

Searching for Dollars

Local Government Fiscal Reform Remains Priority in Sacramento

Since the passage of Prop. 13, one of the most significant recurring campaigns at the State Capitol is the fight for city and county funding.

Last year the key phrase was "ERAF" (the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund) and every jurisdiction was working to stop (and reverse) the takeaway of local revenues by the state.

Governor Gray Davis has apparently promised to sign any ERAF bill that reaches his desk. Not surprisingly, the most recent word around the Capitol is that he just doesn't want any ERAF bill on his desk!

The new focus is on a more complete fiscal reform-- one that restructures the state and local relationship. Sound familiar?

There are multiple efforts to address the challenge including a statewide commission, local hearings and legislation.

SPEAKER'S COMMISSION

Speaker of the Assembly Antonio Villaraigosa has convened a Commission on State and Local Finance to tackle the fiscal tug-of-war between local governments and the state.

Comprised of 26 bi-partisan representatives of business, labor and governmental officials along with environmental and tax-cutting advocates, the Commission will address city and county complaints of being over-managed and under-financed by the State. However, since the Commission is not planning to finalize any recommendations for another year, it is not expected to have significant impact on the budget and related policy for Fiscal Year 1999-2000.

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

Under the leadership of Senator Steve Peace of San Diego, the Senate Budget Committee recently held a series of meetings around the state to hear from city and county elected officials regarding local government finances.

The Committee met on January 27, 1999, in Oakland. Local speakers included **Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson** and County Administrator Susan Muranishi, **Santa Clara**

County Supervisor Jim Beall and County Administrator Richard Wittenberg, **San Francisco Supervisor Michael Yaki** and **Sonoma County Supervisor Tim Smith**.

While many are encouraged that local officials are actually being consulted by the Budget Committee, others remain concerned that the policy discussions at these meetings are not enough.

"I think that cities and counties should continue to quantify the impact of the ERAF takeaways," said **Oakland Councilmember Dick Spees**. "The Legislature and the Governor should be made aware of the percentage or total dollars removed from our budgets," Spees said.

NEW LEGISLATION

Should the effort to reformulate the complicated co-dependent relationship between cities, counties and the state not succeed, several legislators are prepared to seek statutory changes.

A large number of bills has been introduced by Bay Area representatives and others [including AB 223 (Wiggins), AB 284 (Strom-Martin), AB 333 (Papan), AB 349 (Torlakson), and SB 165 (Rainey)] to take a swipe at ERAF; but be aware that not all the ERAF bills are city- and county-friendly.

To further distort the reform picture, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recently published a report which concludes that not all local jurisdictions will benefit (equally) by a return of ERAF dollars.

The February 2, 1999, report, *Shifting Gears: Rethinking Property Tax Shift Relief*, explains that 13 counties and an estimated 20 percent of cities appear to be "net winners" in the sum of ERAF shifts and mitigation measures combined.

Spring General Assembly	p.2
Legislative Reception	p.3
ABAG Planning Activities	p.4
Habitat for Humanity	p.5
Take Note! Heads Up	p.6/7
Earthquake Workshop	p.8

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Spring General Assembly: Sustainable Development

Delegates to Vote on the Draft Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area

The word "sustainability" is being mentioned with increasing frequency, and the concept of "sustainable development" has begun to appear on meeting agendas throughout the Bay Area.

The time has come to delve into the issue, and to apply its concepts to this region.

THE COMPACT FOR A SUSTAINABLE BAY AREA

ABAG's Spring General Assembly will focus on the first presentation of the draft "Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area."

The Compact is the product of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, a broad coalition of public and private leaders who care about the future of this region and have been working on goals and strategies to improve it.

The Alliance envisions a Bay Area where the natural environment is vibrant, healthy and safe, where the economy is robust and globally competitive, and where all citizens have equitable opportunities to share in the benefits of a quality environment and prosperous economy.

General Assembly participants will vote on specific components of the Compact, covering the areas of:

- * **Natural Resources**
- * **Economic Development**
- * **Housing/Community Development**
- * **Transportation**
- * **Opportunity and Diversity**

KEYNOTE EVENT

In cooperation with the Commonwealth Club of California, ABAG is pleased to welcome elected officials from three west coast cities to discuss the challenges of urban sprawl— and the successful strategies, programs and initiatives from their communities.

The speakers include: **Susan Hammer**, former mayor of San Jose; **Vera Katz**, Mayor of Portland; and **Martha Choe**, City Councilmember from Seattle (invited).

This keynote event will be broadcast on National Public Radio.

Space at the General Assembly is limited; please register early. The cost is \$65 (breakfast and lunch included) for members of ABAG and the Commonwealth Club; \$85 for non-members. For more information, call Debbi Nichols at 510/464-7965.

Spring General Assembly: Friday, April 23, 1999 Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco

SPECIAL SESSION WITH **MAYOR JERRY BROWN**

Don't miss the special morning session with Mayor Jerry Brown to hear his thoughts on Sustainable Development and the impact on the livability of our communities.

General Assembly participants may register beginning at 7 a.m. and enjoy a continental breakfast.

Mayor Brown will speak at 7:30 a.m. and will take time for questions.

Legislative Reception

ABAG Leaders Network with Legislators and Staff

ABAG kicked off the new year with a reception for Bay Area legislators and their staff prior to the January Executive Board meeting.

Members of the Executive Board and L&GO Committee met with **Assemblymember Dion Aroner** (Berkeley) and **Assemblymember Lynn Leach** (Walnut Creek), along with representatives from the following legislative offices: **Assemblymember John Dutra** (Fremont), **Assemblymember Ted Lempert** (Palo Alto), **Assemblymember Helen Thomson** (Vacaville), **Assemblymember Tom Torlakson** (Antioch), **Senator Liz Figueroa** (Fremont), **Senator John Vasconcellos** (San Jose), **Senator Byron Sher** (Redwood City) and **Senator Jackie Speier** (Daly City).

Bay Trail Manager Janet McBride used the event to connect with legislators around the Bay in support of new funding for the Bay Trail. The event also spurred Senator Liz Figueroa to “adopt the Bay Trail” as her new personal project, following Senator Bill Lockyer’s departure from the Legislature.

ABAG continues to work with Bay Area legislators through the L&GO Committee and its activities.

Photos: Oakland City Councilmember Dick Spees and Assemblymember Lynn Leach (right); Stacey Wagner [Asm. Ted Lempert], Kevin Mullin [Sen. Speier], and Gloria Ritchie [Asm. John Dutra] (below); Bay Trail Manager Janet McBride networks with Jeff Barbosa [Sen. Figueroa] (lower right).



Searching for Dollars (continued from page 1)

The Legislative Analyst calculates that local governments are receiving over \$2.2 billion in shift relief in the current year (Prop. 172 funds, trial court funding, the COPS program, General Assistance, and fines and forfeitures), reducing the “net harm” of the tax shift from \$3.6 billion to about \$1.4 billion—statewide.

Thirteen counties received more revenues in relief than they lost in property tax shifts (including **Santa Clara County**), with a net gain of \$80 million; the other 45 counties had net losses.

Nine counties account for 90 percent of total statewide losses under the ERAF shifts (including **Alameda**, **Contra Costa** and **San Francisco**). The net loss for these nine counties is \$580 million, and the average reduction in local government funding is approximately \$64 per resident.

In terms of relief, the Legislative Analyst concludes that any state formula for ERAF relief would overcompensate some governments and leave others with net losses. Further, any attempt to provide ERAF compensation on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis would be extremely difficult to develop and maintain over a period of years. It would also cost much more than expected.

The report estimates that while net losses to counties total \$639 million, it would cost \$719 million to eliminate the losses to all the counties currently “in the red.” The impact on California cities would be similarly varied, and relief would produce variable and inequitable results.

While an analysis of all cities statewide was not conducted, based on cities in Los Angeles County it was determined that about one-in-five cities re-

ceived *more* revenues from ERAF mitigation than it lost from the shifts. In contrast, sixteen cities (in L.A. County) had losses averaging \$20 per resident. [The LAO points out that the revenue loss is equivalent to almost a 10 percent reduction in police expenditures.]

The LAO recommends that the Legislature reject the concept of mitigating local government shift losses and instead dedicate any local relief resources to transform the state’s system of local finance.

The provision of local funding, the report concludes, should not be predicated on a calculation of what one level of government owes the other, but upon the possibility for improving California’s flawed system of local government finance.

Call 916/445-2375 to order the report or go to <http://www.lao.ca.gov>.

Inter-Regional Partnership Adopts Work Plan

ABAG Working with San Joaquin County and Stanislaus Area Governments

A five-county organization that straddles the Bay Area's borders has adopted a plan to tackle some of the tough housing, traffic, environmental and economic problems plaguing the Bay Area and neighboring jurisdictions.

In January, the Inter-Regional Partnership (IRP), an association between ABAG and jurisdictions from the San Joaquin County Council of Government and the Stanislaus Area Association of Governments, adopted a comprehensive work plan that includes research, legislative, and educational objectives.

Central to the plan is a survey that would determine how many cities and counties in the five county area represented by the IRP (**Alameda**, **Contra Costa**, **San Joaquin**, **Santa Clara** and **Stanislaus**) have considered

or adopted a set of growth control strategies.

For instance, the IRP survey will ask about land use strategies such as:

- Rezoning underdeveloped or under-utilized commercial and industrial lands to residential or mixed use;
- Eliminating discretionary permit requirements (such as use permits) for housing near jobs;
- Reducing or waiving development fees for affordable housing developments;
- Encouraging a better balance between commercial development and housing growth;
- Discouraging free employee parking and promote approaches that encourage workers to use transit and carpools.

Survey results, to be released in April, will help dictate future projects.

In addition to the self-certification survey process, the IRP also plans to:

- Educate the public about ways to address the problems posed by our current pattern of development;
- Seek legislation to stabilize local government finances while providing incentives to improve the ratio between jobs and housing in the five-county area.
- Coordinate economic development efforts across the five IRP counties;
- Analyze how the distribution of jobs and housing is changing in the five-county area;
- Monitor the implications of major general plan changes in the IRP area.

For more information, contact ABAG Senior Planner Alex Amoroso at 510/464-7955 or e-mail AlexA@abag.ca.gov.

Methodology Being Crafted for Regional Housing Needs Process

With the creation of two committees, ABAG has launched the year-long, state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Determination Process for the San Francisco Bay Area.

The committees will help ABAG formulate the methodology it will use to determine how the number of housing units needed to house the region's populace should be distributed among its 9 counties and 100 cities.

To ensure an open, inclusive and timely process, ABAG has created an ad hoc Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) and a peer review group. The HMC will devise the

methodology that will be used to distribute the region's housing numbers. The 18-member Committee, comprised of elected officials and housing and planning professionals, will meet four times between April and June, 1999.

A peer review committee of 30 to 40 individuals (including public officials, planning and housing specialists, builders, and environmental and housing advocates) will provide feedback to the HMC on its deliberations. These individuals will not meet as a group, but will instead provide written comments based on notes and materials from the HMC meetings.

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is scheduled to release its initial numbers for *regional* housing needs at the beginning of July, 1999. ABAG plans to have its distribution methodology adopted by the Executive Board at its **July 15, 1999**, meeting.

Cities and counties can expect to receive their initial numbers by **September 1999**.

For more information on the housing needs determination process, please call ABAG Senior Planner Alex Amoroso at 510/464-7955 or e-mail AlexA@abag.ca.gov.

Hammering Away at Housing

ABAG Staff Put Muscle to the Test with Habitat for Humanity

While the issue of affordable housing is not a new one for ABAG staff, the world of hammers and hardhats is not the most familiar territory.

Nevertheless, it was with great intentions that ABAG employees volunteered to spend a day working for the Habitat for Humanity program in the City of Pittsburg.

Habitat for Humanity had acquired several properties in one neighborhood, and is building similar houses on each property. ABAG staff worked on a site where the foundation had been poured, but not much other work had been done. Although some might have imagined the assignment was going to be hammering wood and painting walls, the reality was more on the unskilled labor side of the equation!

Much of the day was spent hauling large planks of wood from one property to another around the corner— where they would be used as a mold for the new foundation. On the return trip, staff carried chunks of concrete to fill in the front porch before the new cement was poured.

The remainder of the day involved



moving and organizing the pre-fabricated steel frames that would serve as the frame for the house.

The ABAG “manual labor team” was proud of its accomplishments and contribution, but earned a new appreciation for their desk jobs!

For more information, call Habitat for Humanity at 510/251-6304 (East Bay); 415/750-4780 (San Francisco); 408/294-6464 (San Jose); 650/324-2266 (Peninsula); 415/721-4112 (Marin); 707/422-1948 (Solano) or 925/933-1296 (Mt. Diablo).



Photos - Top (from left to right) : Mel Ishikata, Michelle Fadelli, Jim Nagal, Eileen Barr, and Janet McBride hoist steel frame; center: examples of the homes built in Pittsburg by Habitat for Humanity; left: ABAG staff at work; and right: Karl Lisle and Brian Kirking saw segments of steel beams.



Daly City Teen Summit Takes Top Award

The California Park and Recreation Society recently presented **Daly City** with its annual district Award of Merit for the city's first-ever teen summit.

The award for the "youth programming category" was the highest award given in the district that includes San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties.

"We're very proud to be recognized for the teen summit," said Pat Martel, Daly City's Assistant City Manager. "We were able to bring together government, youth and business in a viable setting to help youths in the community."

Over 200 Daly City teens attended the October 24 summit to discuss problems and issues with city and community leaders. A follow-up event has been tentatively scheduled for April.

The Society is a statewide organization that consists of 3,100 parks and recreation department professionals who vote on the awards. Criteria include innovation, use of volunteers and community resources and documented results. Applicants must also show how the event reflects their recreation department's objectives.

For information on the Teen Summit, contact Angela Waters, Teen Center Coordinator, at 650/991-8001.

San Ramon Bans Laser Pointers

San Ramon became the first city in California to restrict the use of laser pointers by minors.

At its January 26th meeting, the city council unanimously approved the ordinance which prohibits the sale of laser pointers to minors, but allows possession of the devices by minors with parental supervision. It also makes it illegal for anyone to aim the laser beam into someone's eyes or into a moving vehicle.

Similar laws have been enacted outside of California, but San Ramon is the first to take action within the state.

Due to the low price and popularity, laser pointers have become hot-selling "toys" among preteens and teenagers. Although long-term eye damage may result after prolonged direct exposure, the low-power laser can have the same effect as a flash bulb, which can be dangerous if directed at a driver of a vehicle. The beam can also be mistaken for aiming devices on guns.

San Francisco and **South San Francisco** are also considering similar ordinances. The League of California Cities has reported that it has received inquiries about the lasers from other cities across the state.

For more information, contact Bob Saxe, San Ramon City Attorney, at 925/275-2273.

Santa Rosa Earns First-Ever Community Policing Award

The Santa Rosa Police Department is the inaugural recipient of the **1999 James Q. Wilson Award for Excellence in Community Policing**.

The department was chosen from a field of 31 law enforcement agencies throughout California to receive the award, granted by the Regional Community Policing Institute in Los Angeles, in collaboration with similar institutes in San Diego and Sacramento.

Santa Rosa P.D. won top honors for embracing the notion of community problem solving in partnership with other agencies and citizens.

The department was also hailed for use of neighborhood zones and staffing, which enables officers to get to know specific neighborhoods and community members to become familiar with the officers who serve them.

Santa Rosa has implemented several programs that support the concept of neighborhood-oriented policing: Citizens Police Academy, Volunteers-In-Police-Service, and the Citizen Ride-Along Program.

Police Chief Michael A. Dunbaugh said that the award is one that the whole community earned.

"While the police department has

played a major role," he said, "we are receiving this award because of the outstanding community partnerships that we have collectively developed."

The award is named for James Q. Wilson, a political scientist who co-authored a 1982 article called "Broken Windows" that has helped define the philosophy of neighborhood-oriented policing: taking care of small problems, even those more environmental than crime-related, and fostering neighborhood pride and involvement will help prevent crime and other problems.

For more information, contact Commander Steve Thomas with the Santa Rosa Police Department at 707/543-3641.

Seeking Fifty Community Successes for Recognition

The Pew Partnership wants to publicize successes in 50 communities that have developed innovative solutions to the challenges of housing, jobs, at-risk youth or the environment. The program entitled, **Wanted: Solutions for America**, is a national initiative to document and disseminate programs that are making a difference in communities across the nation. While this is not a grant opportunity, communities selected will receive access to prominent researchers and practitioners and national visibility.

For more information, go to <http://www.pew-partnership.org> or you may call 804/971-2073 or e-mail any questions to mail@pew-partnership.org.

Propositions on the March 7, 2000 Primary Ballot

As of the end of February 1999, six measures have qualified as propositions for the (new early) primary ballot on **Tuesday, March 7, 2000**. They are:

- **Murder/Special Circumstances** - adds kidnapping, arson and lying in wait (committed with murder) to the list of circumstances for which a person may be sentenced to death or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.
- **CA State Lottery** - would require specified revenue increases to be allocated for the purchase of instructional materials.
- **Peace Officers** - adds BART, UC and State University police officers to the list of those for which it is illegal to falsely report the commission of a crime or the existence of an explosive device.
- **Juvenile Crime** - increases the punishment for gang-related felonies.
- **Definition of Marriage** - would provide that only a marriage between a man and woman is valid and recognized in California.
- **Referendum on Gaming** - would overturn state law regarding compacts between tribes and the state regarding gambling.

For more information, go to the California Secretary of State's website at <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections>.

Oprah Winfrey to Keynote Women's Summit in San Francisco

Oprah Winfrey will join a list of distinguished women scheduled to address the 2nd annual Mayor's Summit for Women on **Friday, April 16, 1999**, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Moscone Convention Center.

Other speakers include journalist **Linda Ellerbee** and California Superintendent of Public Instruction **Delaine Eastin**. The cost of attendance is \$75.

For more information, go to <http://www.wibr.com> or call 800/255-3976.

Welfare-to-Work State Partners Provides Online Information

The California Department of Mental Health has established a website for welfare-to-work programs and services. Developed in partnership with 15 state agencies in the **Welfare-to-Work State Partners Workgroup**, the site provides direct links to the relevant state departments as well as information on child care, job development, education, transportation, housing, training, substance abuse, employer incentives, grants, and mental health and other support services.

Visit the Welfare-to-Work website at <http://www.welfareto-work.ca.gov>.

The MITTEN CRAB Workshop



Tuesday,
March 23, 1999
8 am to 5 pm

Radisson Hotel
Sacramento

This one-day workshop will focus on the potential impacts of the invasion of the mitten crab in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The second half of the day will be devoted to developing a Draft Management Plan to control the spread of the crab and its impacts.

The \$25 fee includes morning refreshments, lunch and conference materials. For more information, call 510/622-2406.

MREH

March 17-19
State of the Estuary Conference
Palace of Fine Arts
San Francisco

March 18-3:30 p.m.
L&GCComitee
ABAG Large Conference Room

March 18-5 p.m.
Finance & Personnel Committee
ABAG Small Conference Room

March 18-7:30 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting
Metro Center Auditorium

March 19-10 a.m.
Home Base Regional Steering Committee
Metro Center Auditorium

March 23-8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
San Francisco Estuary Project
Mitter Club Workshop
Radisson Hotel, Sacramento

March 25-9 a.m.
Earthquake Preparedness Workshop
Reporting Earthquake Gridlock
Metro Center Auditorium

March 31-9 a.m.
ABAG PLAN Corporation
Loss Prevention Seminar
Metro Center Auditorium

ARL

April 7-1 p.m.
Regional Planning Committee
Metro Center Auditorium

April 16-11 a.m.
Earthquake Housing Mitigation
and Recovery Committee
ABAG Large Conference Room

April 23-7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
ABAG GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
Sustainable Development
Sheraton Palace Hotel
San Francisco

Tremblors, Traffic and News in the Bay Area

ABAG Conference to Focus on Earthquakes, Transportation and the Media

POTENTIAL SCENARIO:

- * Earthquake on the Hayward Fault: 1500 road closures
- * Earthquake on the San Andreas Fault: over 800 road closures

Following a significant earthquake in the Bay Area, will emergency vehicles, repair crews and commuters all be able to use alternate routes? What is likely to happen with public transportation? Will the news media be able to work with disaster response personnel to reduce gridlock? What unique challenges do the print, radio and television mediums face? How can we plan to minimize traffic disaster?

Reporting Earthquake Gridlock

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Metro Center Auditorium
101 Eighth Street in Oakland

This is a FREE event. However, registration is required due to limited space. Please FAX your name, title, organization, address, phone and e-mail to: EARTHQUAKE WORKSHOP at 510/464-7970 or e-mail JeanneP@abag.ca.gov.



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