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**To:** Planning Coordinating Committee

Date: July 3, 2007

From: Jesse Elam, Associate Planner

Re: Regional Snapshot Report: Sustainability

Development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan will involve the preparation of a series of reports called regional snapshots. These reports will dig deeper into the subjects touched upon in the original Regional Snapshot document. They will address complex issues that should be considered in the Regional Comprehensive Plan, allowing new ideas and approaches to be considered through the CMAP committee process.

Work is in progress on a snapshot report on sustainability. Staff will provide a brief presentation on its findings at the July 11 Planning Coordinating Committee meeting. These findings include the following:

- CMAP should define sustainability as an approach that achieves economic, environmental, and social/equity goals simultaneously and that allows future generations to enjoy a constant or increasing level of economic, environmental, and social goods.
- The Regional Comprehensive Plan should address climate change, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is likely to be the central way that the region can currently address climate change.
- The Regional Comprehensive Plan should address regional energy use and production. This may involve addressing energy conservation, the use of alternative energy sources (including fuels), and other strategies.
- CMAP should serve as a resource for local governments concerning climate change. The effects of climate change are uncertain, but CMAP should be positioned to communicate the best current information on mitigation and adaptation strategies to local governments in the region.
- The indicators used to evaluate scenarios and capital projects as part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan process should include indicators related to sustainability. These may relate to the environmental, economic, or social aspects of sustainability. The snapshot report will identify potential indicators that could be used in this process.

Each snapshot report will result in the preparation of two documents. The first will be a technical report, with an audience of professional planners or others in the field. The second will be a shorter and more accessible document, which will be designed for use by the media, elected officials, and the public. The technical report on sustainability will be reviewed by the working committees during August and September, and the public report will be brought to the Planning Coordinating Committee for review in October.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Discussion and comments, with direction for staff to proceed with the preparation of the report.