

## **CORE 2010-2011 Policy Agenda**

CORE is an advocacy and policy coalition focused on regional outcomes, and our goal is to identify and advocate for policies related to the built environment that will create more healthy, equitable and sustainable communities. In 2010 the Coalition on Regional Equity (CORE) began to focus its efforts on three key areas by developing and supporting workgroups to accomplish defined policy and advocacy goals. The three key areas, defined during the Fall 2009 CORE Convening, are transportation equity, Senate Bill 375 implementation, and food access. Developing a leadership program to increase the voice of low income communities on boards and commissions in the region was also adopted as a goal.

### **Transportation Equity**

Work on Transportation Equity is directed by the Transportation Equity Work Group, and examines transportation policy at the local, regional, and state level. The Work Group assesses current regional policies, the distribution of transportation funding and the affect that funding streams and earmarks have on transportation access in low income communities. CORE's goals include identifying and advocating for regional policies that will improve multi modal transportation access in underserved communities.

### **Sustainable Communities**

CORE's work on Senate Bill 375, lead by the Sustainable Communities Work Group, focuses on analyzing the legislation, reviewing the proposed regional implementation plan as well as providing comment and technical assistance on our areas of expertise in an effort to ensure that the regional implementation plan supports healthy, sustainable and equitable development and that it benefits low income communities. This Work Group is engaged in the Regional Consortium formed by SACOG as a result of their \$1.5 Million HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative grant.

### **Food Access**

For the work on food access, CORE supports the Sacramento Hunger Coalition, a project of the Sacramento Housing Alliance, and its work in food access throughout the region. In 2010 CORE began to examine current state, regional and local policies related to food access and how these policies affect low income communities. CORE then began collaboration with stakeholders to work implement food access policies that will support healthy communities, working with local and regional partners to identify policies to address food desserts, and food insecurity and preservation of agricultural land in the region.

### **Leadership Development/Community Engagement**

CORE began research in 2010 on a leadership program to increase the voice of low income communities in the region, and launches the resulting Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute in Fall 2011. The Institute is aimed at developing regional equity leaders to serve on regional boards and commissions, and is adapted from a program developed by Urban Habitat in the Bay Area. Urban Habitat's Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute identifies, trains, places, and supports low-income people and people of color for priority boards and commissions seats in the San Francisco Bay Area. Priority seats are those that influence equity in terms of transportation, land use, housing, jobs, and the environment. This "seats first" model is the first of its kind in the nation.