

Theses and Projects 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 2005. 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.

Environmental Design Elements Affecting Students' Perception of Safety on the California Polytechnic State University Campus.

Dominic A. Farinha, 2005.

This thesis investigated student's perceptions of safety on a university campus and environmental factors which may cause such perceptions. Perceptions were obtained using focus groups and locations of personal crimes, and a comparison of perceived safety and locations of personal crimes is made. Research implies that students' perceptions of safety do not accurately reflect the locations of personal crime, and factors influencing perceptions of safety are poor indicators of criminal activity.

City of Grover Beach: Housing Element Project.

Corey Daniel Funk, 2005.

According to mandate by the State of California, every city must update the Housing Element portion of its General Plan periodically. This project was intended to complete the update process and bring the document into compliance with State laws. The draft amendment created proposes that the City should increase downtown housing density through a zoning overlay program, and was submitted to State HCD in May of 2005. Included in the amendment are a Final Report, conclusions and recommendations.

Placebo, Panacea, or Poison Arrow: The Impact of Inclusionary Housing on Residential Development.

Amy E. Graham, 2005.

This thesis empirically analyzes the effect that inclusionary housing policies have on residential development of cities in California for the period of 1991 to 2000. The hypothesis

tested is that inclusionary housing status has no negative effect on the rate of residential development. Two secondary, implicit hypotheses were also tested: inclusionary housing has 1) a positive effect on the ratio of newly constructed multi-family units to all existing units, and 2) a positive effect on the percent of newly constructed multi-family units. In order to test the hypotheses, multivariate regression models were developed to analyze the relationship between inclusionary housing status and the rate and type of residential development for 342 California cities. Research results indicate that inclusionary housing status is not a statistically significant predictor of overall housing development, but does have a positive effect on the rate of multi-family development.

A Modeling Approach to Wildlife Corridor Creation: An Assessment Using ArcGIS and the San Joaquin Kit Fox in San Luis Obispo County, California, USA.

Lauren Rachelle McElwee, 2005.

This project presents a methodology for establishing a wildlife corridor and proposes one between the Carrizo Plain and Camp Roberts in San Luis Obispo County, CA. The San Joaquin Kit Fox is used as an umbrella species for corridor delineation. Because it has a wide range, protecting the Kit Fox is thought to protect many other federally and state listed species as well. The corridor aims to prevent habitat isolation, which inhibits genetic diversity and species survival. ArcGIS was used to assess the viability and location of a potential corridor. A corridor location was identified, development pressure was analyzed, and priority areas determined. Conclusions made were that: antiquated subdivisions in the corridor require further study to determine their effect; the areas of the corridor crossed by Highway 46 need immediate attention for conservation; ground-truthing needs to be done to verify findings; and a combination of conservation tools will be needed to effectively protect the wildlife corridor.

Note: These abstracts were compiled and edited by Jennifer Venema and Vicente del Rio.

City of San Luis Obispo: Pedestrian Transportation Plan.**Holly Ann Phillips, 2005.**

The General Plan Circulation Element of the City of San Luis Obispo requires a Pedestrian Transportation Plan that will ensure a pedestrian friendly-environment for residents and visitors alike. It aims to promote walking and create pedestrian linkages throughout the community, and is relevant to planning, development and maintenance of pedestrian facilities and activities within the corporate limits of San Luis Obispo. The plan will provide guidance to City Council advisory bodies, community members, developers, and other design practitioners in planning, designing, and constructing pedestrian facilities throughout San Luis Obispo.

Complexity and Collaborative Planning: Skilled Process Intervention Does Make a Difference.**Jerry Sturmer, 2005.**

This study questioned if the complexity of the planning context predetermines the outcome of the collaborative planning processes. To answer this, online surveys of process managers (professional facilitators and mediators) were conducted regarding their experience with collaborative planning processes. The results indicate complexity was not a determining factor in the success or failure of a collaborative process, but that the outcome was rather more affected by the skill in which the process was conducted. The study recognizes that planners and other professionals would benefit from more consistency in definitions and approaches to collaborative planning, and that more comprehensive research is needed to explore the conclusion.

Assessing New Downtown Mixed-Use Development in California Using Two Case Studies.**Sean Nicholas, 2005.**

Mixed-use planning has a historical basis in urban design, and is recently enjoying a renaissance because of a growing population and lack of available land. Using a theoretical framework based on the creation of a sense of place and financial success, two recent mixed-use projects in Burbank and Atascadero, CA are explored as case-studies. This thesis contributes to research by defining mixed-use development and by advancing factors that make mixed-use developments successful to both the community and the market.

Successful Practices in Earthquake Recovery: An Evaluation of Recovery Processes in Paso Robles and Napa**Corinne Rosenblum, 2005.**

This thesis evaluates the short-term recovery from earthquake disaster in two California cities using successful mitigation and recovery practices. The San Simeon Earthquake in Paso Robles of 2003 and the Yountville Earthquake recovery of the City of Napa in 2000 are analyzed. The three main propositions of the thesis are: 1) Following a damaging earthquake, localities often approve enhanced seismic safety building codes, 2) Communities will develop new mitigation policies after an earthquake, and 3) Recent disasters increase awareness of risk from future disasters. The cases of Napa and Paso Robles support these propositions, and validate the effectiveness of seven mitigation and recovery practices outlined by the author.