



Service Matters

Earthquake Public Policy and Risk Management: What Would Happen If the 1906 Earthquake Happened Today?

How to manage risks associated with earthquake hazards brought thousands of conference participants together in San Francisco's Moscone Center during the week of April 17th for the 100th anniversary of the 1906 "great earthquake" and fires. Embedded in the national four day conference was ABAG's Spring General Assembly, "Managing Risk through Public Policy in Earthquake Country." More than 200 specialists in the fields of disaster preparation and mitigation policy, building inspection, regional transportation hazard planning for hazards and agency joined local elected officials and community leaders to explore the public policy of disasters.

During the General Assembly's annual business session, delegates approved the 2006-07 Work Program and Budget and adopted a bylaw change. This change enables each Member jurisdiction to appoint its city/town manager or county administrator as an alternate delegate to the General Assembly in the event appointed delegates and alternates are not available to attend.

General Assembly Highlights

ABAG President Dave Cortese introduced a joint plenary session of noted scientists and policymakers including Stanford University Geophysics Professor Greg Beroza, Structural Engineer Charlie Kircher, Office of Emergency Services Coastal Region Administrator Richard Eisner, Contra Costa County **Supervisor John Gioia**, and San Francisco **Supervisor Fiona Ma**, and posed the question, "What would happen if the 1906 earthquake occurred today?" Panelists answered with state-of-the-art graphic simulations and commentary on the status of emergency readiness in local communities.

Late morning panels and discussions featured a number of policy and planning experts including Richmond **Mayor Irma Anderson**, Metropolitan Transportation Commission Executive Director **Steve Heminger**, San Leandro **Mayor Sheila Young**, CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters) Executive Director **Ana Marie Jones**, and Oakland **Councilmember Jean Quan**.



Top Left: San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson; ABAG President Dave Cortese.
Top Right: Napa County Supervisor Mark Luce.
Center: Senate pro Tem Don Perata.

MTC Executive Director **Steve Heminger** applauded retrofit and replacement work to date on the Bay Area's bridges while highlighting originality in engineering for the new Eastern span of the Bay Bridge and the recent award of contract for completion of the replacement work.

CARD Executive Director **Ana Marie Jones**, struck a chord with the audience as she spoke about the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake when responsibility and assigned blame was discussed by elected officials and local agencies. **Oakland Councilmember Jean Quan** commented that her trip to Kobe, Japan, where 80% of those rescued were helped by neighbors, profoundly changed her view of emergency response.

Senator Perata and Infrastructure Challenge

Keynote speaker, **Senate pro Tem Don Perata**, gave participants insight into the current local, state and federal politics swirling around disaster readiness and response. "So far, so good!" was his answer to the question on many peoples' minds about the status of legislative discussions to craft infrastructure bond language. Senator Perata emphasized the critical need for Bay Area infrastructure expenditures both on bridges retrofit and replacement, but also on bridge approaches. The Senator

Spring GA continued on Pg. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Spring General Assembly Examines
Disaster Policy-Making
Focusing Our Vision

page 1-2
page 2

Green Business Grows
Calendar of Events
Notable Numbers

page 3
page 4
page 4

Spring General Assembly & Focusing Our Vision

Spring GA continued from Pg. 1



Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates

then unveiled his support for a revamped regional water transit authority to meet “our real needs— many water transit connections serving from east to west and from north to south.” He endorsed the idea of disaster land use planning to incorporate temporary docks that would serve as emergency points for the distribution of goods and people in the event of a large earthquake.

Afternoon sessions focused on disaster and hazard mitigation policymaking in action **Yumei Wang** from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries highlighted the state of Oregon’s earthquake policymaking and legislative milestones achieved with the successful passage of 5 historic bills under the leadership of Senate President Peter Courtney, related to earthquake emergency training and seismic retrofitting of public buildings. **Dr. Phillip Ganderton** focused on how cost benefit analysis is necessary to move forward mitigation and the funding

needed, citing the outstanding successes achieved by the city of Hayward and their public and private retrofitting initiatives.

Raymond Brady, a past ABAG Research Director and now special consultant with New Orleans, compared the economic impacts of the “super catastrophe—using his research on the Loma Prieta Earthquake with his ongoing analysis of Hurricane Katrina. Attendees intently listened to his description of lessons learned which included the four failures—failure of planning, logistics, engineering, and emergency management. Policy responders Hayward Councilmember **Olden Henson**, Napa County Supervisor **Mark Luce** and Berkeley Mayor **Tom Bates** provided successful community examples and model plans for addressing these challenges.



Spring General Assembly participants

Focusing Our Vision

Representatives of ABAG, MTC, and the Air District (BAAQMD) over the past two months have been appearing at the meetings of various local government associations and council meetings to talk about a new regional planning program: *Focusing Our Vision*. This program is part of a continuing effort that began in 2000 with the *Smart Growth Strategy / Regional Livability Footprint Project*, the first smart-growth visioning exercise for a major metropolitan area in California. The “Network of Neighborhoods” Vision resulting from the *Footprint Project* has been supported by a number of regional initiatives.

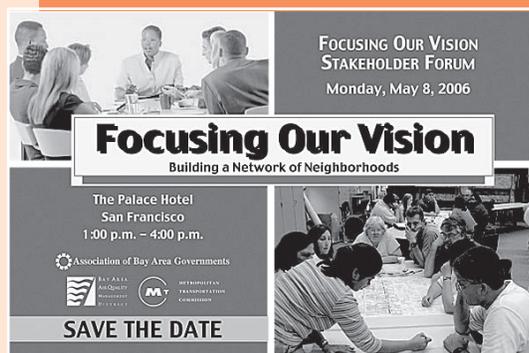
Focusing Our Vision is intended to build on these initiatives and to translate the Bay Area’s smart-growth efforts into local action. Collectively, we seek to improve transportation efficiency, conserve natural resources, support existing communities, and address the Bay Area’s chronic deficiency of housing choice. By collaborating with local governments on the designation of priority development and resource protection areas, we hope to refine and focus our regional vision and to advance implementation. The goal is to engage local governments as full partners in all aspects of this effort.

Together, we will confirm regional and local priorities about where to focus growth and developments, and which areas to protect. Future state infrastructure dollars might

be linked to consistency with such regional development and protection strategies. Overall regional benefits include more housing and transportation choices, improved community vitality, increased social equity, more efficient public investment, and greater open space and natural resource protection.

Technical discussions with county and city staff have begun. The objective is to develop proposals jointly that can be brought

back for consideration by regional and local policy-makers. While the technical work is underway, additional opportunities to talk about *Focusing Our Vision* are welcomed. The first of a series of stakeholder meetings is scheduled for May 8th, at 1 p.m. at the Palace Hotel. Additional information and registration is available online at html.www.abag.ga.gov/events/stakeholder.



FOCUSING OUR VISION
STAKEHOLDER FORUM
Monday, May 8, 2006

Focusing Our Vision
Building a Network of Neighborhoods

The Palace Hotel
San Francisco
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Association of Bay Area Governments
BAY AREA FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
METRO
METROPOLITAN REGIONAL CENTER COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE

Twenty-three Public Agencies and Department Certified "Green" ABAG Joins the "Green" Honor Roll

During the fourth Annual Green Business Recognition Ceremony hosted by ABAG's Executive Board during its meeting on March 16th, twenty-three public agencies certified by their county green business programs were honored. County Supervisor's offices were added for the first time to the Green Business honor role for public agencies "turning green."

The Concord Office of **Contra Costa County** Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier was recognized as being the first Supervisor's office certified, with Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia's El Cerrito Office, Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema's Martinez Office, and **Alameda County** Supervisor Nate Miley's Castro Valley Office following close behind. It was also announced that ABAG, as an agency, had joined the "Green Business" ranks, with ABAG Office Manager Marci Loss recognized for her leadership in ensuring ABAG was "green."

Other honorees, certified since March 2005, include nine public agencies and departments from **Contra Costa County**: the City of Antioch Fleet Maintenance, City of Brentwood Fleet Services, City of Walnut Creek City Hall, City of Walnut Creek Parks Department, Tri Delta Transit (Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority), and four EBMUD Water Treatment Plants in El Sobrante, Lafayette, Orinda, and Walnut Creek.

In **Alameda County**, the County Heavy Equipment Repair Building's Main Facility and the City of Livermore Fleet

Services have "gone green and been certified." Both Contra Costa and Alameda County have certified their 200th business. From **Marin County**, the Central Marin Sanitation Agency and the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District were certified, with their 100th business certified this year.

In **Santa Clara County**, the City of Gilroy's City Hall and its Corporation Yard, Santa Clara County Assessor's Office and Santa Clara Valley Water District were certified "green" public agencies.

Santa Clara Valley Water District was singled out and praised for significant support and achievements. The District made a commitment to certify every facility throughout the County: two years and 11 buildings later, they achieved the objective to have the entire district certified as a green business.



Left: Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia with ABAG Vice President and San Mateo Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson. Right: Walnut Creek Staff, Councilmember Gwen Regalia, and San Mateo Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson.

Certification is a significant achievement, because a business or public agency must meet specific environmental regulations and then voluntarily implement additional measures. The Green Business Program was established in 1996 by ABAG's Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee.

To date the Green Business program has certified 645 businesses, representing more than 20 industries and 70 public agencies. It has become a model program throughout the state with Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Diego and Sacramento counties initiating programs. For more information, contact Ceil Scandone, Regional Coordinator, 510/464-7961, ceils@abag.ca.gov and visit the website at <http://www.greenbiz.abag.ca.gov>.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, June 23
2006

For more information or to register online go to <http://watertransit.org/TODConference> or call 510-464-7900.

Save
The Date
Friday
June 23, 2006

Water Transit Authority Symposium
Transformation of the Bay Area Waterfront, Water-Linked TOD
9:00 am – 3 pm
World Trade Club, San Francisco

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 2006

May 8
Stakeholder Forum 1:00 pm
Palace Hotel, Ralston Room, San Francisco

May 11
Bay Trail Board Meeting 12:00 Noon
Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, Palo Alto

May 12
ABAG Comp Shared Risk Pool Board Meeting 10:00 am
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

May 17
PLAN Executive Committee 10:00 am
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

May 18
Legislation & Governmental Organization Meeting 3:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting 5:00 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

ABAG Executive Board 7:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 2006

May 19
ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint Policy Committee Meeting 10:00 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 7
PLAN Board of Directors 11:30 am
ABAG Room 106B

Regional Planning Committee Meeting 1:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 8
Bay Trail Steering Committee Meeting 1:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

June 21
ABAG POWER Executive Committee Meeting 12 Noon
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

June 23
Water Transit Authority Symposium Transformation of the Bay Area Waterfront, Water-Linked TOD 9:00 am – 3 pm
World Trade Club, San Francisco

Notable Numbers

Rain, Rain Go Away

5th

Wettest year on record is projected for California.

175%

of average rainfall and snow water content in the northern Sierra (water year in October 2005).

121%

of normal rainfall has fallen in Oakland, 136% of normal in San Francisco, and 151% of normal in Oakland.

1,600

miles of levees in the state were all declared a California state of emergency in February.

\$5 billion

Is the cost projected for statewide repair work.

23 million

Is the cost to restore 10 of the 29 heavily eroded levees being repaired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Sacramento area.

\$112 million

Is the cost of 19 additional projects in the Sacramento area that are being paid for by the state of California.

data State of California

David Cortese
ABAG President,
Councilmember, City of San Jose'

Rose Jacobs Gibson
ABAG Vice President
Supervisor, County of San Mateo

Scott Haggerty
ABAG Immediate Past President,
Alameda County Supervisor

Henry L. Gardner
Secretary/Treasurer, Executive Director

Patricia M. Jones - Managing Editor

Kathleen Cha - Editor/Writer

Leah Zippert - 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

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