

# California Department of Transportation Division of Transportation Planning

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## Office of Community Planning



*Downtown Oakland - City Center Plaza*

*For Caltrans' Transportation Planning Workshop*

# Presentation Overview

- *What is community planning?*
- *Community planning strategies*
- *Laws and Departmental policies*
- *Community planning goals and activities*
- *Districts' roles in community planning*
- *HQ Community Planning staff*
- *Questions or comments?*

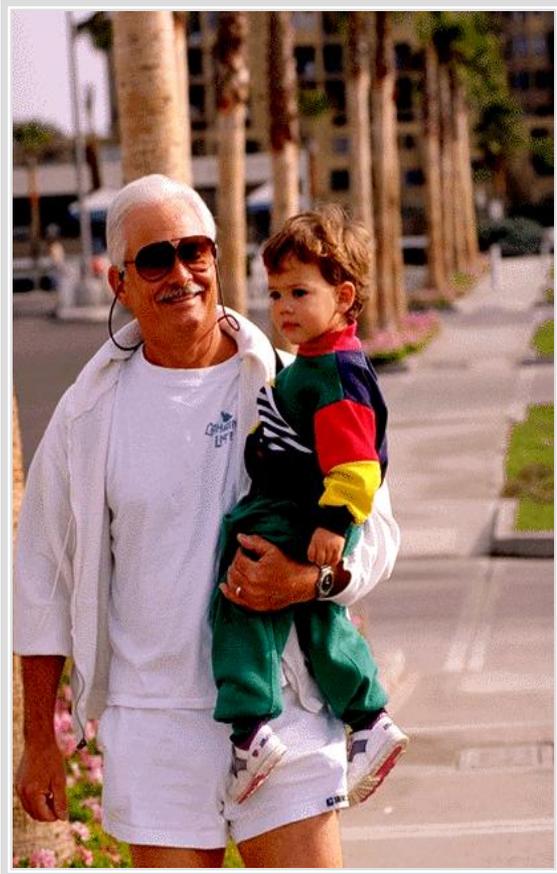
# *What Is Community Planning?*

**Community planning is the integration of transportation and land use planning with community values to create more livable and resource efficient communities.**



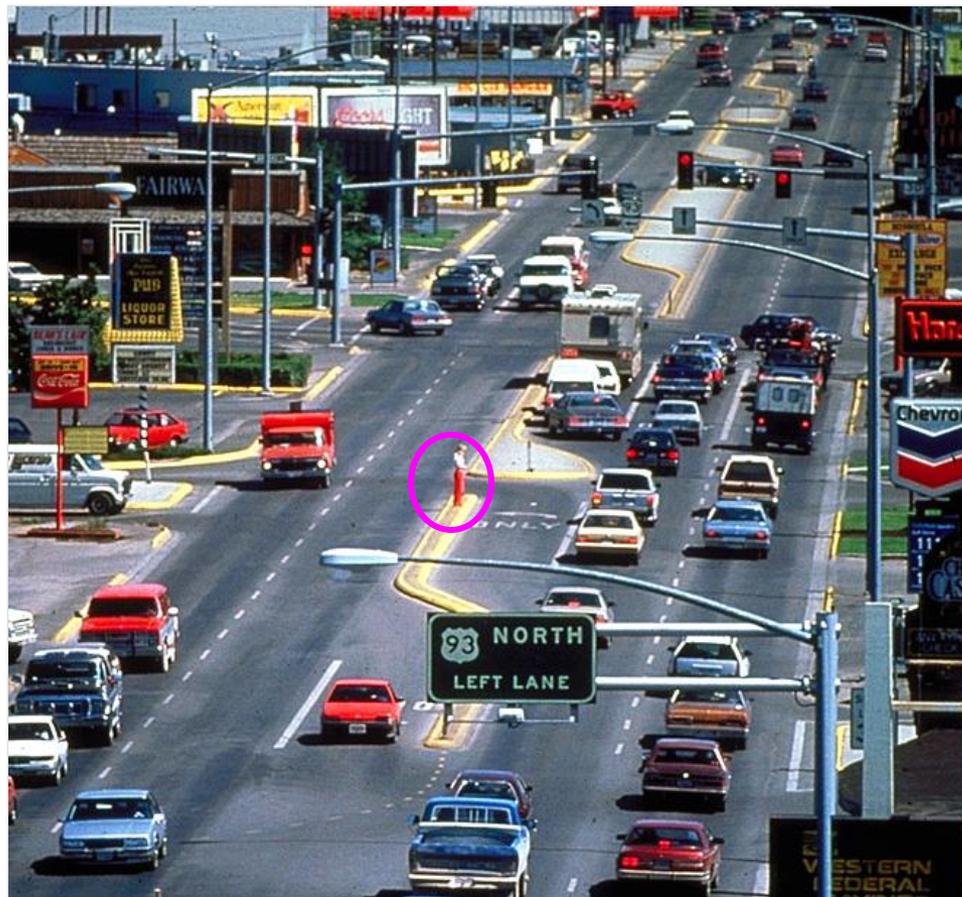
*(Computer-generated graphic)*

*Effective Community Planning results in vibrant communities with mixed land uses that encourage people to walk, cycle, and use transit.*



# *Why are transportation choices important?*

- **MISSION:** *“Caltrans Improves Mobility Across California”*
  
- **MOBILITY GOAL:** *“Maximize transportation system performance and accessibility.”*
  
- **STRATEGIES:**
  - *Context Sensitive Solutions*
  - *Multi-modal planning*
  - *Complete Streets*
  - *Smart Mobility*





## *What Is “Smart Growth”?*

*According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -*

“Smart Growth is development that revitalizes neighborhoods, protects farmland and open space, keeps housing affordable, and provides more transportation choices. It is development that is good for the environment, community, and economy.”

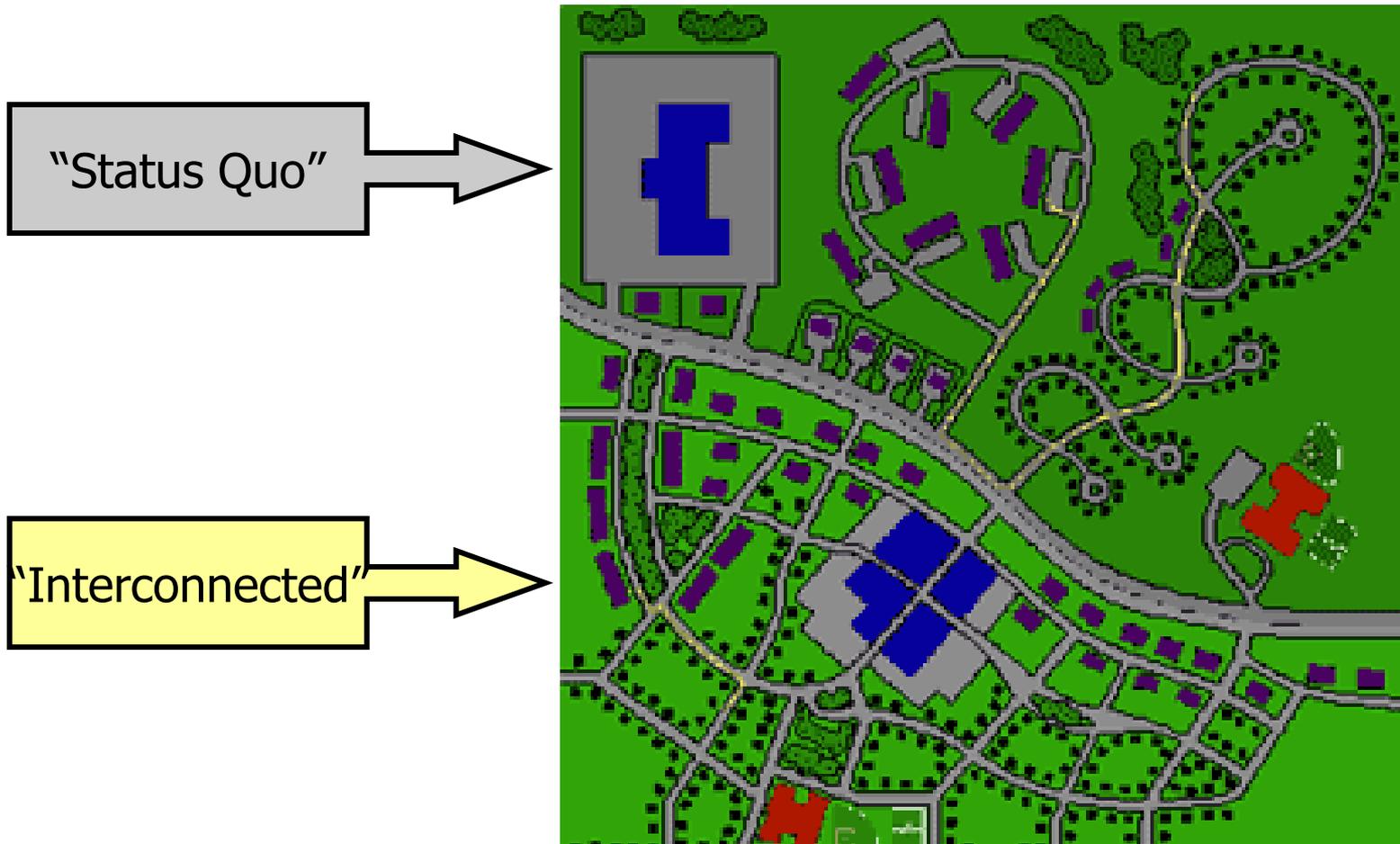


# *What are Community Planning STRATEGIES?*

- **Interconnected Travel Networks**
- **Traffic Calming/Complete Streets**
- **Bicycle- and Pedestrian-friendly Design**
- **Lively Streetscapes/Complete Streets**
- **Compact development** (urban & rural areas)
- **Jobs/Housing Proximity**
- **Mixed Land Uses**
- **Infill development**
- **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)**
- **Smart Mobility Framework**

# *Community Planning Strategy:*

- Interconnected travel networks



Source: the American Planning Association's PAS Report #479,  
*"The Principles of Smart Development"*

# *Community Planning Strategy:* Traffic Calming/Complete Streets



**Results of a community “visioning” process for International Boulevard in Oakland – traffic calming, complete streets, multi-modal.**

**“Before”**

**“After”**



# *Community Planning Strategies:*

- **“Bicycle-friendly” design**



**Downtown Hayward**

(next to City Hall)

- **“Pedestrian-friendly” design**



**Downtown Los Angeles**

(near the Union Transit Station)

# *Community Planning Strategy:* **Lively Streetscapes/”Complete Streets”**



**“Neo-traditional” neighborhood design**  
**(Front porches, street trees, bike lanes)**  
*(Santa Clara, CA)*



**Wide sidewalk and outdoor eating**  
*(Silicon Valley - S.F. Bay Area)*

# *Community Planning Strategy:*

**“Sprawl”**



- *Compact Development*



Photo courtesy of the Local Government Commission

# Transportation-Efficient Rural Towns



Source: US EPA White Paper: "The Placemaking Premium" by Victor Dover, 2007.

*(Illustrations by Dover Kohl and Partners)*

# *Community Planning Strategy:* **Preserve Main Streets**

*Maintain Rural Character/Context Sensitive Design*



**Downtown Angels Camp**

SR 49 – District 10



**Downtown Calistoga**

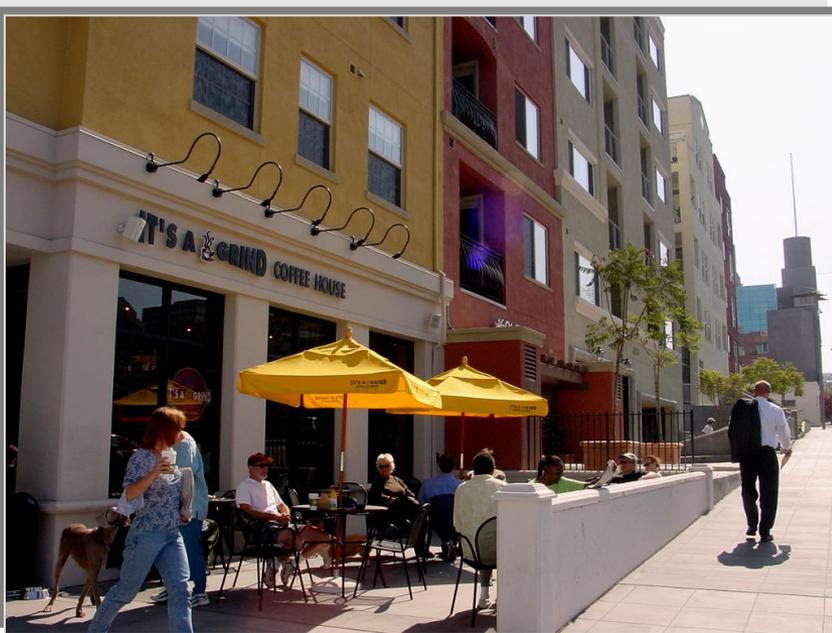
SR 29 – District 4

*For Main Streets Guidance, visit:*  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/guidance.htm>

# *Community Planning Strategies:*

- **Mixed Land Uses**

- **Infill Development**



**Shops below apartments and condominiums  
in “Little Italy” (near downtown San Diego)**

*Community Planning Strategy:*  
**Transit-Oriented Development**  
*(TOD) - aka “Transit Villages”*



**Historic Multi-Modal Transit  
Station, downtown San Diego**



**Oakland City Center (12<sup>th</sup> St. BART station)  
- Plaza, offices, shops, restaurants**

*For other examples – see **Caltrans’ TOD website at:**  
<http://TransitOrientedDevelopment.dot.ca.gov>*

# Community Planning Strategies: Smart Mobility Framework

## Smart Mobility: Definition

- **Smart Mobility is:** *meeting the transportation needs of people and freight while enhancing California's economic, environmental, and human resources.*



# *What Laws and Policies Support Community Planning?*

**2002 State “Environmental Goals & Policies Report” law\*** established planning priorities to:

- “promote **Equity**,
- strengthen the **Economy**,
- protect the **Environment**, and
- promote public health and safety”

**Referred to as the “Three Es”**

*\* AB 857, Govt. Code Chapter 1016*



# Caltrans Director's Policy #22

## “Context Sensitive Solutions” (2001)

*What does “Context Sensitive Solutions” mean?*



**An approach to meeting transportation goals in harmony with community goals and natural environments.**

**“Context sensitive solutions are reached through a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach involving all stakeholders.”**

# Deputy Directive DD-25-R1 “*Local Development– Intergovernmental Review*” (June 2005)

- “Advocate community design that promotes an efficient transportation system and healthy communities *e.g., urban infill, mixed use, transit-oriented development,*”  
*and*
- Support local development that is consistent with ‘the Three Es’ State planning priorities:  
*“sustainable land use development patterns that accommodate a sufficient supply of adequate housing in and near population and job centers.”*



# Deputy Directive 64-R1 “Complete Streets”

*(revised October 2008)*

- *“The Department provides for the needs of travelers of all ages and abilities in all planning, programming, design, construction, operations, and maintenance activities and products on the State highway system.”*
- *“The Department develops integrated, multimodal projects in balance with community goals, plans, and values...Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit travel is facilitated by creating “complete streets”...*



# SB 375 re: Climate Change

***SB 375 became law 9/30/08; effective January 1, 2009:***

1. Requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop and adopt **regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets** (for cars and light trucks) for each of the state's **18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)**.
2. Requires each MPO to adopt a **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** that meets ARB's regional GHG reduction target -- *with extensive input from the public and other government agencies*. These plans must include a “**sustainable communities strategy**” (SCS).

*...& other provisions re: environmental streamlining, housing elements, planning, etc.*

# *What are the Community Planning Office's primary objectives?*

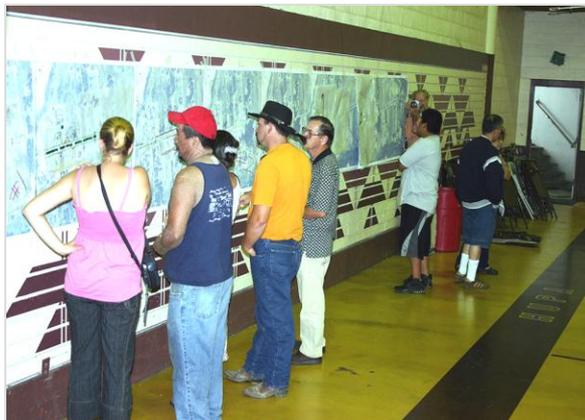
- **Provide Information:** reports, best practices, analysis tools
- **Increase Participation:** develop and strengthen partnerships
- **Develop Policy:** guidance, manuals, legislation, policies, etc.
- **Deliver Education:** training, info-sharing, technical assistance



(Computer-generated graphic)

# *What are the main activities of the HQ Office of Community Planning?*

- **Public participation/engagement**
- **Community and Environmental Justice planning grants & technical assistance**
- **Special studies & analysis tools**
- **Native American Liaison**
- **Local development & Intergovernmental review**
- **Complete Streets & Smart Mobility**



# *HQ Community Planning Activities:*

- *Context Sensitive Solutions:* provide policy, implementation, guidelines, and training.
- *Complete Streets programs:* re: bicycle and pedestrian travel
- *Special studies and projects:* provide information and tools for assessing “smart growth” and “smart mobility”



*HQ Community Planning Activities:*

# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**ENGAGE**

**CONSULT**

**MOVE**

**COLLABORATE**

**EMPOWER**

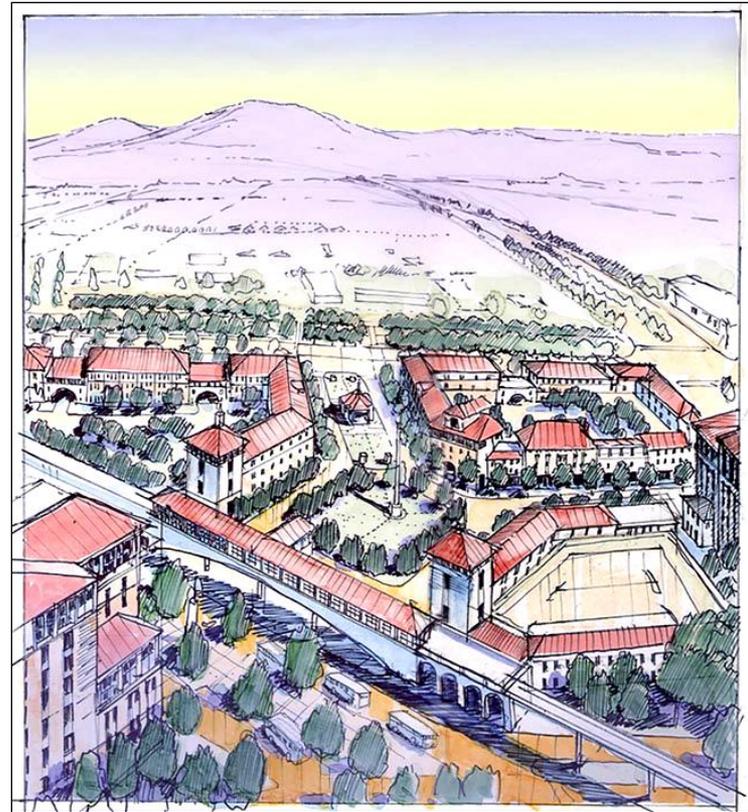
*PP contractor  
provides T.A. to  
Districts & HQ*



# *HQ Community Planning Activities:*

## **Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) and Environmental Justice Grants**

- **Provide ‘seed funding’ for local planning that integrate land use, transportation, community involvement and environmental justice.**
- **Local & regional agencies, non-profit groups, and tribal governments may apply.**
- ***For more information:***  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>



**Site plan for the Pleasant Hill TOD in the SF Bay Area**

# What are *Caltrans Districts*' Roles in Community Planning?

- *Actively engage the public in land use and transportation planning.*
- *Encourage and facilitate Context Sensitive Solutions, Complete Streets, and other Caltrans initiatives.*
- *Provide coordination and oversight of Community Planning & Environmental Justice grants.*

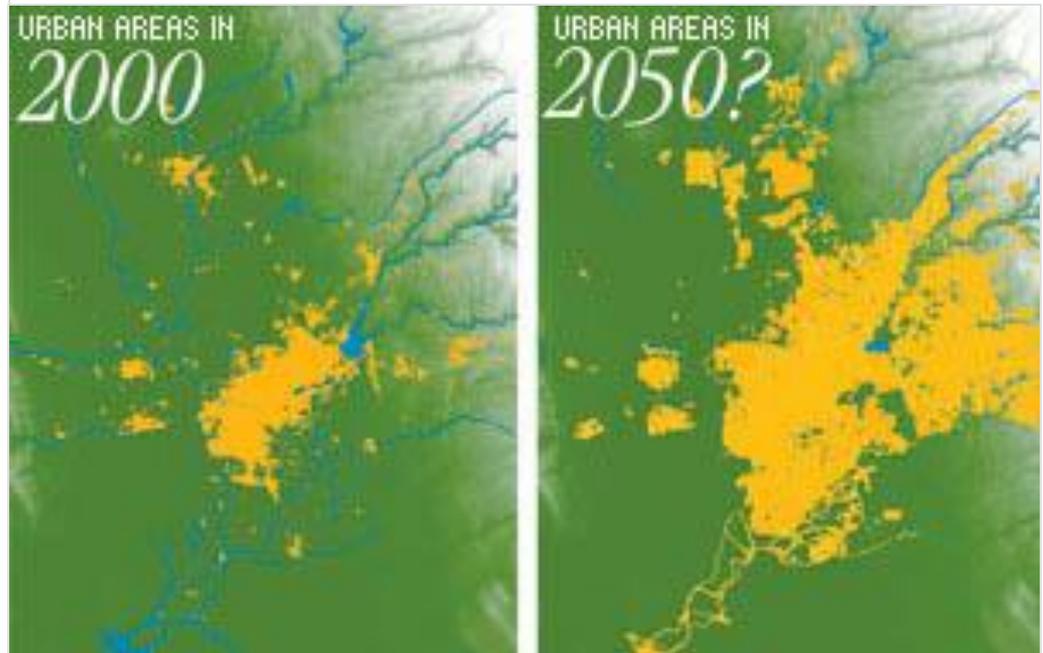


Community Process in Esparto  
(Yolo County)

# Districts ' Roles in Community Planning

(Continued)

- **Promote more efficient transportation and land use integration.**
- **Coordinate with local entities re: land use and transportation plans, programs, and projects:**
  - ✓ *Regional Blueprint planning efforts*
  - ✓ *Local General Plans*
  - ✓ *“Specific” Plans*
  - ✓ *Etc.*



Sacramento Area Council of Governments'  
“Blueprint” base case scenario maps

## **HQ Community Planning staff Contacts:**

**Alyssa Begley**, Chief, HQ Office of Community Planning

### **Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) & Environmental Justice (EJ) Grants programs; and Public Participation**

- Branch Chief - ***Ed Philpot*** (916-653-8817)
- Grants programs: ***Jorge Rivas*** (654-6236), ***Emily Mraovich*** (653-3087), ***Jennifer Duran*** (654-2389), ***Ryan Ong*** (651-6887), ***Leslie Mazzeo*** (653-3726)
- Public Participation program - ***Mark Barry*** (651-6886)

### **Special studies and initiatives:**

- Smart Growth strategies; tools and modeling; special studies - ***Terry Parker*** (654-5547)
- Smart Mobility Framework; Complete Streets - ***Chris Ratekin*** (653-4615)

## **HQ Community Planning staff Contacts:**

**Alyssa Begley, Chief, HQ Office of Community Planning**

### **Native American Liaison**

- Branch Chief – *Lonora Graves* (916-653-6315)
- Staff: *Chris Kuzak* (651-6527)

### **Local Development & Intergovernmental review :**

- Branch Chief – *Terri Pencovic* (916-653-1067)
- Staff: *Bennie Lee* (651-8201)

*Questions or Comments?*

