

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Integration Project

What it is

The SJV Blueprint Integration Project is a valley-wide program funded through Prop 84 grant funds providing assistance to the 46 smaller cities (populations under 50,000) of the valley in integrating Blueprint principles into their general plans and other guidance documents.

Why it is needed

Since its inception in 2006, the Blueprint planning process has been a bottom up and voluntary process, seeking to involve every community throughout the Valley (more information on the Blueprint can be found at www.valleyblueprint.org). Currently, 14 of the larger cities in the Valley are utilizing the services of the Smart Valley Places program to integrate the Blueprint principles in their guidance documents. The Blueprint Integration Project seeks to provide similar assistance to the smaller cities in the region by using a hands-on approach that will

The 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles

1. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
2. Create walkable neighborhoods.
3. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration.
4. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
5. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective.
6. Mix land uses.
7. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas.
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
9. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
10. Take advantage of compact building design.
11. Enhance the economic vitality of the region.
12. Support actions that encourage environmental resource management.

facilitate technical assistance from local circuit planners. This approach is a direct response to the needs expressed by smaller local agencies during the Blueprint planning process, which called for Blueprint principle templates that could be considered for their own respective planning documents.

How it works

For those small cities that elect to participate, this program will provide local circuit planner technical assistance aimed at integrating the 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into their general plans and ordinances. The eight valley Regional Planning Agencies (with the Fresno COG acting as the project manager) have contracted with URS Corporation and their partners to act as the consultant team providing Blueprint Integration services to each city that elects to utilize the services of this program. Three local planning firms, all with excellent knowledge, reputations and experience working with and for communities

throughout the Valley, will work with URS to identify the planning needs and desires of the interested cities and provide the hands-on assistance needed to integrate the selected principles into their various guidance documents. Upon completion, this work will be made available as templates through the Blueprint Planner's Toolkit (www.toolkit.valleyblueprint.org) adding to the clearinghouse of tools available to all communities throughout the Valley.

This Prop 84 grant-funded program is scheduled to run through January of 2013, with outreach to local communities beginning in early 2012 via the Small Communities Network and the San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center. If you would like additional information or have questions about the program, please contact Fresno COG Project Manager Rob Terry at (559) 233-4148 or via email at rterry@fresnocog.org.