



Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90017
February 4, 2021

To: Community
Economic & Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)
From: India Brookover, Associate Regional Planner, Sustainability,
(213) 236-1919, Brookover@scag.ca.gov
Subject: SoCal Greenprint Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only - No Action Required

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians. 3: Be the foremost data information hub for the region. 6: Deploy strategic communications to further agency priorities and foster public understanding of long-range regional planning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SCAG has completed the first year of the two-year SoCal Greenprint development process. The SoCal Greenprint will serve as a strategic conservation tool and website to help users make improved land use and transportation infrastructure decisions and support conservation investments based on the best available scientific data. Specifically, the SoCal Greenprint will serve as an online mapping and reporting platform illuminating the multiple benefits of natural and agricultural lands through data related to key topics such as habitat connectivity, biodiversity, clean water, agriculture, flood risk reduction, and greenhouse gas sequestration. This presentation will provide an overview of the project's progress to date and identify deliverables and milestones for 2021.

BACKGROUND:

A "greenprint" is a strategic conservation plan or assessment tool that reveals the economic and social benefits that parks, open space, and working lands provide to communities. In 2018, SCAG staff and stakeholder members of the Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group identified the opportunity to develop a greenprint to balance regional growth with the multiple challenges affecting Southern California such as drought, climate change, and habitat loss; to help better prioritize lands for mitigation that have regional conservation benefits; to accommodate infrastructure development while protecting important natural resources; to address the lack of consistent, regional data and tools; to help guide conservation investments; and to communicate

OUR MISSION

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.

OUR VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

OUR CORE VALUES

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous

the multiple benefits of natural resources, agricultural lands, and urban greening to people and communities.

The SoCal Greenprint will serve an important role in meeting regional conservation goals as articulated in Connect SoCal, where the project is identified as a next step in developing a regional conservation strategy. Additionally, full development and deployment of the SoCal Greenprint is included in Connect SoCal's PEIR as a tool to support the mitigation of impacts to threatened and endangered species and habitats (SMM BIO-2). Finally, development of the SoCal Greenprint is included in SCAG's recently adopted Climate Change Resolution (Resolution 21-628-1), which will emphasize regional conservation planning's role in fulfilling the State's Executive Order N-82-20 to preserve 30 percent of habitat land and coastal water by the year 2030.

The Nature Conservancy, along with their subconsultant GreenInfo Network, were selected to develop the SoCal Greenprint based on their extensive experience with similar regional efforts and their engagement with stakeholders across the private, public, and non-profit sectors. The project's first year entailed extensive, targeted outreach to stakeholders to gain insight on the tool's key users, uses, main themes, and the best datasets to include. While the SoCal Greenprint will be freely available to anyone, key users have been defined as infrastructure agencies, conservation practitioners, community-based organizations, developers and planners. With this stakeholder input, six final themes were developed to organize the data: agriculture, conservation/biodiversity/habitat, community and equity, infrastructure/built environment, risks and resilience, and water.

Synergies have also been established between work on the SoCal Greenprint and SCAG's housing efforts. The Nature Conservancy provided guidance on how to process and incorporate data in Connect SoCal's variable constraints layers and provided a prioritized list of environmental data that was incorporated into SCAG's Housing Element Parcel (HELPR) tool. This data is useful for planners in identifying areas to prioritize housing growth based on a number of environmental factors.

While stakeholder outreach and data vetting continue, this upcoming year will focus on developing and testing the tool, and a launch campaign. For their final project deliverable, the Nature Conservancy will use the Greenprint to create a white paper advising SCAG on challenges and opportunities for developing a Regional Advanced Mitigation Program, which is envisioned by Connect SoCal as establishing and/or supplementing regional conservation and mitigation banks. The SoCal Greenprint is on schedule for completion in late 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This project is funded in SCAG's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Overall Work Program under 290-4862.01

ATTACHMENT(S):



-
1. PowerPoint Presentation - Connect SoCal Greenprint (EEC)
 2. PowerPoint Presentation - Connect SoCal Greenprint (CEHD)