



# Service Matters

## ABAG Elects New Officers President Dave Cortese and Vice President Rose Jacobs Gibson

**S**an Jose Councilmember Dave Cortese has been elected President of ABAG for 2006-08 and San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson was elected Vice President. They follow in the footsteps of outgoing President Scott Haggerty, Alameda County Supervisor, who concludes his two year term in January 2006.

ABAG's new incoming **President Dave Cortese**, a San Jose Councilmember since 2000, says, "Assuming a leadership role in ABAG is both an honor and an opportunity. At a time when many of the issues that we face as a community are regional in nature, we must empower cities and counties to look to strategic and effective regional planning for solutions. I'm eager to play an even greater role in the process of creating a more livable and efficient Bay Area." Councilmember Cortese has previously served on ABAG's Executive Board as Vice President, on the ABAG-MTC Task Force, and on the ABAG/MTC/Bay Area Air Quality Management District Joint Policy Committee, as well as the ABAG Administrative Committee.



Cortese brings an outstanding history of public service to his regional leadership post. He currently serves on the San Jose City Council Transportation Committee, the Economic Development and Environment Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Housing Advisory Commission. He is also a member of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors and many other transportation, land use and economic development advisory boards. Cortese is immediate past president of the Santa Clara County

Cities Association, and served on the East Side Union High School Board (ESUHSD) of Trustees from 1992-2000.

**Vice President-Elect Rose Jacobs Gibson**, a San Mateo County Supervisor since 1999 and President of the Board of Supervisors in 2003, is a member of the ABAG Executive Board and Chair of ABAG's Legislative and Governmental Organization Committee (L&GO). "As ABAG Vice President," Supervisor Gibson says, "I am committed to helping develop innovative, proactive approaches for building a stronger, more vibrant county and region. What we develop together as ABAG member cities and counties can and does make a regional difference and will create a better Bay Area."



In her second four-year term as Supervisor, Jacobs Gibson has initiated *Shared Vision 2010*, the San Mateo County's long-term strategic planning process; established Community Service Learning for at-risk youth in community schools throughout San Mateo County; and sponsored countywide forums on regional housing requirements and health issues and disparities. A leading member of numerous local, regional, state and national boards, committees, and commissions, she currently serves as Co-Chair of the Housing Endowment Committee, which created the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART), a public-private funding mechanism to build new, permanently affordable housing. During her terms as Councilmember and Mayor of East Palo Alto City Council from 1992 to 1999, she was instrumental in turning the once high crime rate city into a "City on the Move." A resident of East Palo Alto, Supervisor Jacobs Gibson is a tireless advocate for community building and has held this vision throughout her career in public service.

### IN THIS ISSUE

ABAG Elects New Officers	page 1	Spare the Air Tonight	page 3
Regional Economic Outlook 2006 - 2007	page 2	Calendar of Events	page 4
Recognition of Supervisor Scott Haggerty	page 2	Notable Numbers	page 4

## Save the Date: January 26, 2006 The San Francisco Bay Area: Money in the Bank? Regional Economic Outlook: 2006-2007

**E**conomists and regional financial analysts say that California and Bay Area economies have begun to recover. Does that translate into money in the bank for our region over the next two years? What about rising interest rates and costs of living here and doing business? How do they factor into our economic outlook? Don't miss an opportunity to hear public and private sector experts answer these questions, and predict how the region's economy will grow. ABAG is hosting its annual regional economic outlook conference on January 26 at the MetroCenter in Oakland, from 8:30 a.m. – noon. The conference provides a two-year regional economic outlook and is considered the foremost regional conference for forecasting local government future revenue and planning budgets.

During the half day conference, the California Department of Finance's Chief Economist Howard Roth will discuss the state's outlook and economic expansion in 2006, examining the affects of higher energy costs, rising interest rates, and potential for high tech and biotech jobs. Economist Paul Fassinger, ABAG's Research Director, will analyze the Bay Area's outlook and economic strength, exploring Bay Area's economic trends and index of leading indicators. ABAG Senior Regional Planner Randy Deshazo will focus on Bay Area retail sales, forecasting county taxable sales and sales tax "winner and losers." The prognosis for the region's real estate market will be probed by an expert panel with EAH Inc. President and CEO Mary Murtagh, Cushman & Wakefield Director John Troughton, and a developer Alan Strachan leading the discussion. Participants can register online at [www.abag.ca.gov/events/focus](http://www.abag.ca.gov/events/focus) or for questions call 510/464-7993. Registration deadline is January 23, 2006.

### Supervisor Scott Haggerty Becomes ABAG Immediate Past President

ABAG's Outgoing President Scott Haggerty, Alameda County Supervisor, will officially turn over his gavel to San Jose Councilmember Dave Cortese at the January 19th Executive Board meeting.

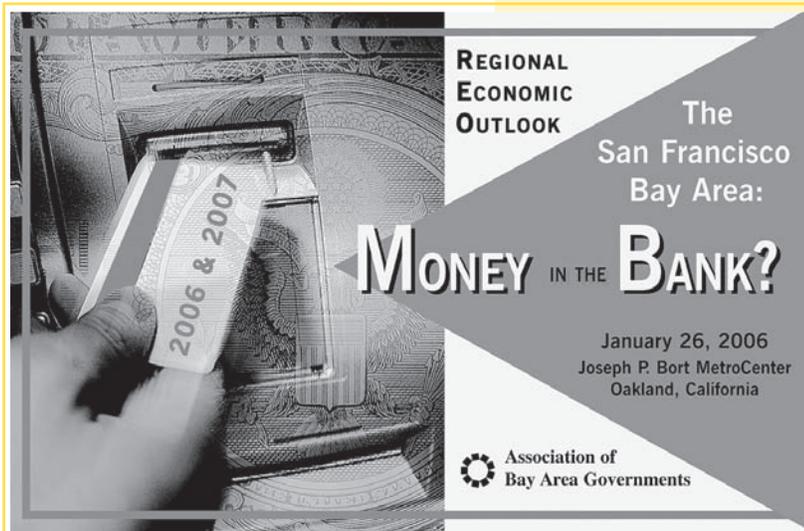
As his term comes to a close, Supervisor Haggerty shared his thoughts, "During my two year tenure as President of ABAG, I have attempted to focus the organization on issues of critical importance to the region and on ways to strengthen ABAG by improving our financial condition and making our presence known in Sacramento. As a result, I and the ABAG team have appeared before the State legislature and met with legislators on key issues facing local government and the region, most notably issues concerning land use and transportation planning, and the Regional Housing Needs Determination process." He added, "One of my greatest



achievements, I believe, was the recruitment and selection of Henry Gardner as ABAG Executive Director upon the retirement of Eugene Leong."

Supervisor Haggerty provided regional leadership during his two years at a time when the region was wrestling with the issues of comprehensive regional planning, the impact of the state deficit, and reduced local government funding sources. He played a visible role in helping increase financial services for

member cities and counties, promoting risk management, and navigating regional planning and governance issues.



## Spare the Air Tonight

**F**or many, winter means cozy evenings spent relaxing in front of a crackling fire. However, for the sake of public health, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is asking Bay Area residents to make wood burning just a pleasant memory, especially on certain nights this winter. From now through February 17, 2006, the Air District will be issuing *Spare the Air Tonight* advisories to help remedy an unhealthy air quality situation caused by wood smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves. During the *Spare the Air Tonight* season, the Air District will also promote its Model



Wood Smoke Ordinance to local cities and counties. This article is part of our partnership with BAAQMD and our members to share information and resources that can help us address significant air quality and public health concerns.

### Why is wood burning a problem?

The air quality problem is that, as cooler temperatures and reduced sunlight diminish ozone problems, particulate matter (PM) becomes the pollutant with the greatest impact on air quality. Wood smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves is one of the main sources of this fine particle pollution in the Bay Area, with an estimated 1.7 million fireplaces and woodstoves being used by Bay Area residents. In particular, on certain Bay Area evenings, those cold stagnant winter evenings, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution that wood burning generates rises to unhealthy levels. PM<sub>2.5</sub>, or “fine” particulate matter which is about 1/28 the diameter of a human hair, has been linked in current research to asthma, bronchitis, cardiopulmonary disease, and even increased mortality rates.

*Spare the Air Tonight* advisories will be issued on days for which PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations are forecast to be around 55

micrograms per cubic meter. This level is well within the range where air is considered unhealthy to breathe for sensitive groups, such as small children, the elderly, and those with respiratory or cardiopulmonary ailments.

### Model Wood Smoke Ordinance

As of December 2005, the BAAQMD’s Model Wood Smoke Ordinance had been adopted by 40 cities and eight of the nine Bay Area counties. Adopting this ordinance is a critical step forward in helping improve air quality in their communities. The local ordinance does not ban wood burning, but instead requires that fireplaces or woodstoves installed in new housing (or in some cases remodels) be EPA-certified, or be natural gas or pellet-fueled appliances. It does also prohibit wood burning on “Spare the Air” nights. For more information about the *Spare the Air Tonight* program, and to sign up for e-mail AirAlerts when *Spare the Air Tonight* advisories are issued, visit [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org). For more information on the issues/model wood smoke ordinances, go to [www.baaqmd.gov/pio/wood\\_burning/index.htm](http://www.baaqmd.gov/pio/wood_burning/index.htm).

## WHAT TO DO ON SPARE THE AIR NIGHTS

On *Spare the Air Nights*, the Air District asks residents to

- Refrain from burning wood in fireplaces or wood stoves.
- Take public transportation.
- Forego any unnecessary automobile errands.
- If you must go out, be strategic and run all your errands together, or “trip-link,” to avoid higher polluting cold starts of cars.
- Bay Area residents are encouraged to invest in long term health by replacing fireplaces or woodstoves with natural gas models. Gas fireplaces create 99 percent less pollution than traditional fireplaces and are six to nine times more energy efficient.

### Adopted Wood Smoke Ordinances:

**Counties:** Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma

**Cities/Towns:** Benicia, Berkeley, Campbell, Clayton, Dublin, Fairfield, Foster City, Fremont, Gilroy, Hayward, Lafayette, Livermore, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Martinez, Menlo Park, Mill Valley, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Moraga, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Oakland, Palo Alto, Petaluma, Richmond, Rohnert Park, San Francisco, San Leandro, San Jose, Santa Clara, Santa Rosa, Saratoga, Sebastopol, Sonoma, South San Francisco, Sunnyvale, Union City, and Windsor

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## January 2006

January 19

**Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee Meeting**

3:30 p.m.  
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

**Finance and Personnel**

**Committee Meeting** 5:00 p.m.  
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

**Executive Board Meeting** 7:00 p.m.  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

January 20

**ABAG/BAAQMD/MTC Joint Policy Committee**

10:00 a.m.  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

January 25

**PLAN Claim Committee** 10:00 a.m.  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

January 26

**The San Francisco Bay Area: Money in the Bank?**

**Regional Economic Outlook: 2006-2007** 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

## February 2006

February 1

**Regional Planning Committee Meeting**

1:00 p.m.  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

### ABAG's 2006 Bay Area Directory City and County Governments' Member Cost

Hardcopy . . . . .	<b>\$80</b>
Disk (allows you to create personalized letters, lists, and labels). . . . .	<b>\$120</b>
Hardcopy and Disk . . . . .	<b>\$168</b>

*All jurisdictions have received a complimentary copy. To order additional copies, go to [www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov) - click webstore. Contact ABAG Publications at 510.464.7900.*

Special discounts available if two or more copies are purchased. Non-member costs are listed online

## Notable Numbers

### Bay Area "First in the Nation" Economic Facts:

**Most**

productive region in the United States is the Bay Area with an 84% advantage over the U.S. average of output per capita.

**Leading**

Region in agriculture and food processing, petrochemicals, and the visitor and tourism industries is the Bay Area.

**Highest**

Percentage of fastest-growing small businesses in the country occurs in Bay Area.

**Highest**

concentration of research centers is found in the Bay Area.

**600**

bioscience companies and 820 life science companies successfully operate in the Bay Area, the birthplace and world leader in bioscience.

**26**

Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in the Bay Area, *second* behind New York, a state triple our size.

**Highest**

number of top-ranked graduate programs in the nation for science, math, and engineering are located in the Bay Area, with the highest level of professional and graduate degree holders living in the Bay Area as well.

**Fifth**

Largest metro area in the country: Bay Area

**BAEF "Bay Area Economic Snapshot"**

**Scott Haggerty**  
ABAG President,  
Alameda County Supervisor

**David Cortese**  
ABAG President-Elect  
Councilmember, City of San Jose

**Gwen Regalia**  
ABAG Immediate Past President,  
Councilmember, City of Walnut Creek

**Henry L. Gardner**  
Secretary/Treasurer, Executive Director

**Patricia M. Jones** - Managing Editor

**Kathleen Cha** - Editor/Writer

**Leah Zippert** - Writer

**Halimah Anderson** - Writer

**Vicki Rutherford** - Design & Production



**Association of Bay Area Governments**  
P.O. Box 2050  
Oakland, CA 94604-2050  
Phone: 510.464.7900  
Fax: 510.464.7970  
E-mail: [info@abag.ca.gov](mailto:info@abag.ca.gov)  
**abagOnline:** <http://www.abag.ca.gov>



Association of Bay Area Governments  
P.O. Box 2050 • Oakland, CA 94604-2050  
website: <http://www.abag.ca.gov> • e-mail: [info@abag.ca.gov](mailto:info@abag.ca.gov)

PRSR FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 832  
OAKLAND, CA