Social Equity Era of Sustainable Smart Growth

YOSEMITE 2018: CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE
Rural Communities in the San Joaquin Valley

- Conditions
  - Failing Septic systems
  - No / inadequate public transit
  - Non-potable water
  - Unsafe for pedestrians
  - Substandard and insufficient housing
  - Exposure to environmental hazards

- Fragmented Government (with limited capacity)

- Unresponsive Government

- Lack of short and long term land use planning
Smart Growth in California

- Risk of exclusion from smart growth policies
  - Emphasis on higher density and transit oriented development
  - TOD necessary to achieve economic and environmental sustainability
- Need for multi level review of local, regional and state planning infrastructure investment programs perpetuate pattern of locking out rural communities from benefits of municipal services
- Growth away and around disadvantaged unincorporated communities
- "Bang for our buck" policies & practices
Smart Growth in Rural California

- Alignment with AB 857 – State Planning Priorities
  - Promotion of infill development & equity
  - Protection of environmental & agricultural resources
  - Encouragement of efficient development patterns

- Opportunity to reduce greenhouse gases through:
  - Jobs/Housing balance
  - Transportation alternatives
  - Access by proximity
  - Compact development
  - Walkable communities

- Efficient provision of services and amenities like water and sewer

- Farmland Preservation

- Democratizing decision making
Opportunities to Elevate Rural Communities

- SB 375 – Sustainable Community Strategy
- SB 1000 – Environmental Justice in General Plans
- SB 244 – Identification and analysis of water, wastewater, drainage and fire protection needs in disadvantaged unincorporated communities

Guidelines for Key Funding Programs
- California Climate Investments
- SB 1
- Active Transportation Program
- State Revolving Funds

Short and Long Term Planning Processes
- Local & Regional: City, County, MPO, LAFCO, GSA
- State Agencies
Access to Safe & Affordable Drinking Water and Wastewater Services
Investing in Transit Alternatives

- Kern Council of Governments Rural Alternative Transit Plan
  - 5 year transportation development plan focused on replacing fossil fueled vehicles with zero emission vehicles, consider vehicle sharing services & introduce subsidized transit network companies

- Merced County Association of Governments 2018 SCS Scenarios
  - All draft scenarios direct development and investment in existing cities and unincorporated communities (no new towns)

- Van y Vienen in Cantua Creek
- SolVans in Eastern Coachella Valley
Access to Affordable Housing
Thank you!

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