



Service Matters

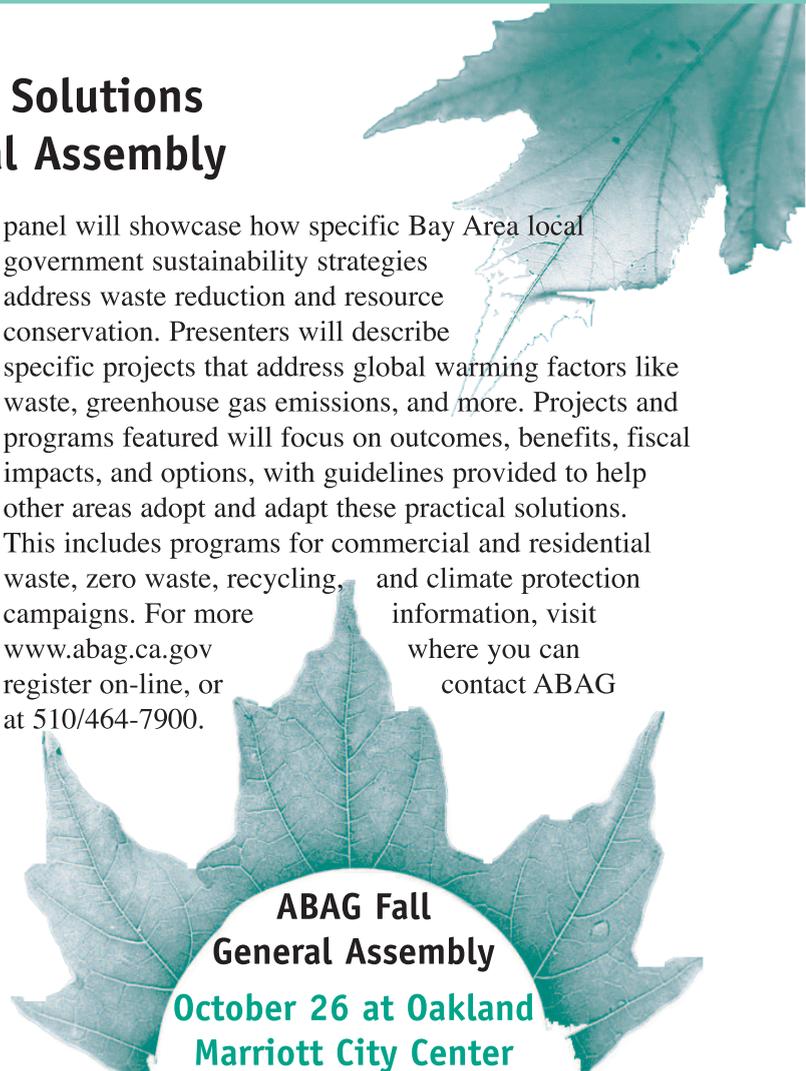
Environmental Challenges — Local Solutions Call for Action at ABAG Fall General Assembly

From the way we build and design our communities to the way we manage our waste, our water, and energy demands, Bay Area local governments and businesses are poised to make an enormous difference in our global health. On **Thursday, October 26**, the ABAG Fall General Assembly, “Environmental Challenges—Local Solutions,” will feature experts and local projects with sustainable solutions. ABAG President and San Jose Councilmember Dave Cortese urges fellow Bay Area elected officials and business and community leaders to attend the General Assembly. Every community in the Bay Area is challenged to address local environmental issues that impact our global health. This General Assembly will spotlight how our local actions can turn down the global thermostat by featuring practical strategies that we can implement.

Sustainable Strategies Featured in the Program

The half-day conference, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Oakland Marriott City Center, will examine the environmental implications of land use and smart growth, and building sustainable communities, specifically exploring green building policy, smart design, sustainable development, and climate change. A second

panel will showcase how specific Bay Area local government sustainability strategies address waste reduction and resource conservation. Presenters will describe specific projects that address global warming factors like waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and more. Projects and programs featured will focus on outcomes, benefits, fiscal impacts, and options, with guidelines provided to help other areas adopt and adapt these practical solutions. This includes programs for commercial and residential waste, zero waste, recycling, and climate protection campaigns. For more information, visit www.abag.ca.gov where you can register on-line, or contact ABAG at 510/464-7900.



**ABAG Fall
General Assembly
October 26 at Oakland
Marriott City Center**

ABAG Energy Watch Helps Change the Energy Climate

Headlines about climate change, Stage 1 and 2 energy alerts, Spare the Air Days, and Demand Reduction Strategies signal the energy challenges cities, counties, and Special Districts are addressing. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Energy Watch Partnership can help jurisdictions take control of energy efficiency and conservation issues.

Formerly the Local Government Energy Partnership (LGEP), ABAG Energy Watch, a joint project with

PG&E, is kicking off another 2 1/2 years of assistance to local governments. ABAG Energy Watch will continue to assist local governments with implementing energy and cost saving projects in public facilities, and provide technical assistance for energy policy development. The Energy Watch partnership is designed to enable an agency to take advantage of critical resources (technical and administrative services and incentive/rebate funds) to complete energy and money saving projects.

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Estuary Project Works with Agencies to Prevent Pesticide Pollution

Preventing water pollution from urban pesticide use is the goal of a grant-funded initiative of the San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP), which is administered by ABAG. The initiative, called the Urban Pesticide Pollution Prevention Project (UP3), addresses the fact that a number of Bay Area creeks have sediment that is toxic to aquatic life—and this toxicity is caused by commonly used urban insecticides. The problem is that pesticides used throughout the Bay Area by professionals and homeowners to kill ants and other insects can be washed into creeks when it rains (or during irrigation). Even though typically only a tiny fraction of what is applied washes off, for some pesticides, this amount is enough to cause toxicity. Researchers have recently found evidence of widespread toxicity caused by a group of commonly used insecticides known as pyrethroids.

Funded by a State Water Resources Control Board grant, the UP3 Project works to reduce this toxicity in our creeks using three major avenues of outreach:

- ◆ Providing tools to municipalities to support their efforts to reduce municipal pesticide use and to conduct outreach to their communities on less-toxic methods of pest control (e.g., baits, caulking, improved sanitation).
- ◆ Compiling the latest relevant scientific information and providing regular e-mail updates and informative annual reports.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance to California Water Boards and municipalities as they encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to prevent water quality problems from pesticides.



Information from the UP3 Project has already been instrumental in pesticide regulatory decisions at the state and federal levels. U.S. EPA is proposing to limit uses of a key pyrethroid, cypermethrin. As we go to press, the Department of Pesticide Regulation is preparing to initiate a major regulatory action intended to develop

solutions to the creek sediment toxicity problem from pyrethroids.

Impact on Local Government

These changes in pesticide regulations could significantly benefit local governments, who currently are at risk of lawsuits under the Clean Water Act. Local governments are legally responsible for everything that flows into storm drains, including pesticides, but do not have the authority to impose restrictions on pesticide use—only U.S. EPA and DPR can do that.

The UP3 Project's work to prevent water pollution from pesticides is part of SFEP's ongoing efforts to protect and restore Bay Area waters. *For more information, visit www.up3project.org or contact Laura Speare, UP3 Project Manager, 510-622-2452, lspeare@waterboards.ca.gov.*



Environmental Conferences

4th Biennial CALFED Science Conference 2006

"Making Sense of Complexity: Science for a Changing Environment"

October 23-25, Sacramento Convention Center

The Biennial CALFED Science Conference, which San Francisco Estuary Project takes a leadership role in organizing, is a forum for presenting scientific information and ideas relevant to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's goals and objectives in the California Bay-Delta, its watershed, and the adjacent coastal ocean. The conference goal is to provide new information to the broad community of scientists, engineers, managers, and stakeholders working on Bay-Delta related issues. The conference program features three days of plenary sessions, poster presentations, and networking talks on migrating fish and rivers, rivers and the wetlands, water and sediment quality, science and management, lessons from Hurricane Katrina, and long-term challenges. Registration is available online at http://science.calwater.ca.gov/conferences/sciconf_index.shtml or contact Debbi Egter Van Wissekerke/SFEP at 510/622-2304.

76th Annual CCPCA Conference

The 76th Annual California County Planning Commissioners Association (CCPCA) Conference will be held at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel and Spa in Santa Rosa on Friday, October 27th, and Saturday, October 28th, 2006. Expert workshops, special events, and the CCPCA annual banquet will highlight the Conference. Speakers and workshops will cover water issues such as supply, demand, quality control and cooperative planning, as well as flood control and erosion topics. Cooperative relationships will be featured and discussed in terms of housing, managing growth, redevelopment, RHNA, TDR, boundary disputes, transportation, open space and agriculture, UGB, urban densities, and revenue options. *For information on the conference and registration, go to www.planningcommission.org.*

Katrina and the 2004 Jones Tract Levee Failure Spark Urgent Action to Protect Urban Infrastructure and Low-lying Communities

An ABAG Technical Working Group to Evaluate Bay Area Levee Hazards and Planning Options has been formed in response to statewide reports and analyses that describe serious threats to water supplies from earthquake and flood hazards in the Delta, and predict an unprecedented calamity for the Delta region under certain conditions. The working group's first priorities will be to assess funding and technical resources, and identify collaborative opportunities for emergency planning purposes as part of a mitigation plan to address predicted hazards.

Failing Infrastructure Identified as Major Hazard

Scientists and engineers have stated that the same "domino effect" that Central Valley and Southern California would experience from failing infrastructure would hit the Bay Area equally as hard. Water would be cut off; travel interrupted; power, fuel, and goods transport limited; thereby limiting other essential services for families, government, commerce and industry. Key infrastructure identified at risk in the Bay Area includes roads, highways, marinas, port facilities, utility transmission lines, water lines, railroad lines, sewage and water treatment plants, and other key service facilities.

Other Bay-centered levee problems have emerged in the broad Delta levee hazard discussions as critical, since south Bay levees protect a significant part of the Bay shoreline and southern Sonoma County levees protect a wide swath of agricultural lands. It is recognized that five Bay Area counties (Alameda, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara) would be highly impacted by water supply interruptions and the Bay/Delta would sustain serious environmental damage from massive flooding. Agricultural communities in the Delta and some cities, like Novato, already presage the enormous impacts, as they recover and will continue to recover for some time from recent major flooding events.

ABAG Initiates Funding Proposal to Support Emergency Planning

To make an emergency planning and action program possible, ABAG staff has proposed funding for emergency planning and environmentally sensitive implementation through the CalFed Delta Levee Integrity program, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the lead. The proposal incorporates environmental protection strategies to ensure project

success. These include sediment analyses, and a storm water management and watershed-based approach that emphasizes how low-impact development and other measures upstream can help mitigate serious flooding hazards.



In July the Executive Board, at the behest of Board President Dave Cortese, provided additional support and direction, calling for elected officials around the region to send letters to the Sacramento Corps of Engineers to support the project proposal and elevate it to a place of importance among proposed projects totaling over one billion dollars. East Bay Municipal Utility District President, William Patterson, sent a key letter of support citing major risks to the East Bay's water supply system. More letters of support and local government resolutions are needed and requested from those with concerns about levee failures. *For more information about the ABAG Technical Working Group to Evaluate Bay Area Levee Hazards and Planning Options, please contact Kathleen Van Velsor, Senior Environmental Planner, at 510-464-7959 or Jeanne Perkins, Earthquake Program Manager, at 510-464-7934.*

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New Services and Dedicated Incentive Funds

ABAG Energy Watch is authorized to serve cities, counties, and special districts in the counties of **Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma**. Building on the portfolio of services offered under the LGEP program, the Program has added retro-commissioning and greenhouse gas emission analysis services, and will have an incentive budget that is specifically earmarked for energy efficiency projects. ABAG Energy Watch is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). California consumers are not obligated to purchase any full fee service or other service not funded by this program. *For more information about ABAG Energy Watch, visit www.abag.ca.gov/abagew, or contact Jerry Lahr, Energy Programs Manager, at 510-464-7908, jerryl@abag.ca.gov.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 2006

September 21

Legislation & Governmental Organization 3:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

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

ABAG Executive Board 7:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

September 22

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

September 28

Housing Methodology Committee 10:00 am
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC), McAteer Petris Conf. Rm.

Focusing Our Vision Technical Advisory Committee 1:00 pm
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC), McAteer Petris Conf. Rm.

California Special District Association (CSCA)

Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase

"Perception, Precision, Performance" September 25-28, North Lake Tahoe/Squaw Creek

Contact: http://www.csda.net/conf_page.htm

October 2006

October 4

Regional Planning Committee 1:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

October 12

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

October 18

PLAN - Board of Directors 8:30 am
TBD

ABAG POWER Executive Committee 12 Noon
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

October 19

Housing Methodology Committee 10:00 am
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC), McAteer Petris Conf. Rm.

Focusing Our Vision Technical Advisory Committee 1:00 pm
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC), McAteer Petris Conf. Rm.

October 26

Environmental Challenges-Local Solutions, ABAG General Assembly 8:30 am-2:30 pm
Oakland Marriott City Center

Notable Numbers

Global Warming Facts:

Three-fourths

Of California's global warming pollution comes from burning fossil fuels—oil used in our cars and trucks, coal and natural gas burned to produce electricity, and natural gas used in our homes and businesses.

12th

Largest emitter of global warming pollution in the world would be California if it were a country.

First

State to pass legislation that sets caps on industrial gases linked to global warming, with industries and utilities having to reduce such pollution 25% by 2020, AB 32 (Nunez) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

First

State to limit global warming pollution from cars, with standards to reduce emissions from new vehicles by approximately 30% by 2016.

First

State in the nation to adopt efficiency standards for appliances was California (in 1977), which led to national standards in 1987. In 2004, CA adopted its latest upgrade to efficiency standards for household appliances; the same standards adopted by the federal government in 2005.

#1

In the nation, California led in adopting efficiency standards for new buildings in 1978, considered the strongest in the U.S.

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