



# Service Matters

## Local Governments Receive Essential Energy Services

The Local Government Energy Partnership (LGEP), ABAG's energy efficiency program for local government agencies, has reached a half-way mark. In the program's first year, efforts have focused on establishing program administrative procedures and policies, conducting outreach and marketing, enrolling agencies in the program, and providing energy services for early enrollees.

To date, LGEP has enrolled 27 of an expected 35 local government agencies.\* Through LGEP, ABAG has been able to



successfully reach agencies who, historically, have not participated in energy efficiency programs funded by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC).

Enrolled agencies receive free, customized technical assistance and policy support to improve energy efficiency in public facilities and their larger communities. One of the program's main goals is to direct local governments towards existing energy efficiency programs that provide rebates, incentives, and free technical services for energy efficiency projects. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and the Local Government Commission (LGC) are also a part of the team providing marketing/outreach activities, energy education, and policy assistance.

Examples of the customized assistance and access to funding assistance provided by the program include the following:

**Contra Costa County:** LGEP helped the County develop and submit a successful application to the California Energy Commission (CEC) to obtain free funding and consulting services for energy studies at County

facilities. The CEC will fund up to \$10,000 of consultant work, most of which is expected to be allocated to a cogeneration study at the County's Juvenile Hall. LGEP has also agreed to fund a separate energy audit at the County's Los Medanos Medical Center.

**City of Dixon:** LGEP conducted a review of the City's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment in support of a new HVAC maintenance contract the City put out to bid in January. LGEP also provided language specifying that high efficiency HVAC equipment be used when replacing old equipment covered under the proposed maintenance contract.

**City of Pleasanton:** LGEP is providing policy assistance to the City committee that is developing an Energy Element for the City's General Plan. LGEP recommended a process for preparing the new element, based on the program staff's past successes in effective energy policy-making. The City has followed this process closely. LGEP is also working with the City to define energy goals, policies, and programs in support of the new element.

**Sonoma County:** LGEP is coordinating services with the Sonoma County Climate Protection Campaign and the California Local Energy Efficiency Program to provide services to the nine Sonoma City governments and associated agencies. Assisting local governments with specific energy efficiency projects helps with greenhouse gas emission reductions in Sonoma County.

LGEP has also conducted program information meetings with Los Altos, San Ramon, Watsonville, and South County Fire Authority, whose enrollments are pending.

LGEP has also provided two well-received workshops directed to local governments. Twenty-five local government staff attended the first workshop, entitled

\* Current Enrollees: Berkeley, Cloverdale, Cotati, Dixon, Emeryville, Healdsburg, Hillsborough, Livermore, Millbrae, Petaluma, Pleasanton, Richmond, Rio Vista, Rohnert Park, San Carlos, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Seaside, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Windsor, Contra Costa County, Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, Sonoma County, and Sonoma County Water Agency

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## Bay Area Cities Flex Their Power

**T**he Cities of Berkeley and San José recently won statewide 2004 Flex Your Power Energy Efficiency Leadership Awards for their commitment and investment in conserving energy. These Flex Your Power award winners have become role models for other organizations around the state and the nation by leading the way in implementing successful energy efficiency measures.

**The City of Berkeley**, in partnership with a local nonprofit, Community Energy Services Corporation, developed the "Smart Lights" energy efficiency program to save energy and money in Berkeley's small business community. The city increased energy efficiency in 884 businesses and saved them a total of \$817,000.

The program has saved a total of 1,516 peak kilowatts and 4.8 million kilowatt hours annually. The program is being touted as a model for all East

Bay small businesses, small institutional facilities, and common areas of multi-family buildings. In 2004, Smart Lights became a part of the East Bay Energy Partnership Project,

implemented by Pacific Gas & Electric, which makes the program accessible to all East Bay small businesses. It is expected that in 2005 more than 1,000 East Bay businesses will participate in the program.

Since 2001, **the City of San Jose** has saved over \$13 million in energy costs by installing variable speed drives on water pumps, retrofitting lighting and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems, and encouraging city employees to use energy wisely by turning off lights and computers when not in use. In April 2003, San Jose adopted the Sustainable Energy Policy and Action Plan, which established city goals to serve as a leader in energy-efficient uses in city activities and facilities; improve energy reliability, supply and price; and encourage the use of energy-efficient measures. San Jose's energy efficiency and conservation programs have successfully avoided unnecessary energy expenditures and saved more than 100 million kilowatt hours. *For more information on these programs and the Flex Your Power campaign, visit the Flex Your Power website at [www.fypower.org](http://www.fypower.org).*

## Public Agencies Certified "Green" Eighteen Agencies and Departments Become Green Businesses



Manor School in Marin County is the first "green" elementary.

On March 17th ABAG will hold the third Annual Green Business Recognition Ceremony to honor public agencies that have been certified by their county green business programs. To be certified, a business or public agency must demonstrate that they are in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and voluntarily implement additional measures to conserve energy and water, reduce solid waste, improve recycling and prevent pollution.

This year's 18 honorees include seven public agencies and departments from **Contra Costa County**: Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, City of Concord Parks Division, the City of El Cerrito Recycling Center, the City of Hercules Police Department, the City of Walnut Creek Reprographics Shop, the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, and West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority. **From Marin County**, Manor School (*the first elementary school*) and Novato Sanitary District have been certified.

**In Santa Clara County**, the City of San Jose Environmental Services Department, the City of Sunnyvale Fleet Services and the Senior Center, Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture and Resource Management and its South County Branch Office, and the Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Division have become certified "green" public agencies.

**In Alameda County**, the UC Berkeley Crossroads Cal Dining, Dublin San Ramon Services District, and Castro Valley Sanitary District have also been certified and "gone green."

The Green Business Program was developed by ABAG and begun in 1996. Currently offered in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, Sonoma, and Santa Clara counties, the Green Business program has to date certified 475 businesses including 44 public agencies. It has become a model program throughout the state. *For more information, contact Ceil Scandone, Regional Coordinator, 510/464-7961, [ceils@abag.ca.gov](mailto:ceils@abag.ca.gov) and visit the website at <http://www.greenbiz.abag.ca.gov>.*

## American Planning Association's Annual Conference Visits San Francisco

**M**ore than 5,000 urban, rural, and regional planners from across the country and abroad are expected to come together for the American Planning Association's (APA) 2005 National Planning Conference in San Francisco from March 19th through 23rd at Moscone West and the Marriott Hotel. Planning experts will address topics such as bicycle and pedestrian planning, disaster mitigation, wild fires, safe growth, new urbanism, and affordable housing. The conference offers more than 300 sessions addressing the challenging issues of growth and change that communities face across the country. Special conference tracks include small town and rural planning, the planner's role in food systems, and housing.

Host committee co-chairs ABAG Principal Planner Alex Amoroso and ABAG Regional Planner Hing Wong describe "the California experience as the Petri dish for planning issues." Special focused sessions and



illustrative mobile workshops will explore the Bay Area's challenges and opportunities.

Members are encouraged to celebrate one of Bay Area's own. The APA/AICP Annual Meeting and Awards will recognize Naphtali H. Knox, AICP, City of Palo Alto, with the Distinguished

Leadership Award for a Professional Planner at Monday's afternoon event.

Additionally, the conference includes a special program for Planning Commissioners, Elected Officials, and Appointed Officials. Conference organizers are providing a series of special sessions and a suite to host facilitated discussions at designated times – Sunday afternoon and Tuesday morning.

For more information, please visit the website at [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).

## ABAG Spring General Assembly "Casinos on the Bay Area Landscape"

Thursday, April 28, 2005  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
The Palace, San Francisco



**T**ribal Gaming and casino land development promise local opportunities and challenges. It also raises a series of concerns related to land use, regulations, social impact, and government-to-government relationships with tribal entities—federal, state, and local governments. ABAG's Spring General Assembly, entitled "Casinos on the Bay Area Landscape," will provide a forum to explore issues related to potential casino development in the Bay Area on Thursday, April 28, 2005, at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

Representatives and experts from Tribal entities, local government, and tribal matters consortiums will brief attendees on the issues and give multiple perspectives on opportunities and obstacles. Case studies on rural and urban casinos already in place will be presented. I. Nelson Rose, J.D., one of the world's leading authorities on gambling and the law, will kickoff the conference as the morning keynote speaker.

ABAG's annual Business Meeting will also be held during the General Assembly, requiring the attendance of all ABAG member city and county delegates. Registration materials will be mailed in mid March, with registration also available online. Visit ABAG's website at [www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov) for more information or call 510/464-7900.

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"Developing and Implementing Effective Energy Policy at the Local Level," which included presentations about successful energy policy-making from energy staff at the Cities of Berkeley and San Jose. On February 7, 2005, thirty-three attendees participated in the second workshop, *Getting the Job Done: Energy Projects in Municipal Facilities*, and received information on energy use tracking, energy audits, energy project financing and incentives, and more. A third workshop, "Water Pumping Efficiency: Saving Energy and Money," is scheduled for March 9, 2005, in Petaluma, with more workshops under development. For more information about LGEP, services, and workshops, please visit <http://www.abag.ca.gov/lgep> or contact Gerald Lahr at ABAG, at 510-464-7908 or by email [jerryl@abag.ca.gov](mailto:jerryl@abag.ca.gov).

California consumers are not obligated to purchase any full-fee service or other service not funded by this program. This program is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## March 2005

**March 17** 11:00 a.m.  
**Earthquake and Hazards Outreach Committee Meeting**  
ABAG, Room 106B

**March 17** 3:30 p.m.  
**Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee Meeting**  
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

**March 17** 5:00 p.m.  
**Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting**  
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

**March 17** 7:30 p.m.  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**March 25** 10:00 a.m.  
**ABAG/BAAQMD/MTC Joint Policy Committee**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**March 28** 10:30 a.m.  
**ABAG-CALFED Task Force/Bay Area Water Forum Meeting**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

## April 2005

**April 16** 10:30 a.m.  
**Risk Management Committee Meeting**  
ABAG, Room 106B

**April 20** 12 noon  
**ABAG POWER Executive Meeting**  
ABAG, Room 106B

**April 28** 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
**ABAG General Assembly**  
Palace Hotel, San Francisco

## Notable Numbers

### Demographics of Home Buying

**45%** of homebuyers in suburban areas are couples with children, in comparison to urban areas where 17% of buyers are couples with children.

**38%** of homebuyers in urban areas are single adults.

**20%** of single adults buy a home in suburban areas.

**52%** of home buyers in urban areas are between the ages of 26-40, with 48% over 40.

**56%** of suburban home buyers were over 40, with one-fourth between 41-50.

**51%** of urban area residents rent.

**64%** of suburban residents are homeowners.

*2005 ABAG Regional Economic Outlook Conference*

## Casinos on the Bay Area Landscape

# Spring General Assembly Thursday, April 28, 2005

## PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO

(formerly Sheraton Palace)

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

General Assembly registration materials will be mailed in March  
For more information, please call 510-464-7900



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