

Thesis Abstracts

Master of City and Regional Planning, MCRP

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

This section brings a reference list of all MCRP theses and professional projects that have been defended in the City and Regional Planning program since the last issue of Focus published in April 2004. They represent the research and professional interests of faculty and students. These works may be consulted in the CRP department, at Cal Poly's Kennedy Library, or through inter-library loan.

Socioeconomic Status and Water Quality: Does the Environmental Kuznets Curve Theory Apply to Watersheds in Central California Coast

Jason Burke, 2004.

The Environmental Kuznets Curve assumes an inverted U-shaped relationship between environmental damage and per capita income. It represents a linear relationship in developed countries. This study examines the correlation between socioeconomic status and water quality in a statistical test for a linear relationship. The presence of a linear relationship between socioeconomic status and environmental degradation is a concern for environmental justice. This relationship is applied to three water quality variables and three variables representing socioeconomic status in the Central California Coast. Results of a bivariate regression analysis show that educational attainment has the strongest correlation to water pollution.

Measuring the effectiveness of farmland protection using conservation easements: GIS measurements of land use change adjacent to agricultural easements

Michael J. Isensee, 2004.

This thesis utilized GIS and land use information collected by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program in California to compare the placement of conservation easements on farmland and changes in nearby land use between 1984, 1992, and 2000. Six study areas located in three coastal California counties – Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Sonoma – were utilized in order to determine if easements placed on farmland near developed areas lead to continued agricultural use of farmland located beyond the easement from exiting urban areas. The findings suggest that easement placement does affect adjacent land uses by directing development

away from farmland located beyond easements. This implies that conservation easements on farmland can be effective in protecting adjacent farmland.

If you build it, will they walk? An evaluation of the impact of New Urbanist Neighborhood Design Features On Mode of Transportation Choices

David Javid, 2004.

Advocates of Smart Growth and New Urbanism suggest that compact pedestrian-oriented neighborhood design can induce pedestrian activity which provides an opportunity for social interaction and encourages sense of community. This thesis tests those claims through an analysis of two neighborhoods that meet New Urbanist criteria yet were not designed as such. The focus of this study is to examine the potential impacts of urban form on travel behavior and to determine if neighborhood design features promoted by New Urbanism influence mode of transportation choices, by encouraging more walking and fewer automobile trips. The two case studies used in this research are the Village of Arroyo Grande and the Laguna Lake Neighborhood in San Luis Obispo, CA. Both of the study areas contain dense residential neighborhoods that are within walking distance of schools and commercial, civic, and recreational uses.

Communicative Action in Practice

Amy E. Sinsheimer, 2004.

This research addresses the question of whether stakeholder participation in a neighborhood planning process exhibiting more principles of communicative action produces outcomes more satisfactory to a wider group of those affected by the process than one that exhibits fewer of these principles. The

thesis tests the theory at a neighborhood scale, analyzing two traffic calming cases in Santa Barbara, California. The findings from two neighborhood case studies validate the theory. Based on the interview and document data the process in the St. Francis community exhibited more evidence of a communicative process and resulted in a higher level of overall satisfaction with the outcomes, than the process in the Ontare Road neighborhood.

Testing the Community Claims of New Urbanism: A Comparative Study of Two San Luis Obispo County Neighborhoods

Kristin M. Krasnove, 2004.

The New Urbanism is a relatively new planning concept designed to promote compact, mixed-use neighborhoods that bring people closer to the street, promoting pedestrian activity, therefore, fostering sense of community. This thesis explores the relationship between the New Urbanism principles and sense of community by evaluating two neighborhoods containing prominent New Urbanist design principles. The goal of this study is to determine what type of influence these principles have on neighboring activities and sense of place within the study areas. The village of Arroyo Grande in Arroyo Grande, California, and the Laguna Laje neighborhood in San Luis Obispo, California were selected as two local neighborhoods containing New Urbanism planning principles.

Downtown Housing Strategy for the City of San Buenaventura

Jennifer Bigelow McGovern, 2004.

This work proposes a Downtown Housing Strategy as an essential component of the City of San Buenaventura's renaissance effort to revitalize its Downtown and create a lively and livable downtown district that respects its unique attributes and historic legacy while offering enhanced economic and lifestyle opportunities. The goal of this Downtown Housing Strategy was to create an Incentive Package to facilitate the production of well-designed, quality mixed-use and residential development in the Downtown that is affordable to a broad range of local residents, builds strong neighborhoods and strengthens Downtown living.