



Service Matters

Taming Natural Disasters: Too Risky to Ignore

John Garamendi and Henry Renteria Top Speaker List

Over the past 50 years more than 56 disasters have affected all or part of the San Francisco Bay Area, representing more than a third of 181 disasters statewide. With an average of one natural disaster every year, the impact of disasters is too risky to ignore. *Taming Natural Disasters* is the theme of ABAG's Fall General Assembly scheduled for **Wednesday, October 6, 2004**, at the Oakland Marriott City Center. Disaster forecasting, pre-disaster mitigation planning, and risk reduction will underscore expert presentations on the potential impacts of natural disasters like earthquakes, winter storms, fires, and drought. Bay Area elected officials and staff, leaders from other California regions and state agencies, as well as public and private stakeholders are expected to attend this timely forum.

The Fall General Assembly (GA) is part of a two-day Pacific Security Expo beginning on Tuesday, October 5, sponsored by ABAG and the Bay Area Economic Forum (BAEF).

Major disaster findings and strategies will be unveiled throughout the GA's proceedings. John Garamendi, California Insurance Commissioner, and



Conference Co-sponsors

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Geological Survey, California Fire Chiefs Association, California Sheriffs' Association, California Highway Patrol, the Port of Oakland, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute—Northern California Chapter, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium.

Henry Renteria, Director of the California Office of Emergency Services and former Chief of Oakland Office of Emergency, will address disaster mitigation, risk assessment, and preparedness.

The lessons learned since Loma Prieta will be a critical part of special sessions that forecast the likelihood of disasters and their impact on the Bay Area. Sessions will closely analyze the issues related to risk reduction for government facilities and infrastructure and the revise of disaster mitigation for transportation and utilities.

During the Pacific Security Expo, along with the General Assembly on October 6th, BAEF will conduct its second annual Pacific Homeland Security Conference on October 5th. During both days, attendees will have the opportunity to explore homeland security and disaster mitigation and their implications for local governments, emergency response agencies, business, and infrastructure. The conference will also offer specialized accredited and OSHA compliant training for first responders on *Weapons of Mass Destruction*. Participants may register for both days or for one of the two days: go to www.abag.ca.gov/events or ABAG at 510/464-7900.

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World's First Green Library Goes "Green"

A City of San Jose library is the first library certified under the Green Business Program and the first recognized green library *anywhere*. The new West Valley

Branch provides library services for a diverse population of 50,000 users, and at the same time it conserves energy, water, and other resources, the cornerstone of ABAG's Green Business Program.

The library is San Jose's first building to achieve LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, the accepted industry standard for evaluating and certifying green buildings. West Valley provides seating for 188 library users, a community room for 144 visitors, a technology center with more than 30



computers, a language center to serve a diverse population, story time space for children, and parking. The library project preserved mature redwood trees, installed a

drought-tolerant landscape, and includes a mix of carefully shaded windows, clerestory windows, and skylights.

ABAG Executive Board member and San Jose Councilmember Linda J. LeZotte, who is a leading proponent of energy efficiency, commented, "We are very proud of this significant investment in a green building. San Jose is taking positive steps

towards sustainability. Designing more buildings like West Valley will help the City reduce long-term operating costs while increasing community satisfaction."

The Bay Trail Keeps GROWING

Zampa Bridge - Bicycle-Pedestrian Path Dedication

The Bay Area gained access to another toll bridge when the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge bicycle and pedestrian lane opened. A ceremony on May 16 celebrated the new 1.5-mile path and kicked off "Bike to Work Week." This section completes a link between two regional trail systems: the Bay Area Ridge Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail. The 12-foot wide path extends along the west side of the bridge offering expansive views of the Carquinez Strait, and a vista point on the Vallejo side of the Bridge that is a staging area for bicyclists and pedestrians.

U.S. Representative George Miller, Contra Costa County Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier, Solano County Supervisor Duane Kromm, Fairfield Mayor and Solano Transportation Authority Chair Karin MacMillan, Ridge Trail Executive Director Holly Van Houten, and ABAG's Bay Trail Manager Janet McBride were among the federal, state and local officials and staff present at the kickoff.



San Tomas Aquino Trail/Saratoga Creek Bay Trail Connector

A week following the Zampa Bridge dedication, a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 25th celebrated the opening of the San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail, Reach 1. This new trail and undercrossing link to the Bay Trail and complete the first section of a creekside trail connector trail that will ultimately extend 12 miles to Prospect Road in San Jose. ABAG provided a \$300,000 construction grant for this project.



Left to Right: Lorenzo Lopez, Civil Engineer I, City of Santa Clara (CSC); Jennifer Sparacino, City Manager CSC; Lorie Garcia, Member, Historic and Landmark Commission CSC; Laura Thompson, Planner, ABAG Bay Trail Project; CSC Councilmember Jamie Matthews; Kevin Moore, Streamside Park Committee; CSC Mayor Patricia Mahan; Daughter of Councilmember Matthews; CSC Councilmember Patrick Kolstad; CSC Councilmember Rod Diridon Jr.; CSC Councilmember Aldyth Parle; Rod Diridon Sr.; and Santa Clara County Supervisor James Beall, Jr.

New American Community Survey -- Resource for Policy and Programs

Bay Area cities rank in the top tier in the nation in educational attainment and income. These are the results of the new American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a milestone approach that allows for yearly collection of data on important demographic, social, and economic characteristics, such as migration, transportation, educational attainment, property value, and household income.

At a recent conference held by ABAG and the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Census Bureau announced the nationwide implementation of the American Community Survey, designed to replace the detailed information traditionally collected on the census long form every 10 years. ABAG Research Director, Paul Fassinger said, "The ACS is a

better, faster, and more cost effective way of giving communities the knowledge they need to manage change." With the implementation of ACS, critical data

needed by governments and the private sector to plan and make important policy and program decisions will now be more readily available.

In addition to providing a critical information resource, the ACS will be used to help determine federal funding needs and functions. An estimated \$200 billion a year is allocated to state and local governments based on the type of data that ACS provides. It is anticipated

that the survey will ensure that communities get their fair share of federal funding each year. For more information, visit the American Community Survey website at www.census.gov/acs/www or contact Paul Fassinger at paulf@abag.ca.gov.



Left to Right: *Ralph Lee, Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau; Preston Waite, Associate Director for Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau; and Paul Fassinger, ABAG Research Director*

New ABAG Planning Director



Janet McBride has been appointed to oversee ABAG's planning programs beginning July 16th. Janet has had an exemplary career at ABAG since 1990, and as an environmental consultant before that. Since 1997 she has been

Project Manager of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, a 500-mile multi-use shoreline path. She oversaw Bay Trail implementation and administration of \$11 million in planning and construction grants to local cities and districts. When asked what she hopes to accomplish as Planning Director, Janet said, "My overarching goal is to build upon ABAG's reputation as a source for cutting-edge work on issues of comprehensive regional land use planning and collaborative policy and decision-making. I will seek to ensure ABAG serves as a forum for innovative ideas, as well as a source for practical strategies and solutions. The ultimate aim is to find ways to improve the quality of life for current and future residents."

At the same time ABAG welcomes our new Planning Director, we extend best wishes to retiring ABAG

Planning Director, **Gerry Raycraft**. Gerry has served as ABAG Planning Director since

2001 and is recognized for his contributions to the success of the region's smart growth planning efforts and housing initiatives. Prior to his ABAG appointment Gerry served as the Community Development Director for the City of Manteca from June 2000-2001, as the Community Development Manager and the Redevelopment Program Manager for the City of El Cerrito from 1990-2000. Reflecting on his time with ABAG, Gerry observed, "Being involved at the regional level has affirmed for me the importance of strong relationships with elected officials and staff members at the local level and the need to put regional issues in a local context. ABAG brings a full menu of planning and development-related services to cities and counties, and they are integral to building a better Bay Area. More than that, ABAG planning is about doing the right thing for the region and helping local jurisdictions tackle their issues, priorities, and responsibilities. I have truly appreciated the opportunity to be part of these efforts."

A Fond ABAG Farewell



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 2004

July 8 9:00 a.m.
Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Forum

Solano County Sheriff's Office
 530 Union Ave, Fairfield

July 15 3:30 p.m.
Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee Meeting
 MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

July 15 5:00 p.m.
Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting
 MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

July 15 7:30 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting
 MetroCenter, Auditorium

July 16 1:30 p.m.
Regional Agency Coordination Committee Meeting
 MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

August 2004

August 18 12:00 noon
ABAG POWER Executive Committee Meeting
 MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Notable Numbers

35 to 48%
 Of Bay Area county residents, age 25 and over, have a bachelor's degree or higher, almost 15% more than U.S. as a whole.

\$79,531
 Median household income reported for Santa Clara County residents in 2002, the highest county median household income in the nation.

\$76,181
 Median household income reported for San Jose residents in 2002, the highest city median household income in the nation.

\$58,621
 Median household income reported for City and County of San Francisco residents, third highest median household income in the nation.

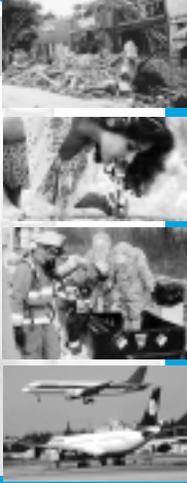
31%
 Of San Francisco City and County residents use public transportation, ranking third in the nation in public transportation use.

Source: American Community Survey 2002

PACIFIC SECURITY EXPO October 5- 6
 in conjunction with
Association of Bay Area Governments
FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY* October 6th
Taming Natural Disasters
 and
BAY AREA ECONOMIC FORUM'S
SECOND ANNUAL PACIFIC HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE
 October 5th
 Tuesday and Wednesday, October 5 - 6, 2004
 Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel

DON'T MISS THIS 2-DAY FORUM!

**GA Attendance only October 6th*



Join ABAG and the State of California to Flex Your Power at the Pump



Find out more at www.fypower.org

A Statewide Effort to Conserve Gasoline

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 ABAG President,
 Alameda County Supervisor

David Cortese
 ABAG Vice President,
 Council Member, City of San Jose

Gwen Regalia
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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

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

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