



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **City of Winters Receives SACOG's Blueprint Excellence Award**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Today, the City of Winters was honored by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) through the SACOG Salutes! Regional Awards Program which recognizes outstanding regional efforts in transportation, smart-growth planning and air quality. Nominated by Yolo County Supervisor Helen Thomson, the City of Winters is the recipient of the 2009 Blueprint Excellence Award for its downtown redevelopment and Blueprint implementation.

SACOG is an association of local governments in the six-county Sacramento Region which provides transportation planning and funding for the region, and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. The SACOG Board of Directors adopted the Preferred Blueprint Scenario in December 2004, a bold vision for growth that promotes compact, mixed-use development and more transit choices as an alternative to low density development.

Seven organizations and individuals whose achievements and innovations made a significant difference in the Sacramento region in 2009 were honored along with the City of Winters. The City of Winters in particular was recognized for its multi-phased and faceted approach to the key elements of “smart growth” and the true meaning of the Blueprint project.

In 2006, the City of Winters adopted a strategic plan to implement Blueprint principles in their Downtown Master Plan. In planning its downtown, the city took an integrated approach, linking the Downtown Master Plan with the Putah Creek Master Plan, water and sewer master plans, form-based codes, revised parking standards and capital improvement programs. The city's form-based codes establish guidelines for land use, mixed-use development, housing and downtown design. The codes allow for increased densities, vertical design and infill, all while maintaining a rural downtown style.

Since the adoption of the Downtown Master Plan, the City of Winters has completed a \$2 million streetscape renovation that added bulb outs, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and public areas to the existing downtown. The city is currently implementing an additional \$700,000 in bicycle, pedestrian and roadway improvements. The city has invested nearly \$4 million in water and sewer improvements to improve downtown infrastructure that will support infill projects. The city also funded 27 façade improvements to store fronts and buildings to facilitate economic growth and to encourage more pedestrian activities.

“SACOG's Blueprint is a reality in Winters where the overall vision is on display and happening every day,” said Yolo County Supervisor and SACOG Board Chair Helen M. Thomson.

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