

**California Regional  
Progress Report**

*Regional Blueprint Quality of Life Measures  
“Defining, Measuring, and Evaluating Performance”*

**UCLA Lake Arrowhead Symposium  
“Economic Crisis as Opportunity  
for Reform”**

**Trish Kelly, October 19, 2009**

# OVERVIEW

- 2007 Progress Report – Integrated Quality of Life Measures within the framework of the Regional Blueprints, led by Caltrans
- 2009-2010 Progress Report – scoping process underway to incorporate new policy issues
- California Strategic Growth Council and other State policy initiatives for sustainable communities

# CALIFORNIA REGIONAL



# PROGRESS REPORT

2007

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
CALTRANS • CALCOG • U.C. DAVIS

# PURPOSE OF THE 2007 REPORT

- First baseline report for how California's regions are doing across a range of **integrated** quality of life measures, within the framework of innovative regional planning led by the Metropolitan Planning Agencies (MPOs) and Councils of Governments (COGs), supported by Caltran's California Regional Blueprint Planning Program
- Develop a common framework to measure regional progress statewide – where to change course or address emerging challenges, and how the State can better support the regions and their communities

# AUDIENCE

- State, regional, and local decision makers and stakeholders, including residents, business and environmental interests, non-profits and other civic leaders as they determine the policies and investments that will shape the economic, environmental and social well-being of California's regions and the State overall

# 2007 Partners and Sponsors

- California Center for Regional Leadership
- Caltrans
- California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG) and member agencies
- California Dept. of Housing and Community Development
- Information Center for the Environment, UC Davis
- Morgan Family Foundation

# California Regional Blueprint Planning Program

- Built upon several regional long-term planning efforts
- \$20 million in federal regional transportation planning funded awarded by Caltrans since 2005; 18 Metropolitan Planning Agencies and 15 Rural Regional Transportation Planning Agencies
- Public engagement to select community preferred growth scenarios, to balance transportation planning with land use planning, housing needs, resource protection and other issues to achieve more sustainable regional growth patterns and improve quality of life
- <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/blueprint/>

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK





# PERFORMANCE VS. PROGRESS MEASURES

- Framework recognizes interdependence of policy choices, Blueprint goals, desired outcomes
- To help understand the role of Blueprints in the larger context of policy choices across many areas, not direct evaluation
- Focus on underlying patterns or overall direction across indicators, within and across diverse regions

# THE REGIONS



# CONTEXT: IMPORTANCE OF STATEWIDE CHALLENGES

- Growing Population
- Growing Diversity
- Aging of Population
- Growing Pressure on Agricultural Lands, Open Space and Ecosystems
- Increasing Housing Costs
- Growing Global Competition

# PLANNING PROCESS

With assistance from the Advisory Team,  
measures and indicators were developed by:

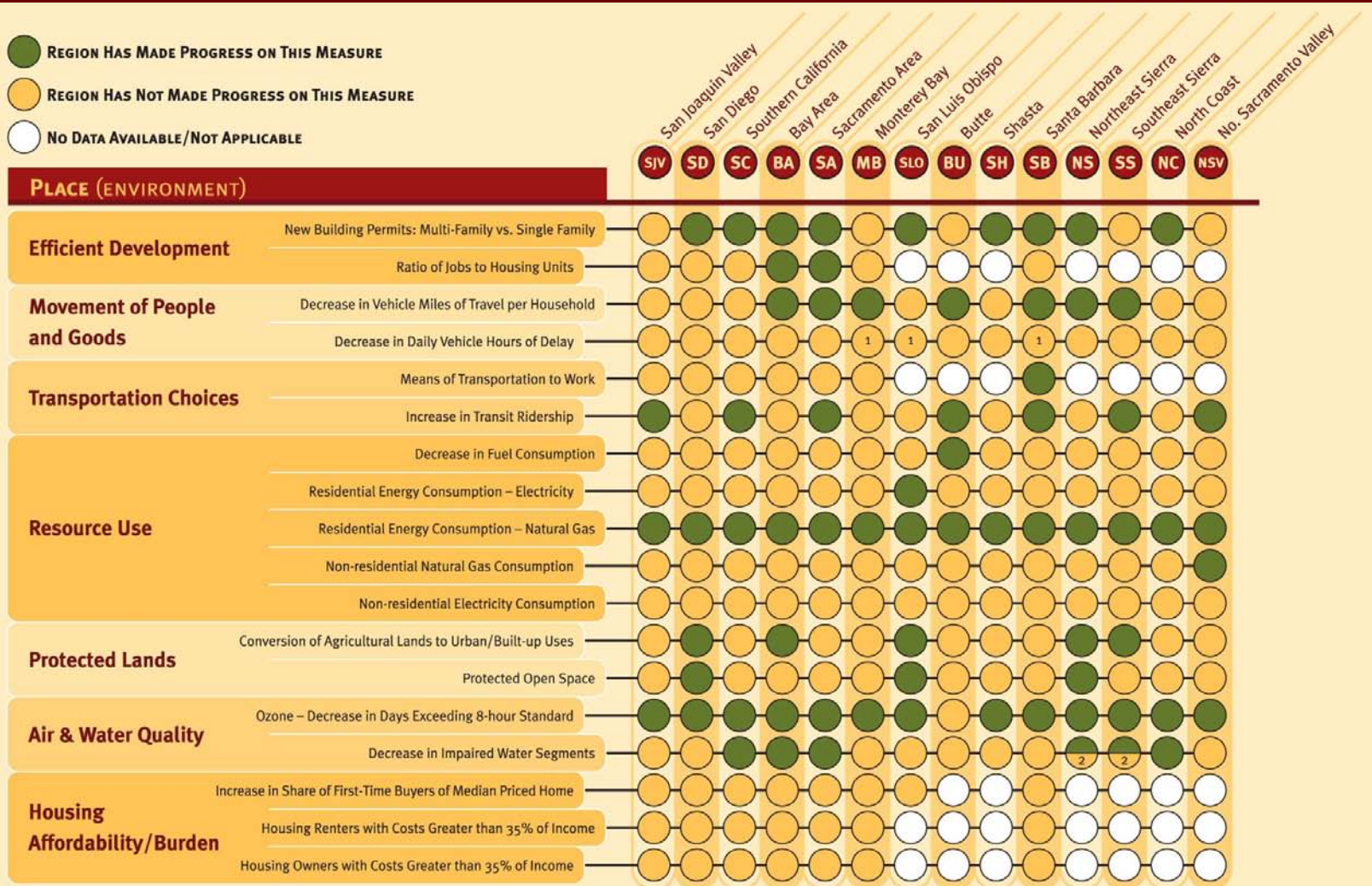


# MEASURES AND INDICATORS

- The Three P's which define Quality of Life: Place, Prosperity and People (the Three E's – Economy, Equity, Environment)
- 13 Categories (Areas of Measure)
- 27 Indicators
- More focus on Place indicators where Blueprints can have most impact

# PLACE MEGAMATRIX

- REGION HAS MADE PROGRESS ON THIS MEASURE
- REGION HAS NOT MADE PROGRESS ON THIS MEASURE
- NO DATA AVAILABLE/NOT APPLICABLE



Notes:

1- The Caltrans State Highway Congestion Monitoring Program groups San Luis Obispo, Monterey Bay Region, and Santa Barbara as one region.

2- The Water Quality Control Board's regions of Lahontan and Central Valley include data for both Northeast Sierra and Southeast Sierra.







# OPPORTUNITIES & IMPLICATIONS FOR DATA, INFORMATION AND POLICY

- Create a priority list of new or refined indicators to **“measure what matters most”**
- Commit to an ongoing flow of timely data between State Agencies & Regions
- Expand data collection to address gaps, including for rural regions
- Develop consistent definitions and standards across agencies
- Support Adoption of best practices and new indicators; State can invest in new tools and methodologies for more accurate data

# 2009-2010 REPORT

- Scoping process underway to identify new and emerging policy issues to be incorporated, potential revised or new indicators, data sources and methodologies
- Planning and Technical Advisory Teams expanded with State partners and Blueprint affiliates
- Conducted on-line survey
- Opportunities to align with Strategic Growth Council

# State Policy Initiatives

- AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, sets greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) limits for 2020 at 1990 levels, and vision for beyond 2020
- SB 375 (2008) – Requires California Resources Board to develop regional GHG emission reduction targets for cars and light trucks in each MPO region. Each MPO must develop plans to meet targets, either through sustainable communities strategy (as part of Regional Transportation Plan - RTP) or alternative planning strategy. Must address travel demand models and land use.

# State Policy Initiatives

- SB 732 (2008) – Strategic Growth Council – Cabinet level council to coordinate state agency activities to: improve air & water quality, preserve natural resource and ag lands, increase availability of affordable housing, improve infrastructure systems, promote public health, assist state and local entities in planning of sustainable communities & meeting AB 32 goals ([www.sgc.ca.gov](http://www.sgc.ca.gov))

# Strategic Growth Council

- Charged to provide, fund and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies to plan and develop sustainable communities, and award grants and loans
- Allocated \$12 million in bond funding to develop regional transportation and land use modeling by MPOs for the RTPs, to comply with GHG requirements of SB 375 and promote Council goals; should connect with Blueprints
- ARB will adopt Regional GHG emissions targets

# Progress Report Scoping Process Findings

- Help establish consistency across agencies in a statewide set of measures for tracking sustainability and progress towards Regional Blueprint goals; align with current measurement efforts (e.g., Smart Mobility Framework, State Transportation Plan, Emerald Cities, Climate Action Plan)
- Provide key information policy makers need to make decisions
- Keep most all baseline indicators and add dynamic indicators for more recent areas

# Priorities for Revised/New Indicators

- Sustainable land use (infill development and jobs/housing balance, housing affordability/burden, green infrastructure); vehicle miles traveled (VMT); GHG targets related to SB 375; public health (determinants vs. outcomes); water conservation/efficiencies; energy efficiencies; green economy industry clusters and jobs
- Infill development hard to quantify due to lack of land use and infill data but critical; need to establish GHG emissions baseline; need better economy data

# Options for 2010 Report

- 8-10 core indicators aligned with cross-cutting state agency goals
- Special features report to go deeper on selected issue
- Full report: Preferred option - to foster ongoing policy discussion between state agencies and regional partners; set the stage for next Administration and Legislature; incorporate new data resources and methodologies



# The Value of Progress Measures

- Help identify integrated indicators of sustainability; benchmark our progress; and identify areas for course corrections
- Provide information and context for data-driven public policy decisions and investments on shared priorities and goals, to help all regions improve
- Increase understanding of complexity and interdependence of large-scale issues, and better engage the public in the long-term processes for improvement
- Promote transparency through accountability for regional progress

# Governance Issues and Challenges

- Regions are the right scale for many issues
- Blueprints are voluntary; land use authority is local
- MPOs have new statutory responsibilities with SB 375
- Resources are needed to plan for and implement sustainable communities strategies, develop better data and methodologies for progress measures

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