



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Discussion of sustainable systems inevitably brings together different parties with disparate views and beliefs. What, for example, are acceptable tradeoffs to the economy or environment when putting in place a new land use policy? How can policymakers navigate the inevitable unknowns and risks associated with long-range planning? Are there strategies for adapting policies as new and better information emerges? The challenge for government leaders at all levels then is to figure out how to understand and integrate the various perspectives and uncertainties into a coherent, viable and supportable policy.

CONCUR's work over the past twenty years has centered on helping diverse interest groups identify and support long-term planning policies intended to foster sustainable approaches. CONCUR uses a variety of techniques, from facilitated dialogue to agreement-focused mediation, to help previously adversarial parties forge common ground. Our work has focused on subject areas ranging from water use efficiency, air quality improvement, and flood control planning, to designing workshops to highlight lessons learned in previous land use and marine resource policies. The CONCUR team has facilitated discussions that bring together a mix of players, from local town officials and grassroots environmental organizations and community groups, to major corporations, agricultural interests and state and federal officials.

Selected Projects

CALFED: California Bay-Delta Program: The CALFED project represents one of the largest environmental planning initiatives ever undertaken in North America. The effort, a collaborative process among more than 20 state and federal agencies, aims to resolve California's long-standing water wars by brokering a deal that improves and balances the competing demands of water supply, reliability, levee system integrity, water quality and ecosystem restoration. CONCUR's work over more than a decade centered on providing strategic planning, public involvement and consensus-building services. In its work, CONCUR helped mediate five separate agreements related to the Program's ground-breaking approach to agricultural water use efficiency. CONCUR also facilitated independent review panels and stakeholder group discussions focused on ecosystem restoration, agricultural water conservation potential and agricultural water use measurement.

Port of Oakland/West Oakland Air Quality Improvement Plan: CONCUR designed and facilitated a stakeholder involvement process to support the Port of Oakland's development of a Maritime Air Quality Improvement Plan (MAQIP). The planning process was co-chaired by the Port of Oakland, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project. CONCUR facilitated regular meetings of four Co-Chairs and the Port of Oakland Maritime Task Force. In addition, the CONCUR team worked with the Port's technical consultants to provide accessible technical information to a wide range of stakeholders. The collaboration resulted in an air quality improvement plan for the Port of Oakland and the surrounding West Oakland Community as well as continued collaboration between the Port and community representatives. The final MAQIP will be brought to the Port Commissioners in the late summer or fall of 2008 for adoption.

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Guadalupe River Flood Control Project: For years, parties struggled to balance the competing demands of flood control and salmon habitat in San Jose. The dispute, centered around flood control plans for downtown sections of the lower Guadalupe River, eventually landed in court after five citizen/agency groups filed a joint lawsuit to block the planned flood control project. CONCUR worked with the affected parties to hammer out a landmark agreement that successfully resolved outstanding litigation issues with the parties agreeing in a Dispute Resolution Memorandum upon a proposed project and a package of early implementation measures. In addition, the CONCUR team convened a Technical Fact-Finding Subcommittee and assisted in redesigning the initial project - an effort that resulted in efficiency gains anticipated to reduce more than \$100 million from original project costs. The project also included a ground-breaking 100-year adaptive management plan. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in the Spring of 2005, and the project now serves as a model for both the US Army Corps and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Collaborative Fisheries Research Workshop: At the request of the California Ocean Protection Council, CONCUR helped design and facilitate a two-day statewide workshop on Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR). The focus of the workshops was to hear lessons learned from CFR projects, and solicit feedback on establishing a new statewide CFR program that could be extended to include other West Coast states. CONCUR conducted pre-workshop interviews and drew upon the teams vast knowledge of ocean and coastal policy to create the workshop agenda and refine approaches during the workshop. In addition, CONCUR provided a summary memo highlighting the workshop discussions.

For a complete list of projects please visit our website at www.concurinc.com

About CONCUR, Inc.

CONCUR, Inc. provides services in agreement-focused mediation and facilitation, joint fact-finding, conflict assessment, environmental policy analysis, strategic planning, and environmental mediation training. Our staff has a unique dual expertise in both the process and substance of environmental decision-making. We are rigorously trained in the art and science of negotiation and dispute resolution, as well as in environmental planning and policy analysis. This dual expertise is the foundation of CONCUR's philosophy: to integrate different disciplines that strengthen our problem-solving capability so that we can provide clients the highest quality professional services.

For further information about our services please visit our web site at www.concurinc.com or contact us at:

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