



Service Matters

Spring General Assembly Demonstrates Latest Planning for People and Places

More than 200 Bay Area elected officials, business and community leaders convened on April 18th in Oakland at the former Barnes and Noble building in Jack London Square for ABAG's Spring General Assembly and Business Meeting. This important regional forum *Planning for People and Places* featured keynote speaker Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor and current UC Berkeley Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy, author Allan Jacobs, and panels of elected officials, planners, and business leaders who shared their expertise in jobs and housing trends, neighborhood architecture and design, and sustainable community development. The ABAG 2013-14 Budget and Work Program was approved during the Business Meeting and during the luncheon presentation, the 2013 Growing Smarter Together Awards were presented.



Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor and UC Berkeley Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy

Robert Reich set the stage with his wry insightful assessment of the improving trends of people and jobs nationally and regionally. He noted that the dramatic increase of seniors over the next twenty years will have critical social impacts on housing needs and medical care, further affecting how communities design neighborhoods and create access to services. UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus Allan Jacobs, Author of *Great Streets* and *Making City Planning Work*, illustrated the physical and designable characteristics of what makes great streets and cities through a series of neighborhood and street place images. From Venice and Amsterdam to San Francisco, Chico and Pasadena, he delineated leisure walkability, physical comfort, a street's definition/right of way, transparency, and complementarity, qualities from clear street beginnings and endings to special design features and trees.

Moderated by City and County San Francisco Supervisor Eric Mar, the panel *Planning for People and Places* featured Bonnie Fisher, Principal, ROMA Design; David Baker, Principal, David Baker+Partners; and Michael Rios, Co-Author of *Placemaking in Latino Communities*, and UC Davis Associate Professor. This panel demonstrated placemaking in action, showcasing model

developments, sustainable affordable housing, outstanding urban design, the use of lost space, the restoration of natural ecosystems, the use of art in the public realm, the creation of social environments, and placemaking ways to achieve cultural competency and overcome "too much process, and not enough action." Examples of best practice public space planning included Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, San Francisco's Pier 7 and 14, Suisun City waterfronts, and Union City's transit oriented development district around BART.



Allan Jacobs, UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus, and author of *Great Streets* and *Making City Planning Work*

Bay Area best practice case studies were the subject of the panel *Local Approaches to Placemaking*, moderated by American Canyon Councilmember Belia Ramos Bennett. Panelist Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt captured the success of mixed use development in Petaluma, demonstrating how "Form-based" SmartCode Zoning produced mixed use walkable neighborhoods in Downtown Petaluma. Fremont Vice Mayor Anu Natarajan featured how the City is transforming 850 acres of vacant and underutilized land in South Fremont/Warm Springs into a 21st century jobs-focused transit-multi-use neighborhood, illustrating how an auto-oriented suburb can



(L-R): Laurel Prevetti, Assistant Planning Director, City of San Jose; David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Supervisor; Anu Natarajan, City of Fremont Vice Mayor, ABAG President Mark Luce, Napa County Supervisor

evolve into a sustainable, strategically urban modern city. Laurel Prevetti, San Jose Assistant Planning Director, illustrated best practice principles for

building great places by "using the right planning, engaging the community, leveraging financing options, partnering with regional entities, and sustaining political will."

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Priority Development Area success stories were also featured in exhibits spaced throughout the former Barnes and Noble building which Oakland Mayor Jean Quan cited in her welcoming remarks as an example of Oakland’s creative infill development and placemaking. In a special post General Assembly event, *Visual Tools for Neighborhood Planning workshop*, the City of San Francisco staff ran a simulation, using a computer-based tool that has successfully helped

citizens visualize the influence of planning policies on the future of their neighborhoods. Other post event offerings included Bay Trail tour of historic Jack London Square and local sustainable winery tours. Kaiser Permanente was recognized as a corporate sponsor helping underwrite conference costs. **General Assembly presentations can be viewed online at www.abag.ca.gov.**

Local Governments and Agencies Honored for Sustainability Projects

The Cities of El Cerrito and Dublin joined Santa Clara County and its Planning and Facilities and Fleet Departments in receiving ABAG’s 2013 Growing Smarter Together Awards for their outstanding projects. Presented during ABAG’s Spring General Assembly, the five 2013 awards highlighted innovative efforts in revitalization, planning, and sustainable energy that helped create complete healthy communities and promote conservation efforts protecting vital natural, scenic, and agricultural resource areas.

Urban Design Award to City of El Cerrito Recycling & Environmental Resource Center

El Cerrito’s new innovative recycling-community education facility for residential waste reduction and recycling features zero net energy use, solar photovoltaic energy production, rainwater catchment, native landscaping and rain gardens, use of recycled steel, aluminum and wood materials, and educational signage.

Public Private Partnership Award to the County of Santa Clara & Stanford University

The milestone planning effort between the County and Stanford University/Palo Alto was designed to meet the county green building ordinance using an alternate means and equivalency process for LEED Silver credits.

Preserving and Protecting the Environment Award to the County of Santa Clara, Planning Department

for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan. The Plan provides for the protection of approximately 50,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat in Santa Clara County over the next 50 years and is recognized as the largest multi-species Habitat Plan in Northern California and one of the largest regional multi-species plans in the Western United States benefiting more than 21 important plant and wildlife species.

Sharing the Benefits Award to the City of Dublin for Emerald Vista

The City of Dublin’s Emerald Vista is a model development exemplifying community revitalization by turning the public housing

known as Arroyo Vista into a new neighborhood and avoiding displacement of past residents, while promoting a mixed income community with 188 units of affordable housing and 198 market rate town homes and single family homes, developed in partnership with Eden Housing and KB Home. The new community includes a community center, childcare center, active open space areas, and access to the regional trail along Alamo Creek.

Start it Up Award: County of Santa Clara, Facilities & Fleet Department

Santa Clara County Photovoltaic Project facilitated the installation of solar Photovoltaic systems at eight different County facilities, which will save the County \$18.8 million over the 25 year system lifetime and offset 100% for certain facilities’ energy needs giving buildings “zero net energy” status. The project is a model for creating green communities and green energy jobs.

Video highlights of each project and past years’ recipients can be viewed at www.abag.ca.gov/smarter.html.



(L-R Back Row): Nash Gonzalez, Santa Clara County Director, Department of Planning and Development; Gary Rudholm, Santa Clara County Senior Planner; Michael Alvarez, Santa Clara County Associate Plan Check Engineer; Rob Eastwood, Santa Clara County Principal Planner; Brad Vance, Santa Clara County Utility Analyst; Michael Harrison – Santa Clara County Building Official, Building Inspection Office; Mark Luce, ABAG President and Napa County Supervisor; (L-R Front Row): Kavitha Kumar – Stanford Planner, County Planning; Siva Darbhamulla, Santa Clara County Chief of Design Services, Capital Programs; Jeff Draper, Santa Clara County Facilities and Fleet Department Director; Lin Ortega, Santa Clara County Utility Engineer Program Manager; Julie Pierce, ABAG Vice President and City of Clayton Mayor; Don Biddle, City of Dublin Vice Mayor; Linda Mandolini, Eden Housing Executive Director; Melanie Mintz, City of El Cerrito Environmental Services Division Manager; Greg Lyman, City of El Cerrito Mayor.

Estuary Partnership Awards New Grants for Watershed Protection

Habitats and water quality around the Bay region will soon see improvements due to a new grant program. The Estuary Partnership recently awarded \$50,000 in grant funds to 11 non-profits and special districts for watershed education, preservation, and restoration programs throughout the Bay Area. This is the first round of awards for the Estuary Partnership's Watershed Program designed to build support for community-based watershed protection and to increase the capacity of Bay Area watersheds to adapt to climate change.

An award was granted to the **Tuolumne River Preservation Trust** for an extensive education program reaching up to 5,000 students in grades four through six and five community service projects in areas where the majority of drinking water comes from the Tuolumne. An award was granted to the **Friends of Sausal Creek's** project to support volunteer-led efforts at several restoration sites on Sausal Creek in Oakland. In Contra Costa County, a grant was awarded to the **Martinez Unified School District** for New Leaf Watershed Science Projects to support ecoliteracy projects, public engagement, and climate change awareness programs. The **Rheem Creek Watershed Project** was funded by the Estuary Partnership to support restoration of a creek located on the western border of WanLass Park in San Pablo.

In Marin County, the **Gallinas Watershed Council's** project will increase community-based watershed stewardship in the Gallinas Creek watershed in San Rafael and facilitate collaboration among watershed groups in the county. Grant funds will support family activities, hikes, bike tours, and creek cleanups. The **Greenwood School** in Larkspur will use grant funds to participate in an Earth Day Marin Festival called Climate Change Solutions put on by seventh and eighth graders. In Napa County, the **Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District** received funding for Building a Community Rain Garden and community Stormwater Awareness on the campus of Vintage High School, which is bordered by Salvador Creek in the Napa River watershed.



Pinole Creek

In Santa Clara County, the **Acterra** in Palo Alto received an award for Citizen Science for the Stevens and Permanente Creek watersheds to support monthly water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrate sampling, and education events. **Committee for Green Foothills** is holding a Permanente Creek Watershed Tour in Los Altos in May to highlight watershed management, habitat restoration, climate change impacts, and historical ecology. In Sonoma County, the **Friends of the Petaluma River** held a Petaluma River Cleanup on May 4th for trash scouting activities and coordination with local social service agencies. The **Solano Land Trust** received grant funds for a project that will support an intern to launch the California Phenology Project on properties owned by the Trust.

For more complete information on these projects, visit <http://www.sfestuary.org/small-grants-release>. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership, which is an ABAG program, is a coalition of resource agencies, non-profits, citizens, and scientists working to protect, restore, and enhance water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in and around the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

Call for Proposals for Plan Bay Area Priority Conservation Area Grant Program and Informational Workshops Offered

The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and ABAG, has issued a **call for proposals for the Priority Conservation Area Program**. This pilot program focuses on the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. MTC has made \$5 million of federal funds available which will be combined with additional funding provided by SCC. Proposed projects should protect or enhance resource areas or habitats, provide or enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to open space/parkland resources, or support the agricultural economy of the region. Grant guidelines and call for proposals are located at <http://scc.ca.gov>. **Public workshops** are scheduled on **May 20th in Mountain View** and on **May 23rd in Oakland** to provide prospective applicants with an overview of the Plan Bay Area PCA Grant Program and to answer questions. For more information, go to <http://scc.ca.gov>. **Letters of Interest are due from eligible applicants by July 19, 2013.**

New Bay Trail Maps Arrive!

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project has updated and fully re-designed the nine-county Bay trail maps. Conveniently packaged in a colorful box, 25 four-by-seven-inch map cards and a large fold-out map are essential tools to discovering the San Francisco Bay Trail. A companion online and mobile phone application is available by visiting the Bay Trail website, www.baytrail.org developed so that hikers and walkers can call up the Bay Trail on a mobile device while enjoying a bike trip or a hike along the shoreline. These invaluable maps are available for purchase at www.baytrail.org for \$14.95. *The maps were funded in part by the State Coastal Conservancy.*



Mark Your Calendar!

MAY 2013

May 10
**Bay Area Regional Prosperity
Plan Steering Committee** 12:00 PM
MetroCenter, Auditorium

May 16
**Legislation & Governmental
Organization Committee** 3:30 PM
ABAG Conference Room B

Finance & Personnel Committee 5:00 PM
ABAG Conference Room B

ABAG Executive Board
MetroCenter, Auditorium 7:00 PM

May 17
**ABAG/BAAQMD/MTC Joint
Policy Committee** 10:00 AM
MetroCenter, Auditorium

May 22
**San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Implementation Committee**
Elihu M. Harris State Building,
Room 10 9:30 AM

JUNE 2013

June 6
**Regional Planning Committee
Meeting** 1:00 PM
MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 13
Bay Trail Steering Committee 1:30 PM
ABAG Conference Room B

June 19
**ABAG POWER Executive
Committee** 12 NOON
ABAG Conference Room B

June 28
**Water Trail Implementation
Meeting** 10:00 AM
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor Conference Room,
Oakland

Special Date: July 18
**Joint ABAG Executive Board/MTC
Meeting** 6:30 PM
Site TBD

Notable Numbers

2013 Housing Trends

10%
Rise in Home Prices in 2013 is forecast nationally, with 8% next year.
(Stephen Kim, Barclays Analyst, Wall Street Journal)

37.5%
Rise of new single-family homes in the West, double the 18.5% recorded nationwide *(March 2013 Report, US Census)*

54%
New home sales in Western States were up in first quarter 2013, compared to first quarter 2012, with a rise of 19.6 % across all states. *(March 2013 Report, US Census)*

15-17%
Increase in housing units sold in Bay Area with a price appreciation of 4 to 9%. *(Pacific Union 2013 First Quarter Report)*

18,567
Mortgage default notices on California Homes were recorded by lenders in first quarter 2013, down 51% from previous quarter, 67% from first quarter 2012—the lowest number of default notices since 4th quarter 2005. *(DataQuick)*

74%
Decrease of Default Notices recorded in Napa County, followed by 72% decrease in Sonoma County, 70% decrease in Alameda and San Francisco Counties, 65% in Contra Costa County, and 58% in Marin County. *(Bay Area Mortgage Default Notices, DataQuick)*

ABAG 2013 Bay Area Directory



ON SALE at:
www.abag.ca.gov
click Webstore or
contact:
ABAG Publications
510-464-7900

*Each jurisdiction
has received a
complimentary copy*

Mark Luce
ABAG President
Supervisor, Napa County

Julie Pierce
ABAG Vice President
Mayor, City of Clayton

Dave Cortese
ABAG Immediate Past President
Supervisor, Santa Clara County

Ezra Rapport
Secretary/Treasurer
Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE

**20/20 Vision: Past Reflections,
Future Directions**

**State of the San Francisco Estuary
Conference**
October 29-30, 2013

Oakland Marriott at City Center
1001 Broadway
(12th Street/City Center BART Station), Oakland

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