



Service Matters

Celebrating the San Francisco Bay Trail

Imagine the San Francisco Bay and its communities linked together by a trail. Imagine Bay Trail providing this access and benefits, such as preserving the Bay's open spaces, restoring wetland habitat, and providing education, community health, economic vitality, and a transportation alternative. Twenty years ago, approximately 180 miles of shoreline trail were in use by the public. Access to the Bay shoreline was limited and historically cut-off from many areas due to myriad public and private actions. The connection between Bay Area communities and the San Francisco Bay had disappeared or was severely impacted by numerous industrial uses and a prevailing perception that wetlands were undesirable "swamp." That was the dilemma when the concept of the San Francisco Bay Trail was developed in the late 1980s and formalized in legislation by then State Senator Bill Lockyer "authorizing ABAG to develop and adopt a plan for a continuous recreational corridor which will extend around the perimeter of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays."

2009 will mark two decades of work, accomplishment, and dramatic change brought about by the ABAG-administered San Francisco Bay Trail Project. Today approximately 300 miles of the 500 planned Bay Trail miles are open to the public. The Trail connects all nine counties and 47 cities and over 75 percent of the Bay Area's population (5.8 million people) live within 20 miles of the Bay Trail.

The San Francisco Bay Trail has proven to be one of the most popular public facilities in the region and is considered one of the key components that make the Bay Area 'livable,' featuring high concentrations of outdoor recreational opportunities close to where Bay Area residents live and work. The Bay Trail has also been identified as part of the regional bicycle network in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Bicycle Plan, a component of the Regional Transportation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. It is estimated that

37.9 million annual trips are made on the existing Bay Trail, making it one of the most heavily used recreation and non-motorized transportation corridors in the region.



Mill Valley Section of the San Francisco Bay Trail

These benefits have been accomplished because of the effective way the Bay Trail Project has leveraged administrative funding and support to create a much larger group of Bay Trail advocates within the public, private, and nonprofit

sectors. A core group of federal, State, regional, local governments, and advocacy organizations have been instrumental in bringing about many of the innovative strategies leading to trail development in areas of complex property ownership, land use, environmental regulatory jurisdiction, and public interest. They have included such champions as the State Coastal Conservancy, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, former State Senator Liz Figueroa, and former State Senator Bill Lockyer, often called the "Father of the Bay Trail." As a result, the Bay Trail Project and its partners have achieved: (1) greater than fifty percent completion of the total planned system; (2) increased local adoption of the Bay Trail concept through General Plans and other planning documents; (3) state funding for the Project; (4) agency and organizational partnerships; and, (5) increased public awareness and use of the trail.

Closing the Gaps

Looking ahead, the San Francisco Bay Trail Project will build on its benchmark report, the *San Francisco Bay Trail Wildlife & Public Access Study*, and the regional "Gap Analysis Report." Priorities will include tackling locations in remote areas and gaps with major constraints hindering construction of the projects. Laura Thompson, ABAG's San Francisco Bay Trail Project Manager, says, "The

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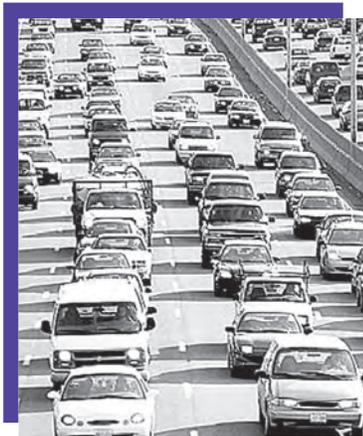
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Meeting California Emissions Standards in the Bay Area

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ABAG, working with the

developed draft land use scenarios and modeled how two scenarios play out against these transportation-related GHG, as well as other targets. These alternative land use forecasts are documented in a draft of *Projections 2009: What If?* Local government policymakers are invited to review this document and discuss the findings with agency peers. The alternative scenarios were developed purposefully to generate discussion about the range of development possibilities within the region and what these possibilities may mean in terms of the region's ability to affect global warming.



For *Projections 2009*, the two land use scenarios developed for review and discussion are called **Scattered Success** and **Focused Future**. **Scattered Success** describes a land use pattern where some new development projects occur in places where people can drive shorter distances, take transit and/or walk. This scenario assumes that we will also continue to build and support our many traditional, auto-oriented developments. The second scenario, **Focused Future**, takes a more intensive approach toward planning and developing complete communities.

The draft *Projections 2009: What If?* is available for review at www.abag.ca.gov. Please send your comments to ABAG Research staff and for further information contact Christy Riviere, Senior Planner, at 510/464-7923 or christyr@abag.ca.gov.

Bay Trail cont. from front page

outlook for closing these challenging gaps is promising. A combination of forces including increased funding, recent emphasis on bay restoration, and public support for increased access to the shoreline, are moving the Bay Trail forward with increasing momentum. We celebrate

the Bay Trail's 20th Anniversary in 2009 not just looking back, but looking ahead to finally completing a continuous recreation and transportation corridor encircling the Bay." For more information contact Laura Thompson, Bay Trail Project Manager, at 510/464-7935.

ABAG Welcomes New Deputy Executive Director Ezra Rapport

The Association of Bay Area Governments is very pleased to announce that **Ezra Rapport** has joined the ABAG team as Deputy Executive Director. He brings a wealth of knowledge and recognized expertise in municipal management, governmental operations, land use, and transportation. Rapport will assist ABAG Executive Director Henry Gardner in overseeing and supervising the agency's planning and service programs, and support functions, as well as assist as liaison with the region's city, town, and county managers and administrators.

Ezra Rapport brings a very strong academic background and a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors. He is a graduate of the State University of New

York at Buffalo, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. Rapport holds a Master of City Planning from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Juris Doctor from Hastings College of Law.

He served as Deputy City Attorney and Assistant City Manager for the City of Oakland and as Principal Consultant for the California Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Transportation. Rapport was manager of the DeSilva Group land development division and most recently, he was the Chief Operating and Development Officer for the City of New Orleans recovery operations. He is a long time resident of the Bay Area and resides in Oakland.



Regional Economic Outlook Conference: Have We Hit Bottom?

Local government decisionmakers and leaders from business and public agencies are invited to attend **ABAG's 21st**



Annual Short Term Economic Conference on January 29th in Oakland from 9 a.m. to noon. This half-day conference provides a two-year regional economic outlook that identifies local and statewide economic development trends related to the housing market, job growth, energy prices, and county taxable sales.

The speakers will include **Paul Fassinger**, ABAG Economist and Director of Research and Analysis, and **Hing Wong**, ABAG Senior Regional Planner, who will discuss the Bay Area's economic climate. **Howard Roth**, Chief Economist with the California Department of Finance, will look at the tough year ahead for California and **Andrew LePage**, Analyst, DataQuick Information Systems, will examine the Housing Market in a presentation entitled, "Searching for a Bottom in a Sea of Uncertainty."

Considered the foremost regional conference for forecasting local government future revenue and planning budgets, this annual forum has been rated consistently by past attendees as one of the most reliable prognostications of Bay Area economic trends. *The conference fee is \$100 for ABAG members and \$125 for non-ABAG members with registration available online at www.abag.ca.gov/events/econconf/.*

Buying Green....Buying Smart Eco-Purchasing Helps Public Agencies Meet Climate Action Goals

If you are working to shrink your carbon footprint, avoid the use of toxic chemicals and reduce waste, save **March 18, 2009**, for a Bay Area Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) conference in Oakland for local governments and agencies. Key experts and local government leaders will examine how local governments and public agencies can maximize their eco-purchasing power to fight climate change locally.

Sponsored by ABAG and StopWaste.Org in partnership with CAL EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control, this timely morning conference will demonstrate how a public agency can meet climate action goals and save tax payer dollars through increased efficiency. Topics will include 10 ways to make EPP easy, the "low hanging fruit" projects or products to prioritize for easy implementation, cooperative purchasing opportunities and process for buying green products through state contracts, certification programs, local best practices, and other tools and resources. Following the morning conference, there is a lunch opportunity to further network with experts about these and other topics.

The conference fee is \$30 and registration is available online at www.abag.ca.gov/events. The optional networking lunch fee is \$10. For more information, contact Ceil Scandone at 510/464-7961 or ceils@abag.ca.gov.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 2009

January 15

**Legislation & Governmental
Organization Committee** 3:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

**Finance & Personnel
Committee** 5:00 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

ABAG Executive Board 7:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

January 16

**ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint Policy
Committee** 10:00 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

January 23

**Regional Airport Planning
Committee** 9:30 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

January 29

**ABAG Short Term Economic
Conference** 9:00 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**ABAG PLAN Claims
Committee** 10:00 am
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

February 2009

February 4

**ABAG Regional Planning
Committee (RPC)** 1:00 pm
MetroCenter Auditorium

February 12

**Bay Trail Steering
Committee** 1:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

February 18

**ABAG POWER Executive
Committee** 12:00 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

Coming... in March

Buying Green.....

Buying Smart

**Eco-Purchasing Helps
Public Agencies Meet
Climate Action Goals**

**Joseph P Bort MetroCenter
Auditorium**

101 8th Street, Oakland

(8th and Oak across from
Lake Merritt BART Station)

March 18, 2009

9:00 – 12:30

Register at www.abag.ca.gov/events

Notable Numbers

7 million

pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per day would be saved if every coffee-drinking American used a refillable mug instead of a disposable cup.

1 ton

of carbon dioxide is absorbed by

Rose Jacobs Gibson
ABAG President
Supervisor, San Mateo County

Mark Green
ABAG Vice President
Mayor, Union City

David Cortese
ABAG Immediate Past President
Vice Mayor, City of San Jose'

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