portion should include airports in addition to rail, high speed rail, and maritime ports. Also, she would advocate that the plan recommend extending the high speed rail system into Baja California.
- Under #3: Binational: Transportation; Ports of Entry should be a separate issue, due to the many security, trade, and efficiency/performance issues that are involved.
- Under #3: Binational: Environment; There is little or no mention of waste water and sewage treatment issues in the current draft outline.

**Agenda Item #5: Draft I-15 IRP Policy Committee Meeting Agenda for Friday, June 20, 2003**

Staff noted that the I-15 IRP Policy Committee would meet on June 20, 2003 in the Mitchell Room of Escondido City Hall. Technical Working Group members and interested parties were invited to attend the meeting, during which the Policy Committee would review the draft long range transportation, economic development, and jobs/housing balance strategies. The I-15 IRP Policy Committee is composed of the SANDAG Borders Committee members and elected officials representing the southwest Riverside region

Staff also informed the TWG that the SANDAG Board of Directors Policy Development Meeting, to be held on Friday, June 12, 2003, would focus on fiscal reform and SANDAG's fiscal reform proposal.

### **Agenda Item #6: Report from State Interregional Partnership Meeting, May 6, 2003**

Susan Baldwin, SANDAG, informed the TWG about events at the state IRP meeting held May 6 in Sacramento and attended by Ms. Baldwin and Kevin Viera, WRCOG. IRP representatives were presented information about state economic development and housing programs. There was a presentation by SACOG about the visioning process that they are conducting in the Sacramento region. There was also limited time allotted for idea sharing and discussion of common issues among the staff of various IRP programs.

One of the main issues discussed was the availability of future funding for IRP programs. Most attendees agreed that IRP programs have been very productive so far, and would benefit from future funding to continue the efforts that have been started. However, it is apparent that future state funding is not assured and there is a danger that many of the Councils of Governments (COGs) will not have sufficient internal funding to continue IRP efforts without the help of the state.

Lynne Baker suggested that the TWG create an alternative way to continue the dialogue between regional representatives without a large staff effort in the event of a future lack of funding. Staff agreed and stated that it is the intent of SANDAG and WRCOG to continue with some form of interregional relationship despite state funding issues.

Kevin Viera, WRCOG, noted that Senator Torlakson has introduced legislation that supports IRP efforts in the Bay Area. Senator Torlakson attended the meeting in Sacramento to inform IRP representatives about the need to support legislation that benefits IRP programs.

Staff also informed the TWG that Susan DeSantis, IBI Group, as a representative of the California Planning Roundtable, will be asking IRP representatives from around the state to participate in a focus group for a forthcoming report on jobs/housing balance issues.

### **Agenda Item #7: Report on the SCAG/SANDAG meeting, May 8, 2003**

Susan Baldwin reported that SCAG and SANDAG held a joint meeting on May 8, 2003 and agreed to schedule a joint meeting every six months in the future. The next meeting is scheduled for October in Temecula. Issues discussed on May 8 included the need for SANDAG and SCAG to address housing issues that affect both regions, the appointment of an Orange County representative to the SANDAG Borders Committee, potential meetings between Orange County and the San Diego region or even an interregional partnership between the two, and future discussion of a North/South transportation corridor that would parallel the I-15 corridor.

It was suggested that the Technical Working Group invite to a future meeting, an expert on population growth models to discuss the potential for a statewide model that addresses transportation and housing issues.

### **Agenda Item #8: Work Program Update**

Jeff Martin, SANDAG, presented a draft project schedule that incorporates the current progress of the Technical Working Group with respect to the draft transportation, economic development, and jobs/housing balance strategies.

Mr. Martin noted that the next step for these strategies is their presentation to the I-15 IRP Policy Committee on June 20, 2003. It is hoped that the Policy Committee will approve the

strategies for further evaluation at which time the TWG would proceed with the strategy evaluation and development process.

Mr. Martin also discussed later stages of the project schedule, such as the eventual development of a draft monitoring plan to address the strategies as they progress from the evaluation to the planning and implementation stages. Additionally, staff and IRP participants will develop an implementation program, conduct a review and update of the Existing Conditions Report, and eventually create a final report to the Policy Committee. Finally, by June 18, 2004, the IRP member agencies should take action on the IRP implementation program and monitoring program, and approve the final report of the I-15 IRP.

#### **Agenda Item #9: WRCOG/OCCOG IRP Update**

Kevin Viera, WRCOG, discussed the progress of the SR-91 IRP between WRCOG and the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG). He noted that this IRP has been working on very similar issues, such as traffic congestion and a severe jobs/housing imbalance. To date, the SR-91 IRP has completed an existing conditions report and formulated strategies for economic development and housing development. Mr. Viera also noted that there has been less focus on transportation issues in the SR-91 IRP. This is due to the fact that the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and Orange County have been working on congestion mitigation issues for some time and there is a separate committee of elected officials that has been addressing future improvements to SR-91.

The SR-91 IRP is also currently conducting an "infill-refill development study" in conjunction with the Center for Demographic Research. The study is focusing on potential areas for housing, commercial, and industrial redevelopment in Orange County and northwest Riverside County.

Lynne Baker suggested that both of the IRP's should consider the future of the California High Speed Rail (HSR) project, and start to focus on planning the potential station areas or hubs along that system. She advised that the hubs of the HSR system should be considered logical prospects for future development.

#### **Agenda Item #11: Strategy Discussion**

In order to give the Working Group adequate time to review the proposed strategies that were being forwarded to the I-15 IRP Policy Committee, agenda item #11 was moved ahead of agenda item #10 – Housing Strategies.

**Agenda Item #11A – Long Range Transportation Strategies:** After noting that the Short Range Transportation Strategies are now in the implementation stage, George Franck, SANDAG, introduced the draft Long Range Transportation Strategies to the TWG.

Lynne Baker had comments on strategies T2, T3 and T4. On Strategy T2, she suggested that the strategy should mention that there is a pilot project underway for "station cars," ridesharing vehicles that are meant to increase accessibility to transit services for long-distance commuters. On Strategy T3, she mentioned that there should be a focus on the integration of commercial and housing development with multimodal transit centers, whether they are small scale transit stations or HSR hubs. On Strategy T4, she suggested changing the title to "Reduce parking requirements at employment sites *near transit nodes*," in order to make this strategy more acceptable to the Policy Committee. The Working Group discussed and approved these changes.

Shirley Medina, RCTC, and Jim Mackenzie, City of Murrieta, asked to be sent a new draft of these strategies after they have been revised to include the changes mentioned above.

**Agenda Item #11B – Economic Development Strategies:** Kevin Viera, WRCOG, introduced the draft Economic Development Strategies.

Regarding Strategy ED2, Diane Sessions, Southwest Riverside Economic Development Corporation and Stevie Field, Southwest Riverside Economic Alliance, suggested that it would be beneficial for the Web site to have a relationship with the connectory.com Web site, hosted by the East County EDC.

Working Group members agreed that marketing would be the most challenging and most crucial element in the success of the Web site.

The TWG discussed the regional focus of these strategies, and the question of why some strategies, i.e. the economic development strategies, are focused entirely on Riverside County. The TWG agreed that staff should summarize the purpose and direction of each set of strategies before they are presented to the I-15 IRP Policy Committee in order to avoid confusion.

The TWG also discussed the feasibility of Strategy ED1, given the competitive nature of regional economic development entities. It was recognized that barriers to cooperation between these entities do exist and that it will be a slow process to “facilitate greater collaboration” as is suggested in the strategy. However, the TWG did agree that there are possibilities for greater cooperation and that these opportunities should be pursued.

**Agenda Item #11C – Jobs/Housing Balance Strategies:** Kevin Viera introduced strategies that broadly address jobs/housing imbalance issues.

Regarding Strategy JH2, Lynne Baker suggested that more active public outreach about the IRP and the jobs/housing imbalance should begin as soon as possible. She mentioned that many of the materials that would be needed for such an effort already exist at SANDAG and other organizations. Members agreed that it is only a matter of putting the information and materials together and then recruiting representatives to begin with outreach efforts such as presentations.

Staff stated that all of the comments and suggestions made by TWG members would be considered and incorporated into the draft strategies before they are presented to the I-15 IRP Policy Committee on June 20, 2003.

**Due to time constraints, Agenda Item #10 – Housing Strategies, was not discussed. This Item will be on the agenda for the August 7, 2003 I-15 IRP TWG meeting.**

## **Agenda Item 12: Meetings and Events**

Lynne Baker distributed informational brochures produced by the Housing Action Network and explained the purpose and focus of that organization.

## **Agenda Item 13: Next Meeting Date and Location**

Susan Baldwin, SANDAG, suggested that Working Group members send her comments or suggestions about potential housing strategies, and that a small group of members could meet before the next meeting in order to begin more detailed development of these strategies. Ms. Baldwin announced that the next I-15 IRP Technical Working Group meeting

will be held Thursday, August 7, 2003 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and that there will be no TWG meeting in the month of July. The August 7 meeting will be held in Murrieta, at the Murrieta City Council Chambers. The Technical Working Group agreed to change the regular meeting time to 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in order to avoid a timing conflict with the North County Economic Development Corporation's monthly meeting.