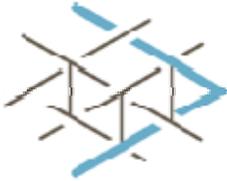


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 38, October 31, 2011

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President Ron

Morrison,

Mayor,

National City, CA

Chair Mark Policinski,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, Ohio-

Kentucky-Indiana

Regional Council of

Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

In reviewing historical documents at NARC it is interesting what one finds and, in hindsight, their historical context. In 1971, Mr. John Ehrlichman, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs, wrote a memo to the then National Service to

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#) [REGIONS 360](#)

[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

Houston Goes Solar: Last week, NARC staff attended the Solar Power International conference in Dallas, Texas representing the Solar America Communities Outreach Program (SACO). During the conference, NARC's SACO partner, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), recorded a podcast on Houston's recent clean energy initiatives. To learn more about Houston's work as a Solar America City and their Solar Initiative Plan, check out the podcast [HERE](#).

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar: The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. The webinar will focus on *Regional Aviation Systems Planning: Introductions and Perspectives* and will feature the case studies we've recently created. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

Regional Councils (NSRC) and Executive Director Hartman of the President's support for intergovernmental programs. Click [HERE](#) to access this memo. This was in response to concerns raised by NSRC on revenue sharing efforts. President Nixon, the memo states, "is well aware that effective transportation and water, sewer, and waste disposals systems cannot be planned and developed other than on an area wide basis." How those words ring true today. Why I find this memo interesting is because this reassurance came during an increasingly darkening time in American political history - not unlike the present, but also at a time when regional programs were becoming more important to achieving national and local goals. This was months before the Watergate scandal broke and during investigations about the Pentagon Paper leaks. This is certainly one from the history books.

Best,
Fred

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session; the House is in recess.

NARC Signs Letter Opposing Cut to USDA Rural Development

Funding: Late last week, NARC joined its partners at the National Association of Counties and the National League of Cities, along with many other stakeholders, in signing on to a letter opposing Sen. Coburn's (R-OK) proposed amendment to cut \$1 billion in funding for Rural Development programs from the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill (HR 2112). A copy of the letter can be found [HERE](#) and additional information on the proposed amendment (number 800) is available [HERE](#). The Senate is expected to take on this amendment upon returning to session this week.

REGIONS360

H-GAC Launches Mobile Apps, Mapping Update: The Houston-Galveston Area Council recently launched "How's the Water, an iPhone app, available by clicking [HERE](#) providing a quick guide to water quality in the 13-county H-GAC region. Additional information about the program is available at H-GAC's website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

MWCOG Transportation Program Featured in *Washingtonian*

Magazine: In the November 2011 issue of *Washingtonian* magazine, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Transportation Planning Director Ron Kirby discusses the MWCOG/Transportation Planning Board transportation planning work, including the region's long-range transportation plan, scenarios and study of public attitudes on road pricing. To view the story, click [HERE](#).

PARTNERUPDATE

Solar Survey: ICMA is conducting a solar survey of local governments to collect data on what local governments are doing related to the adoption of solar energy. The survey was sent to the Chief Elected or

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Transportation Director

To access past issues
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homepage —
click here to learn how.

Appointed Official of all city- and county- type local governments with a population of 2,500 or above and can also be completed online (the URL and your jurisdiction's unique 6-digit identifier are provided on the paper survey). If you need to obtain your identifier or have questions, please email solar@icma.org.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program

Application Deadline: November 8, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$1.5 million in grant funding for the Environmental Education (EE) Sub-grants Program for 2011. The purpose of this competitive grant program is to increase environmental awareness and stewardship. This funding will provide participants in EE grant-funded projects with the skills necessary to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment. EPA expects to award one (1) grant for approximately \$150,000 in each of EPA's ten (10) Regions. For more information on eligibility and application materials, click [HERE](#). For direct questions on the Environmental Education Sub-grants Program for 2011, send emails to EEgrants@epa.gov.

NIFA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program Accepting Applications

Applications Due: November 17, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is accepting applications for its Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, which includes funds for nonprofit organizations engaging in Community Food Projects, Planning Projects of Capacity Building Projects. Anticipated funding for the full program is \$5 million. More information is available [HERE](#).

2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

January 2012

Preliminary information regarding the 2012 National Spatial Data Information (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program has been released. A full grant announcement will be posted by the end of October. Click [HERE](#) to access the information that is available now.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

White House Conference Call: Appropriations and Social Safety Net Organizations

November 1, 2011, 10:30am ET: Please join the White House for a series of conference calls with important updates on the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bills. To ensure an adequate number of lines, please RSVP [HERE](#). Dial-in Number: 800-398-9386; Call Title: White House Update.

White House Conference Call: Appropriations and Consumer Protection

November 1, 2011, 10:45am ET: Please join the White House for a series of conference calls with important updates on the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bills. To ensure an adequate number of lines, please RSVP [HERE](#). Dial-in Number: 800-398-9379; Call Title: White House Update.

White House Conference Call: Appropriations and the Environment

November 1, 2011, 11:00am ET: Please join the White House for a series of conference calls with important updates on the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bills. To ensure an adequate number of lines, please RSVP [HERE](#). Dial-in Number: 800-398-9389; Call Title: White House Update.

White House Conference Call: Executive Actions Review

November 2, 2011, 10:00am ET: Please join Senior White House Policy Officials for a review of the **executive actions** that President Obama announced while traveling the country last week. This call will highlight actions taken because “**We Can’t Wait**” for Congress to act. The issues covered include Housing, Veterans Employment, Student Loan Repayment, and two new steps to help businesses expand and create jobs, including the new “Business USA.” To ensure an adequate number of lines, please RSVP [HERE](#).

Breaking Ground 2011: The Power of Partnerships

November 1, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: In a time of declining funding resources, creative partnerships between government, the private sector, nonprofits, and philanthropy can offer solutions to address growing needs, such as infrastructure, redevelopment, public amenities,

and human services. This one-day conference, hosted by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, will examine some of those creative partnerships from within Philadelphia and around the country that are making a difference in today's tough economic climate. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the event.

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar

November 8, 12:00-2:00 pm ET: The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011, which will focus on Regional Aviation Systems Planning. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can click [HERE](#) to register early.

2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar

November 14, 1:00-2:00 pm ET: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites you to participate in a free webinar that will provide information about the 2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The purpose of NSDI CAP is to fund innovative projects in the geospatial data community to build the infrastructure necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geospatial data. Participants will learn what the NSDI CAP is and how to apply for this federally funded program. Click [HERE](#) to register.

2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar

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2012 National Conference of Regions

February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC: Save the Date! NARC will host its 2012 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Registration and additional information will be available soon.

