

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)  
Annual Conference  
June 25-28, 2005  
Monterey, California

**Summary Report**

Approximately 400 policy officials and senior staff members of regional councils from across the nation attended NARC's 39<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Monterey. LCOG was represented by Mayor Gary Williams and Executive Director George Kloeppel.

At the beginning of the conference, the Association's Executive Directors Committee (EDC) met. Kloeppel serves as one of two representatives of Washington and Oregon on that Committee. The EDC serves NARC much as LCOG's Executive Committee does our organization. It provides guidance and assistance to the CEO and recommendations to the board of directors of the Association. Its officers also serve on the NARC board. A sampling of issues addressed by the EDC in Monterey includes: an assessment of the Association's financial position; a review and discussion regarding the "Regional Futures Institute," a free-standing research, training and analysis sub-unit of the Association; a review of NARC's redesigned website; consideration of several internal "business-related" aspects of NARC's operation; and an assessment and discussion of the Administration's Strengthening Americas Communities Initiative.

The main body of the conference was comprised of topical sessions and task force meetings and more extensive workshops. Mayor Williams and George Kloeppel typically participated in different sessions in order to maximize the information gained. The Regional Futures Institute sponsored an interesting session on "regional leadership" in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and another entitled "regions without borders." Plenary sessions looked at special COG achievements around the country and another on the growing "relevance" of regional councils and public-private partnerships in addressing a "unified economic agenda." The latter topic was presented by two representatives from the Puget Sound region, John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive and President of the PSRC, and Bill Stafford, President of the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle.

Useful concurrent sessions were held throughout the conference on topics such as "goods movement and freight," rural economic development, transportation

programs and funding, aging programs, homeland security, low income housing, and media relations. Attendees particularly enjoyed a provocative luncheon presentation by former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta.

The conference was very well organized and included presentations by knowledgeable individuals on a wide variety of subjects. In addition, the setting was beautiful and the accommodations very pleasant.