



Sustainable Growth and Conservation Indicators Work Plan

Progress Report November 25, 2013

The Department and the National Center for Smart Growth are moving forward with the Work Plan (see summary table below) to develop a suite of objectives and associated indicators to measure progress toward sustainable, smart growth and conservation.

Context

For context, the purpose of the work plan is to develop a suite of indicators and plan for their potential use by MDP, the NCSG and the Sustainable Growth Commission. We propose to use the indicators in three ways:

First, as a broad, general suite of outcome indicators (call these SGCI = Sustainable Growth and Conservation Indicators) that can be used to gauge status relative to sustainable growth & conservation objectives (SGCOs) at three scales: statewide and by region, by jurisdiction, and by planning area type (designated growth versus conservation areas). In other words, use these to assess “are we making progress toward a defined set of public objectives.” It will take years for most SGCI to appreciably change as a result of changes in state and local plans and programs and associated private sector choices and investments. Thus, we hope to use these indicators to report to the Governor and legislature broad, periodic (e.g., every 3 to 5 years) reviews of where things stand relative to SGCOs, statewide & at other scales.

Second, we will use the indicators to comprise an initial “Status Check” report, to assess the status of progress toward SGCO’s statewide and by region. This we propose to use as an initial benchmark moving forward

Third, we will develop a smaller suite of indicators for use by the Commission for annual or biennial “status check” updates (call these SCIs = Status Check Indicators). Intended to gauge shorter-term progress through state and local program implementation, SCIs will tend to be programmatic measures: who is doing how much of what in order to effect longer term progress in outcomes toward SGCOs. These would help the Commission assess incremental progress being made toward SGCOs every year or two by state and local government, measured as changes in and efforts made by their programs and initiatives.

Summary Work Plan for MDP & the NCSG	
Action	Implementation
1. Determine an initial set of SGCOs against which we will measure progress, and in what groups we will organize the	Summer 2013

objectives.	
2. Compile measures & metrics MDP & the NCSG have to offer to address the objectives.	Summer 2013
3. Jointly review, assess, & synthesize measures organized per groupings chosen. Determine how they can be interpreted/ what they tell us.	Fall 2013
4. Complete an initial statewide/ regional "Status Check" report	February 2014
5. Select indicators to move forward for SGCI.	February 2014
6. Select indicators to propose as SCIs after an SGI suite is largely determined.	Spring 2014

Update on Progress

The Department and the Center have compiled an initial set of objective categories and associated indicators (see the attached SGCO-SGCI Inventory Oct 2013). They are currently working to comprise a limited set of objectives and indicators on which to focus and determine how they can best be used to interpret progress (Action item 3 in the Summary Work Plan); and to use the objectives and indicators to comprise an initial statewide/ regional Status Check (per item 4 in the Summary Work Plan).

Continued progress is expected per the work plan.