



Service Matters

ABAG Announces Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative

Lessons learned from recent earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, New Zealand, and especially Japan have highlighted the importance of ensuring the quality of life, the economy, and economic competitiveness of the Bay Area in the event of a major disaster. This issue of achieving economic resilience in the Bay Area was the focus of the recent Shaken Awake Conference (see article below). During the conference, ABAG announced an Initiative in partnership with the Bay Area Center for Regional Disaster Resilience to develop a Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan focusing on recovery and restoration after major disasters and incidents, with a particular look at recovery from a major earthquake.

The Regional Disaster Initiative will bring together a broad range of public, private sector and non-profit organizations and stakeholder constituencies. Focusing on all-hazards, they will share information and expertise, and enable coordination and mutual leveraging of the many productive resilience activities currently underway.

An important Initiative element will center on producing a regional baseline assessment of existing Bay Area disaster preparedness/ management capabilities and needs. The assessment will demonstrate where mitigation measures and other resilience improvement investments are required. The intent will be to identify gaps and specific activities that will

improve the Bay Area's capacity to withstand, adapt, and rapidly return to a new normal. That means examining what is needed to reconstitute lifeline and other critical infrastructures, businesses, government services, community institutions, housing and essential services and facilities that underpin the Bay Area economy and the health, safety, and overall well-being of its citizens.

As a stakeholder-driven process, it is envisioned that a robust range of planning activities will include an educational Recovery and Restoration Workshop, a targeted Regional Recovery and Restoration Tabletop Exercise, and a final Disaster Resilience Action Planning Workshop.

Visit the website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/resilience>. For additional information about participating, contact Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator, 510/464-7951, or email DanielleH@abag.ca.gov.



Shaken Awake!

Creative Ways to Strengthen Housing and Promote Community Resilience

The Bay Area's seismically vulnerable housing was the focus for more than 100 people at ABAG's *Shaken Awake* forum in Oakland. Elected officials, local government staff, engineers, contractors, building owners, and consultants from throughout the region came together in June to discuss how to address the vulnerable housing crisis the Bay Area faces. An underlying harsh reality underscored the forum's focus on the immediate need for better housing policies: the crisis is getting

worse with an aging housing stock, lack of equity in houses, and lack of insurance coverage, leaving few homeowners with the capacity to rebuild after an earthquake.

USGS Seismologist Jack Boatwright kicked off the day by providing the latest research on the impacts of the next Bay Area earthquake and future hazard mapping efforts. Seismologist and private consultant Mary Lou Zoback discussed insurance coverage and its impact on our recovery.

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California Earthquake Authority representatives, Communications Director Chris Nance and Chief Mitigation Officer Janiele Maffei, shared the results of their disaster messaging study and plans for a retrofit incentive program that will provide cash rebates to homeowners who retrofit their homes.

Four panels addressed best practices in housing retrofit and mitigation, local government planning recovery tools, the role of the business community, and finding political will to make retrofitting and rapid housing recovery a reality. More than sixteen panelists from across the region shared best practices and policy barriers they have encountered, and discussed better planning methods for housing recovery and community engagement. Recognizing that a major earthquake becomes a regional economic resilience issue, seven main themes emerged:

- **Financing retrofits** - lack of funding for cities to help provide homeowner assistance. Suggestions for soft story funding included reducing business tax for owners and special assessment districts.
- **Lack of insurance coverage** - Currently only 6.5 to 7% of residential losses will be covered by insurance, an unprecedented lack of coverage for natural disasters. High annual premiums and high deductibles block adequate insurance coverage.
- **Owner liability** - A recent court case (Myrick v. Mastagni) held an owner liable for two deaths resulting from a URM building collapsing in the 2003 San Simeon earthquake. The case may have implications for soft story owners who fail to retrofit.
- **Public education** – Many panelists cited a need to better inform owners about their homes' vulnerability. The City of San Leandro's building department visits middle school science classes, publishes stories in the City's newsletter, makes presentations at homeowner association meetings, and provides a hands-on retrofit training course for city residents.

- **Disclosure of building vulnerabilities** – Debate continued over whether tenants and visitors have the right to know about vulnerabilities in their buildings or whether this notification will drive tenants away, making it even more difficult for building owners to have the funds to perform retrofits.
- **Role of regional agencies**— Panelists discussed how regional agencies such as ABAG can act as conveners, working to break down silos and bring together a variety of stakeholders to plan together. Regional agencies can provide local governments with technical assistance, identify and help remove regulatory barriers to recovery, as well as perform post-disaster studies on the disaster's impact on housing, infrastructure and the economy.
- **Recovery planning and implementation** – Panelists all agreed that recovery is messy. Charlie Eadie, manager for the Santa Cruz Downtown Recovery Plan after Loma Prieta, introduced the notion of dynamic tensions after a disaster: a quick return to normalcy balanced with the need for long-term planning. The City and County of San Francisco is already engaged in this forward thinking conversation and is defining a standard for how it wants its housing to perform and defining a strategy for how to get there.



Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, (left), along with Marin County Supervisor and ABAG Vice President Susan Adams, (right), and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, shared ideas for implementing better earthquake policies at Shaken Awake on June 13, 2011.

All of the conference materials, including agendas and speaker bios, presentations, video recording and photos, have been posted online at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/housing/shaken-awake/>. Conference summary will be posted in July.

ATTENTION
ABAG FALL GA LOCATION
CHANGE

ABAG Fall General Assembly
Thursday, October 13, 2011
Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco

GREENING OUR COMMUNITIES:
Healthy People, Healthy Bay, Healthy Economy

Exploration of greening our urban lands around the region, greening the edge of the Bay for flood control, water quality and quality of life, greening for healthier communities, and a nuts and bolts look at local government projects in action helping create a healthy Bay, healthy people and a healthy economy. **Expert keynote speakers and local government panels will be announced in September.**

Completed GHG Inventories A Snapshot of GHG Emissions and Energy Consumption for Local Governments

The Municipal Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Assistance program provided training and assistance to the following ABAG members: City of Lafayette, City of Sausalito, City of Napa, Town of Yountville, City of Oakley, City of Concord, City of Pleasant Hill, and Sonoma County jurisdictions. This GHGE Inventory Assistance is part of the Green Communities Program, a joint effort of ABAG and Pacific Gas and Electric Company and funded by energy rate payers through the California Public Utilities Commission.



Working together, ABAG and ICLEI were able to assist these eight jurisdictions in the completion of greenhouse gas emissions inventories for their operations. ABAG recruited local governments and interns for the GHGE Inventory, and oversaw the training workshops and development of the emissions inventories and final reports for each participating community.

ICLEI served as the technical consultant and provided training and technical assistance for conducting the inventories. Interns working with each local government completed the municipal operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGE) Inventory in accordance with the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP). LGOP standardizes the way in which local governments quantify and report their greenhouse gas emissions.

The final reports, presented to either City Councils or city staff, better equip local governments with tools to make effective and more informed decisions about reducing GHG emissions as well as energy consumption. This is important because they operate buildings, vehicle fleets, street lights, traffic signals, water systems, and wastewater plants. Local government employees consume resources commuting to work and generate solid waste which is sent for disposal. All of these activities directly or indirectly cause the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

As a next step, ABAG, ICLEI, and PG&E are currently exploring opportunities to provide similar assistance to local governments for community wide GHGE inventories. This program is expected to start in January of 2012. *For more information, contact Jackie Reinhart at 510-464-7994 or jackier@abag.ca.gov.*



Visiting the Bay Trail: Wildcat Marsh and Landfill Loop Trail



Ribbon cutting at opening of the new Wildcat Marsh Bay Trail section in the City of Richmond with (ltoR) Larry Burch, former Environmental Manager/Republic Services; Bruce Beyaert, Chair of Trails/Richmond Action Committee; Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia; and Richmond Councilmember Tom Butt.



The 2.8-mile Wildcat Marsh and Landfill Loop Trail provides public access to the shoreline of San Pablo Bay and the rich tidal wetlands of San Pablo Creek and Wildcat Creek.

Mark Your Calendar!

JULY 2011

July 15
ABAG/BAAQMD/MTC
Joint Policy Committee 10:00 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

July 19
Urban Pesticide Committee 9:00 am
MetroCenter, Room 171

July 21
Legislation & Governmental
Organization Committee 3:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference
Room B

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

Executive Board 7:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

July 27
San Francisco Restoration
Authority 12:00 pm
MetroCenter, Room 171

July 28
Housing Methodology Committee 10:00 am
BCDC
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco

AUGUST 2011

August 2
Regional Advisory Working
Group 9:30 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

August 3
Regional Planning
Committee 1:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

August 17
ABAG POWER Executive
Committee 12:00 pm
ABAG Conference Room B

Notable Numbers

7
Different Bay Area earthquake faults are capable of producing 6.7 or larger magnitude earthquakes.

63 percent
probability of a 6.7 or larger magnitude earthquake has been forecasted to occur in the region within the next 30 years.

350,000
People will be displaced, 2,000 roads will be impassable, and thousands of water-distribution pipes will break after a major earthquake, according to ABAG studies.

7 percent
of Bay Area homeowners have purchased earthquake insurance coverage. The low percentage is due in part to high annual premium and deductible costs.

Source: ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program and the U.S. Geological Survey

Bay Area Information Call Center for Homeowners and Contractors

Call 1-855-464-8484

Is your house leaking energy and money?

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has launched the Energy Upgrade Bay Area Information Call Center to help homeowners connect with experts and resources to take a "whole house" approach to greater efficiency and comfort. Call Center staff will help homeowners learn what is needed to make home improvements that save energy, water and natural resources and where to find rebates and incentives to help pay for them. *Energy Upgrade California is funded by the California Energy Commission and the federal America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).*
For more information about Energy Upgrade Bay Area, visit the Energy Upgrade California website at www.energyupgradeca.org.



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