

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sustainable Design Assessment Team To Develop Recommendations For The Eagle River Valley

DENVER (Sept. 15, 2009) – The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) meetings led by The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and AIA Colorado West, will take place Sept. 21 – 23, in the Eagle River Valley. The SDAT will provide opportunities for the general public and community leaders to give input to the SDAT consultants as they make recommendations for a sustainable future for the valley.

A community input meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m., at Battle Mountain High School, in Edwards, Colo. Community leaders and elected officials will participate in work sessions on Monday, Sept. 21 and Tuesday Sept. 22. A presentation of the team's sustainable design recommendations will be presented to the community on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m., at Battle Mountain High School. All members of the community are encouraged to attend Monday and Wednesday's public presentations.

"This team is unique. There is a sense this valley has been over-studied, however, this team will provide an opportunity for a 30,000-foot view of previous studies, the desires of the community and our leadership, and the government structure of the valley to help provide a glimpse of how to effectively steer into the future. The team visit will provide a unique and comprehensive view of sustainable options and strategies that the Eagle River Valley community and leadership will be able to refer to in developing a course for the future," cites SDAT Committee Chair Chris Green, AIA, of Avon, Colo.

This study follows up a two-day team leader visit that was held in June of this year, during which community leaders and elected officials from throughout the valley provided insight, commentary and perspectives on the current issues facing the valley. The information collected during the earlier visit will form the basis for the work to be completed by the SDAT team during these upcoming meetings.

The SDAT team consists of:

Bob Yakas, AIA, AICP – Team Leader

With more than 30 years experience in urban design, architecture, planning and transportation planning, in both the public and private sectors, Yakas has led urban design teams in all scales of community design projects, from individual site design to master planned residential communities utilizing transit-oriented and traditional neighborhood development strategies. His international experience includes work in Mexico, Canada, Turkey, France, Japan and South Africa. Yakas has been involved in major development projects from Alaska to Florida; transportation projects in Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado and Utah. He has lectured and presented at forums for the American Planning Association and the National Light Rail Transit Conference.

Nicole Isle, LEED AP – Sustainability and Energy

Isle specializes in integrated design strategies for single and multiple building projects, as well as master planning and infrastructure-scale programs. Her approach to help realize a more comprehensive level of sustainability on her projects is to engage teams early and effectively in the design and development process, leveraging opportunities for creativity, innovation and collaboration. Isle has worked on projects throughout the world, including the recently completed conceptual master plan of a 7,000-acre, near-zero-carbon community in South Korea.

Judie A. Scalise, CEcD – Economic Development

Scalise is founder and principal of ESI Corporation, in Phoenix. Scalise specializes in economic development and pre-development planning services to a clientele consisting of government agencies, corporations, private developers, school districts and utility companies. Scalise has nearly 30 years of professional experience in the areas of land economics, strategic planning and economic development. As a principal of ESI Corp, Scalise has directed numerous consulting assignments, consisting of market and trade area identification, market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact studies, strategic planning, labor market analysis and industry cluster analysis. Her professional affiliations include International Economic Development Council and Urban Land Institute.

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Peter E. Black, Ph.D. – Water and Hydrology

Black is a distinguished teaching professor of Water and Related Land Resources, Emeritus, at the State University of New York of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. He served as a research forester at the U.S. Forest Service, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, in North Carolina, from 1956-1959. He taught at Humboldt State College in Arcata, Calif., from 1961- 1965. Black has taught forest management, surveying and forest hydrology, and has offered on-campus courses and short courses in watershed hydrology, watershed management, conservation policy, environmental impact analysis and seminars to a variety of technical and lay audiences around the world.

James McAteer – Transportation

McAteer is the director of planning for the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), in Tennessee. McAteer is responsible for all transit planning processes, including system analysis, service development, scheduling and data collection. As of December 2008, McAteer's responsibilities broadened to include transit planning for the Nashville region through RTA. Recent projects include the completion of a \$53.6 million downtown transit station called Music City Central, the development of a Strategic Transit Master Plan, and the implementation of a 12-mile bus rapid transit corridor. McAteer is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Coleen Clementson – Land Use

Clementson is principal regional planner with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), leading the Land Use Coordination section, which focuses on better connecting local land use plans with regional transportation investments. She oversees the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan in collaboration with 19 local jurisdictions in the 4,200-square-mile single-county region. Clementson has 20 years of professional public sector land use planning experience. She also is leading efforts for SANDAG to implement new state climate change legislation, which calls for regions to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through coordinated land use and transportation planning efforts.

Bill Schechter – Governance

Schechter is a consultant to non-profit organizations, foundations and government agencies. Schechter is the coordinator of Collaboration DC, in Washington, D.C., a network of practitioners working to build civic capacity and solve community problems in the nation's capital. Schechter has served as senior fellow and then director of the Program for Community Problem Solving, director of the Washington office, director of Community Services-DC and senior associate for federal and community partnerships. He worked directly with communities to design, support and assess collaborative approaches to policy decisions, program design, systems reform, community visioning, strategic planning and change efforts. His portfolio of work and expertise includes school reform, local governance and citizen participation, collaboration, consensus community building, visioning and strategic planning, community planning, development and environmental protection.

Together, these team leaders will address vital economic, energy and social equity principles that can help create a strong future for the people and businesses of the Eagle River Valley. The SDAT will provide a perspective from outside experts that will help create a comprehensive planning map for the future of this region.

This study is undertaken in part as a celebration of the 150th anniversary of AIA, in an effort to give back to the communities in which its members live and work. The SDAT grant was awarded by AIA's Center for Communities by Design, a national forum dedicated to positively influencing the quality of life in our nation's communities. Previous SDAT studies in communities across the country have created an important and influential dialogue within the community leadership to positively affect development and governance policies. Information relating to this year's SDAT recipients and the SDAT program also is available from AIA at www.aiacolorado.org.

About AIA & AIA Colorado West

For more than 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. AIA Colorado West is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado (www.aiacolorado.org) component. This chapter is comprised of members from 27 counties in western Colorado and among others includes the cities of Aspen, Breckenridge, Vail, Grand Junction and Steamboat Springs.