

Living on Shaky Ground

ABAG Releases New Data on Two Bay Area Earthquake Faults

New information about two Bay Area earthquake faults forecasts significant risk increases for San Francisco and San Jose, according to a recent ABAG report called the *On Shaky Ground - Supplement*.

SAN ANDREAS FAULT: PENINSULA-GOLDEN GATE SEGMENT - Experts now believe an earthquake on the San Andreas fault may rupture a longer stretch of the fault. The "Peninsula/Golden Gate" segment of the fault is 33 kilometers longer than the "Peninsula" segment, and extends north outside the Golden Gate (rather than stopping in the mid-peninsula, as previously believed).

"The implications for the northern Peninsula and San Francisco are astounding," said Jeanne Perkins, manager of ABAG's Earthquake

Preparedness Program. "With the fault extending up through Daly City and off into the ocean, the shaking hazards and related damage are significantly increased." (see *shaking map on page 8*)

New ABAG research estimates that this longer fault segment would dramatically increase the shaking hazards in San Francisco, rendering 107,000 housing units uninhabitable throughout the Bay Area— 65,000 of those in San Francisco alone.

These numbers may be compared to previous reports for the shorter "Peninsula" segment which estimated 45,000 total uninhabitable housing units, and 19,000 for San Francisco.

ABAG also forecasts the longer fault segment to close approximately 836 roads

around the Bay, including 356 in San Francisco.

MONTE VISTA FAULT - Emerging information now indicates that an earthquake on the Monte Vista Fault in the South Bay would generate 15,000 uninhabitable housing units (almost as many as Loma Prieta).

The Monte Vista is a "thrust fault" or reverse fault, where ground moves upward and over adjacent ground.

Most major faults in the Bay Area are strike-slip faults in which ground on one side of a (vertical) plane slips horizontally past the other.

[The Northridge earthquake was caused by a thrust fault, which is more common in Southern California.]

"The Monte Vista Fault is one of the most dangerous thrust faults in the Bay Area, due to its location near such a

heavily populated urban area," Perkins said.

While researchers know the Monte Vista Fault lies beneath the Santa Clara Valley, ABAG had not previously reported on the Monte Vista Fault because previous computer models were only designed for analysis of data from strike-slip faults.

"While some difference of opinion remains on the Monte Vista Fault, we believe this information is too important to withhold," Perkins said.

"Although we may not be able to pinpoint the threat of an earthquake down to specific streets, we know that the Monte Vista threatens the Santa Clara Valley in general," Perkins said. "Therefore, businesses and homeowners in the

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SHAKING HAZARDS - Intensity IX Quake on the Modified Mercalli Scale

- Mobile Homes - 90% red-tagged
- Unreinforced Masonry (brick) - 70% red-tagged
- Wood-frame apartments built after 1939 - 15% red-tagged
- Wood-frame homesbuilt after 1939 - 0.69% red-tagged

(Continued on page 8)

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Michelle Fadelli, Editor
Christine Cleary, Contributing Writer
Laura Stuchinsky, Contributing Writer
Debbi Nichols, Production Coordinator

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>

ABAG Executive Director Studies Local Government During Tour of Japan

Cultural Exchange Program Sponsors Guests from Around the World



ABAG Executive Director Eugene Leong and 12 local government leaders from the International City and County Managers Association (ICMA) participated in the 1998 North America and Oceania Fellowship Exchange Program sponsored by CLAIR, the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. Fellows from the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were invited to study local government operations in Japan.

ABAG Planning Director Honored

Gary Binger Receives Award for Distinguished Leadership as a Professional Planner by the American Planning Association

Having already been recognized at the Northern California level, ABAG's Regional Planning Director Gary Binger, has been given the (statewide) Distinguished Leadership/Professional Planner award by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. He received the award at a recent ceremony in Los Angeles.

Honored as a practicing regional planner, writer and teacher, Binger has brought ABAG to the forefront on issues as diverse as land use, housing supply and affordability, economic vitality, air and water quality, seismic safety and growth management.

Sensitive to the concern for local control, Binger has pioneered new

approaches to regional planning by offering grants and technical assistance for "subregional" planning projects (in which multiple jurisdictions tackle shared challenges cooperatively) and the Inter-Regional Partnership (a collaboration of three counties within the ABAG region working with two counties external to the region).

His leadership includes international training experience in Romania, Mexico and Japan, and teaching assignments at California State Universities at Sonoma and San Francisco, and with the University of California.

Binger has also been nominated for APA recognition at the national level.

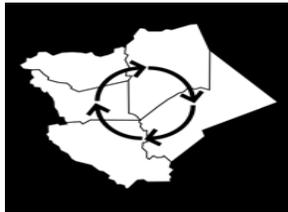
The Inter-Regional Partnership Tackles Job/Housing Imbalance

The Inter-Regional Partnership (IRP), comprised of elected officials from five counties — **San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara** — has held several meetings to discuss the job/housing mismatch, air quality, and transportation trends and issues that have overarching implications for the inter-regional area.

INTER-REGIONAL SYMPTOMS

Discussions between members and regional planning experts have highlighted the need for inter-regional cooperation, especially in light of the IRP's initial findings, which include:

1. Separation between jobs and housing growth is projected to continue and expand in IRP counties over the next 20 years.
2. Existing transportation infrastructure is insufficient to accommodate projected growth patterns.
3. Negative impacts of growth are often shared between cities, counties, and regions.



ABAG forecasts that by 2020, the nine counties around the Bay will add roughly 1.4 million new residents and a corresponding number of new jobs. Yet for the same period, only 508,000 new housing units will be built. This imbalance is expected to push growth outside of the immediate Bay Area and impact Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Monterey, and Mendocino counties.

THE "LOHWOT" SYNDROME

To describe this jobs and housing mismatch, ABAG Regional Planning Director Gary Binger coined the term "LOHWOT," which stands for "live over here, work over there." "LOHWOT" characterizes the long commute times associated with living far from work. The problem is compounded by the fact

that this trend is spreading across county and regional lines, complicating possible solutions.

POSSIBLE REMEDIES

Two integrated approaches have been recommended to permit continued growth and economic prosperity in a region with a geographic mismatch of jobs and housing.

The first strategy advocates bringing jobs and housing closer together. The second strategy supports establishing more sustainable methods of moving people by promoting efficient patterns of

land use, mixed housing types, and alternative commuting solutions.

Specifically, the IRP could promote new housing near employment centers; support location efficient mortgages (LEMs); advocate for

mixed-use, transit-oriented development (TODs); encourage underdeveloped/underutilized land rezoning and intensification; and endorse intercity transit between urban cores.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The next steps in this unique subregional planning project include continuing the discussion between the IRP counties and gaining agreement on a joint plan of action.

A recommended plan has been presented to IRP members and contains the following elements:

- Develop a local self-certification program.
- Review the implications of future regional changes in the IRP area.
- Monitor changes in the inter-regional job and housing markets.
- Develop a public education campaign which identifies related issues and problems.
- Seek funding and legislation to stabilize local financing and to provide incentives for improved land use.

Inter-Regional Partnership Members

Dan Bilbrey
Mayor – City of Tracy

Nick Blom
Supervisor – Stanislaus County

Tom Reitter
Vice Mayor – City of Livermore

Bob Cabral
Supervisor – San Joaquin County

Mark DeSaulnier
Supervisor – Contra Costa County

Trisha Dixon
Councilmember – City of Milpitas

Stan Dobbs
Councilmember – City of Modesto

Richard Dodds
Mayor – City of Patterson

Millie Greenberg
Councilmember – City of Danville

Scott Haggerty
Supervisor – Alameda County

Pete McHugh
Supervisor – Santa Clara County

John Morrill
Mayor – City of Brentwood

Charlotte Powers
Councilmember – City of San Jose

Gloryanna Rhodes
Councilmember – City of Lathrop

Bob Wasserman
Councilmember – City of Fremont

One Way Out of the Jam

ABAG Releases Video on Transit-Oriented Development



A light rail station is set to open adjacent to these townhouses in Mountain View.

In September, ABAG released “*One Way Out of the Jam: Transit-Oriented Development*,” a 12-minute video on Bay Area transit-oriented developments. The intent of the video is to show local government officials, developers and other interested citizens the potential of transit-oriented development and to encourage other communities along the region’s mass transit lines to consider similar projects. Done well, transit-oriented development is one way the region can reduce traffic congestion, foster community, and provide a wider choice of housing options for area residents. The video will be distributed to Bay Area local governments served by mass transit and to other interested organizations.

MODEL DEVELOPMENTS

The video focuses on developments in four Bay Area communities:

Oakland’s Fruitvale neighborhood, **Hayward, Mountain View** and **San Jose**.

In **Hayward**, the transit-oriented development includes the city’s new four-story, glass atrium city hall, an 80-unit, market-rate townhouse development, and a new transit mall adjacent to the Hayward BART stop and the city’s historic downtown. The city is also building a parking structure with ground story shops, and intends to build another 80-plus housing units next to the city hall. *The development was a cooperative venture by the city and BART; the developer was Sares-Regis.*

The Spanish-Speaking Unity Council (a non-profit, community-based agency) is spearheading the effort in the **Fruitvale** neighborhood. The agency plans to build affordable housing, a senior center, a child care center, and office space for a health

care clinic and the agency’s own staff on two BART parking lots next to the Fruitvale station. A multi-story parking structure will replace the lost parking. A pedestrian plaza lined by stores will connect the station with International Boulevard, formerly E. 14th Street. *The City of Oakland, BART, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, among others, have funded the project.*

In **Mountain View**, the video focused on Whisman Station, one of three new residential developments built next to the Valley Transportation Authority’s (VTA) new Mountain View light rail extension. The market-rate housing development includes a mixture of single-family homes and townhouses, and is one light rail stop away from the city’s downtown and main CalTrain station. *Kaufman and Broad developed the project.*

ABAG highlighted several transit-oriented developments in **San Jose**: Ohlone Court, a two- and three-story building, below-market rate, apartment complex next to VTA’s Ohlone Station; Villa Torino, a Mediterranean-style market rate apartment complex in downtown San Jose, and Ryland Mews, a townhouse complex, also in downtown San Jose. The latter are both along the light rail line. *Ohlone Court was built by BRIDGE Housing Corp., Villa Torino by Zibrato Development and Ryland Mews by Barry Swenson Builder.*

The videotape is free to members and \$8 to the general public. For more information or to obtain a copy, call ABAG at 510/464-7900.

Housing Needs Deadline Postponed

Assessment Process to Begin in July 1999

Governor Pete Wilson recently signed a bill granting a one-year deadline extension to Councils of Government and local jurisdictions to complete the housing needs assessment process.

Next July, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will provide ABAG with a county-by-county

breakdown of housing needs numbers for the region.

ABAG will have one year from that date (until June 30, 2000) to complete the assignment of housing need numbers to each local jurisdiction. Cities and counties will have another year beyond that (until June 30, 2001) to complete their housing element revisions.

THE PROCESS

The one-year timeline for ABAG to distribute the housing need numbers includes the following steps:

- 30-day review period for HCD to review ABAG's initial distribution.
- 90-day review of ABAG's distribution by each jurisdiction, during which time jurisdictions can accept or propose a revision of ABAG's determination.
- 60-day period for ABAG to accept or deny modifications and notify jurisdictions of its decision.

- 30-day period for jurisdictions to request a public hearing based on ABAG's response.
- 30-day minimum time period from the date of notification until the date of the hearing.

We want to conduct a housing needs assessment that is open, fair and reasonable.

— Gary Binger, ABAG Regional Planning Director

PROCESS WILL BE INCLUSIONARY

"ABAG is required, by law, to distribute the housing numbers for the Bay Area," said ABAG's Regional

Planning Director Gary Binger. "We want to conduct a housing needs assessment that is open, fair and reasonable. Every jurisdiction will have many opportunities to participate in the process."

Between December and July of next year, ABAG will develop a methodology for distributing the housing need numbers.

To ensure an inclusive process, ABAG's Regional Planning Committee (RPC) is convening a methodology committee composed of elected officials serving on the RPC and housing and planning experts drawn from each of the region's nine counties.

INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABAG

To make the needs assessment process more accessible to local jurisdictions, the RPC is also discussing the possibility of holding several workshops/forums over the course of the next year on subjects such as methodological updates, and assis-

tance related to housing element updates.

ABAG and HCD have agreed to meet with groups of jurisdictions as needed to describe the needs process and answer questions.

Information and updates will be provided to every city and county on a regular basis.

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

Intent Language from the Housing Element Law

"The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
The availability of housing is of vital statewide importance, and the early attainment of decent housing and a suitable living environment for every California family is a priority of the highest order....Local and state governments have a responsibility to use the powers vested in them to facilitate the improvement and development of housing to make adequate provision for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community. ...The Legislature recognizes that in carrying out this responsibility, each local government also has the responsibility to consider economic, environmental, and fiscal factors and community goals set forth in the general plan and to cooperate with other local governments and the state in addressing regional housing needs."

A Complete Census Count Means High Stakes for California

It's About Power and Money; Under-Counting Equals Significant Loss of Funds

On April 1, 2000, the United States will embark on the formidable task of counting each person residing in the nation. Every ten years since 1790, the decennial census has provided a snapshot of America: who we are and where we live. Census 2000 will shape the quality of life in our country for the succeeding ten years.

Governments at every level will use data gathered in Census 2000 to make decisions about where to locate schools, health care facilities, community service centers, new roads, or public transportation facilities, which in turn will affect every resident. The quality of those decisions depends on the accuracy of the census. Also, billions of dollars in federal funds returned to state and local governments are on the line.

FAIR SHARE OF FUNDING

California will receive its fair share of federal dollars only if Californians are accurately and completely counted. State officials are convinced that this did not happen in the 1990 Census. The Census Bureau estimates that 4 million U.S. residents were missed in 1990. California officials calculate that more than 800,000 of those resided in this state. That under-count translated to a loss of approximately one billion dollars in federal funds that could have helped provide essential public services.

The San Jose Mercury News reported that **Santa Clara County** was under-counted by 32,000 people in 1990. That meant that \$47 million in allocations for much needed services were lost within the county.

REAPPORTIONMENT

Census 2000 will also determine the composition of the U.S. House of Representatives and the California legislature for the next ten years. Changes in population patterns revealed by the census will dictate how the state's legislative districts are reapportioned. In many communities, local election districts are also shaped by census figures.

The Census Bureau's primary strategy for Census 2000 is to forge stronger partnerships at state and local levels. Partnership Specialists are working with city and county officials to help organize grass roots efforts to promote full participation in the census.

COMPLETE COUNTING

The **City of Richmond**, for example, is moving forward with a plan of action. A Richmond Complete Count Committee has been formed and will meet regularly beginning next year. The committee includes business leaders, media representatives, government officials, and members of Richmond's ethnic communities. The committee will serve as an advisory board to the city and the Census Bureau in critical areas, including:

- Helping to recruit hundreds of workers for census jobs, and ensuring a census workforce reflects the city's diversity
- Organizing an all-out promotion campaign to inform every resident of the importance of Census 2000 to the city's future
- Securing places to conduct testing and training for census job applicants
- Identifying community leaders to endorse the census and encourage participation with appearances on local radio and television

REGIONAL EFFORTS

In addition to local committees, the need for a Regional Complete Count Committee that can act as a catalyst for the entire region has been identified. The Census Bureau is working with ABAG and other organizations to further develop that concept. The vision for a Bay Area Regional Count Committee includes legislators, county supervisors, mayors, heads of area-wide organizations, leaders of ethnic communities and other groups with special needs and circumstances, such as homeless populations.

California's leaders are convinced that an all-out effort is essential to avoid a repeat of the 1990 Census undercount. The state estimates that approximately 250,000 people from other countries arrive in California each year, in addition to population gains from births and migration from other states. Reaching those with limited English proficiency and undocumented residents who are apprehensive about dealing with the government will require extraordinary effort.

With the help and advice of local and regional Complete Count Committees, the Census Bureau is organizing to reach every California resident with information about the census. Census messages tailored to each situation will help people understand how they can help their families and their communities by a very simple, yet extremely important act — filling out their census questionnaire.

In many ways, and in many languages, California's leaders will be reminding their constituents that filling out their census questionnaire represents an opportunity to help plan the future of their communities.

Silicon Valley Projections '98

What will the future look like in the South Bay? And what is the biggest challenge facing Silicon Valley—transportation or housing?

At the request of the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Group, ABAG recently produced a specialized report on growth projections for the South Bay. **Silicon Valley Projections '98** highlights economic and demographic trends through the year 2010 in three key areas: transportation, housing and education.

In short, the report projects that the subregion will continue to add jobs over the next ten years, housing prices will continue to climb as the number of new units continue to lag behind job growth, and transit improvements are necessary to ease increasing traffic congestions as more workers are forced to commute to Silicon Valley.

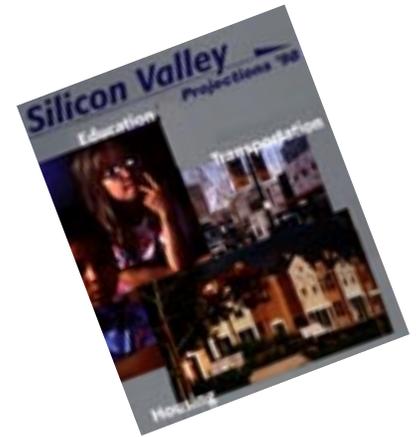
The report was presented at a half-day community forum sponsored by the Manufacturing Group and ABAG in September. Panelists drawn from the

public and private sectors discussed alternative solutions to the issues raised by the report.

Participants were also polled on a number of questions relating to the three key areas. Those that voted—nearly half of the approximately 300 in attendance—largely supported strategies advocated by the Manufacturing Group and ABAG (which suggests that the conference may have been preaching to the choir, or that only those in support of those solutions were motivated to vote).

Overall, voters said affordable housing was the single biggest challenge facing Silicon Valley.

Participants in the survey identified the number one transportation improvement as the extension of BART services from Fremont to the Santa Clara County line. Shuttle bus service from CalTrain to the major employment centers ranked second, followed by the extension of the light-rail system from San Jose to BART in Alameda County.



A majority of voters supported a five-year, 10 cents per gallon regional gas tax for transportation improvements. A slightly higher majority voted in support of a five-year/five cent tax, although far fewer participants voted on this question.

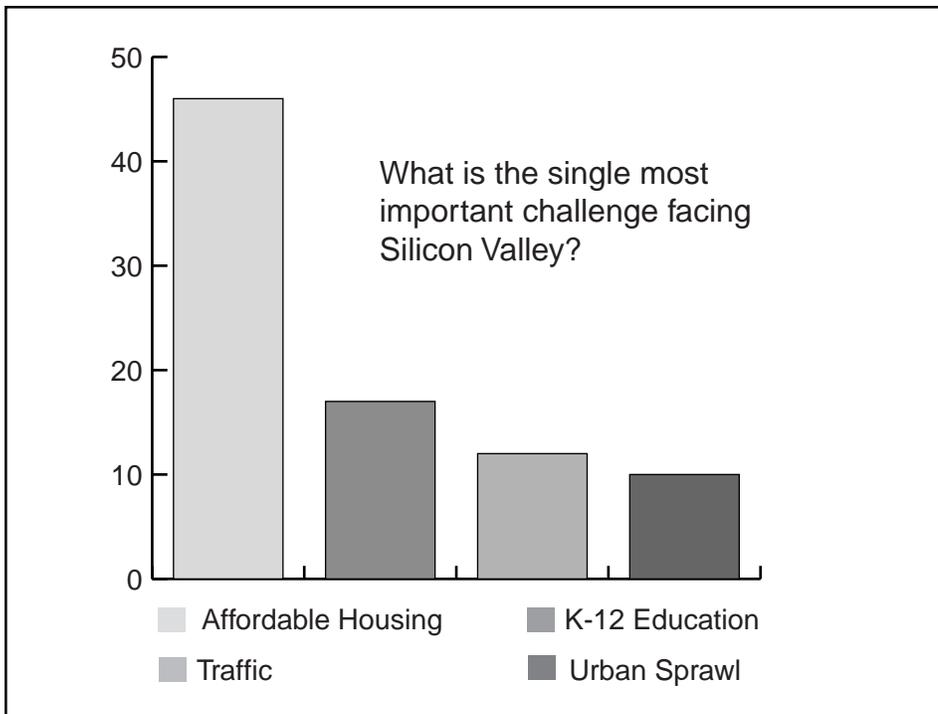
Opinion was split—51 percent for and 47 percent against—on the idea of creating private toll roads as a complement to the public highway system.

Most participants rated Silicon Valley's schools as fair to good. Funding was ranked as by far the most important challenge facing K-12 education, followed by low teacher salaries and teacher training.

The vast majority of voting participants supported the idea of increasing housing density in their community by 10 percent, requiring that all housing projects include affordable housing for low-income families, and converting vacant or under-used industrial land to residential or mixed-use zoning. The majority also rated their children's chances of buying a home in Silicon Valley as poor or very poor.

The ABAG report, **Silicon Valley Projections '98**, may be viewed via abagOnline at the following URL: <http://www.abag.ca.gov/planning.siliconvalley>.

Or, you may purchase your own copy of **Silicon Valley Projects '98** by calling ABAG at 510/464-7900.



On Shaky Ground Supplement

(continued from page one)

area should heed the warning and make an effort to retrofit buildings. The likelihood of houses remaining habitable after a significant earthquake increases about ten-fold if they are bolted to their foundations and cripple walls are stabilized with plywood supports."

The *On Shaky Ground - Supplement* also presents new descriptions about how increasing intensities of ground shaking will impact different types of residential and commercial buildings.

For instance, under "Intensity IX" on the Modified Mercalli scale, the new report indicates that **90 percent of mobile homes would be "red-tagged" or uninhabitable; 70 percent of unreinforced masonry (brick) homes**

would be red-tagged; 15 percent of wood-frame, 1-3 story multi-family homes (apartments) built after 1939 would be red-tagged; but only 0.69 percent of wood-frame single family homes built after 1939 would be red-tagged. (In the previous *On Shaky Ground* report, the 40-year old description of Level IX on the Mercalli scale gave the erroneous impression that all types of buildings would suffer similar levels of damage: "masonry destroyed, general damage to foundations, frames cracked and off foundations if not bolted."

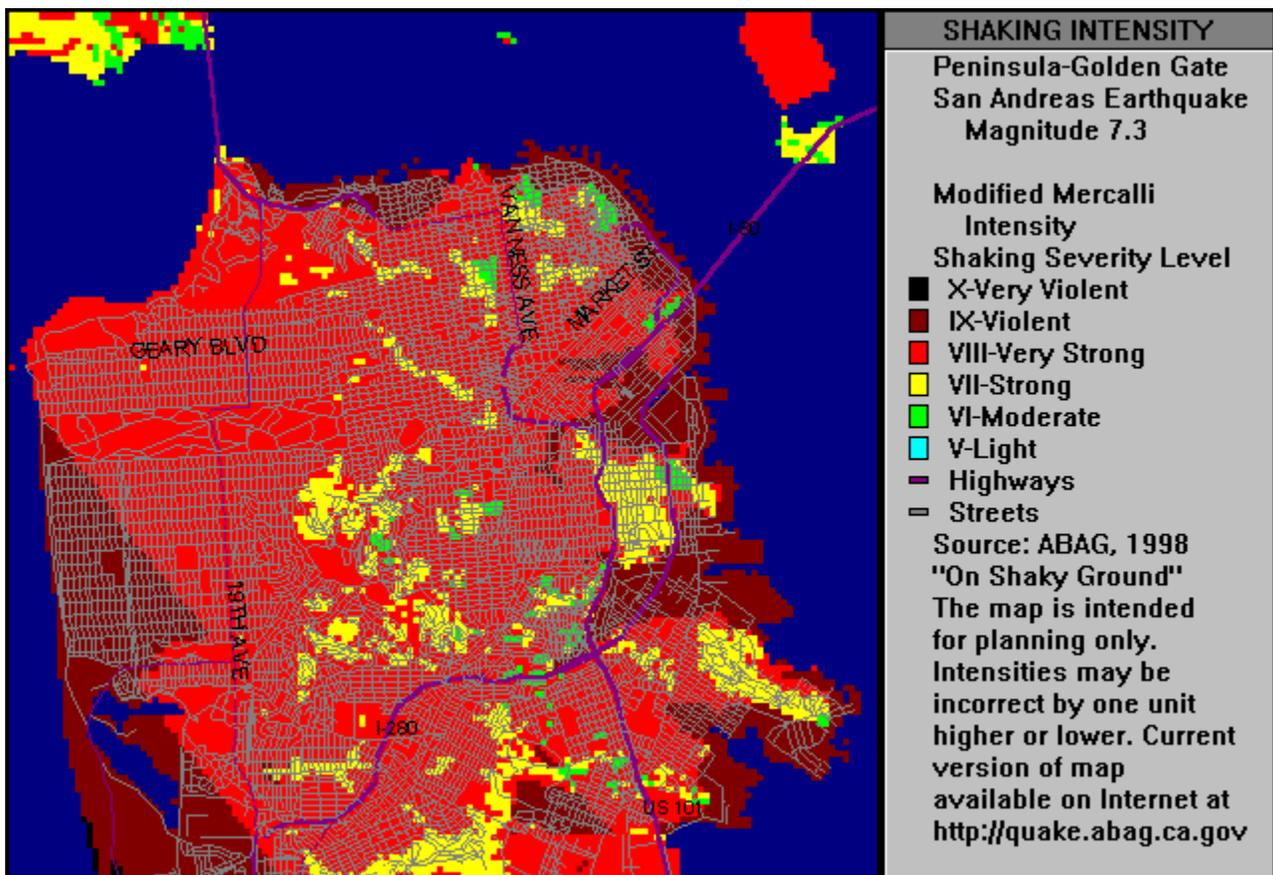
For more info, call Jeanne Perkins, Earthquake Program Mgr. at 510/464-7934 or e-mail jeanneP@abag.ca.gov.

The new ABAG report, *On Shaky Ground - Supplement*, may be viewed on the Internet via [abagOnline](http://www.abag.ca.gov) at <http://www.abag.ca.gov> or you may go to the site directly at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov>.

This website also has information on road closures, housing damage and other earthquake impacts for significant earthquake faults in the Bay Area.

Be sure to click on "Mitigation Techniques" for home retrofit information.

Other earthquake publications, a CD-ROM and shaking hazard maps for Bay Area cities may be purchased by calling ABAG at 510/464-7900.



San Francisco: Shaking intensity for a magnitude 7.3 earthquake on the Peninsula-Golden Gate segment of the San Andreas Fault. Source: "On Shaky Ground - Supplement" published by ABAG (September 1998).

Aging, Diversity and Governance

General Assembly Examines Impact of Demographic Changes on Electability and Local Government

If there is any doubt that ethnic diversity is having an impact on elections, take note that Dan Lungren opened a campaign office in Chinatown...and ran an ad with his daughter speaking Espanol.

And for those who subscribe to the notion that senior citizens are not a significant constituency, it is time to underscore the realities of voter turnout: at least 60 percent of senior citizens vote regularly. *And by the year 2020, seniors will comprise 20 percent of the Bay Area's total population.*

These were the type of issues discussed at ABAG's Fall 1998 General Assembly in San Francisco.

ABAG Regional Planning Director Gary Binger noted that the Hispanic population is the fastest-growing ethnic group in the Bay Area and will represent nearly one-fourth of the region's population by 2020.

UC Berkeley Professor Bruce Cain suggested that these numbers will have a dramatic impact when voter turnout improves. *What will it take to make that happen?* It will take a generation, Cain said.

On the issue of senior citizen support for local finances, John Wolfe,

Executive Vice President of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association, urged public leaders to take their case to the people. While support will vary based on the type of tax, he said that many seniors have actually been offended when allowed a specific tax exemption (many actually choosing to "opt out" of the exemption).

Pat Luby, State Legislative Representative for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), reminded participants to use newspapers to reach seniors. Although younger folks tend to get their news from television, or even the Internet, senior citizens still faithfully read their newspapers. He stressed the importance of editorials and letters to the editor.

The panel of elected officials discussed the issue of representing ethnic issues. **San Jose Council-member Manny Diaz** spoke about representing all ethnic groups, and explained that he may advocate for a particular funding based on who has the greatest need at the time.

San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown acknowledged his focused support saying, "If I don't represent the needs of young black men in this community, who will?"



At right: ABAG President/Alameda County Supervisor Mary King; Former Oakland City Manager Henry Gardner; and KCSM-Channel 60 Host Emil Guillermo. Below: UC Berkeley Professors Bruce Cain and Jack Citrin; Former NOW President, Aileen Hernandez and journalist William Wong; and Supervisor King with Walnut Creek Mayor Gene Wolfe and East Bay Regional Park District's Community Relations Manager Sharon Craig Carter.



Oakland and San Jose Pass Living Wage Resolutions

Will Other Bay Area Cities Follow?

On July 1, 1998, the Jobs and Living Wage Ordinance took effect in the **City of Oakland**.

“Living wage” is a term used to describe earnings that are sufficient to provide the necessities and comforts essential to an acceptable standard of living. (Living wage is not synonymous with “prevailing wage,” which is used in labor contracts.)

Considered to be one of the strongest laws of its kind in the nation, the mandate requires companies doing more than \$25,000 a year in business with the city or receiving more than \$100,000 in annual public subsidies to pay their workers a living wage of at least \$8 per hour with benefits, or \$9.25 without. Businesses with less than five employees and non-profits are exempt. This ordinance is expected to benefit approximately 400 workers.

Councilmember Dick Spees supported Oakland’s living wage ordinance. Spees said that although a living wage policy may act as a deterrent to attracting and retaining certain businesses in Oakland, he believes that workers deserve good levels of pay.

More recently, the **City of San Jose** upped the ante. Concerned about the growing regional income gap, the city council narrowly approved, in concept (by a vote of 6-5), a living wage proposal on September 15, 1998.

The proposed wage increase — \$12.50 an hour with benefits or \$15 without — is higher than other cities nationwide that have similar laws. The higher wage proposal reflects the very high cost of living in Silicon Valley.

Councilmember Charlotte Powers noted that San Jose faces several challenges in enacting its living wage ordinance. To avoid misunderstandings, San Jose must inform both businesses and workers that this law does not apply to everyone, but only those with city contracts. Also, the city must establish guidelines to ensure that the law is implemented fairly.

The San Jose policy would apply to companies receiving public contracts worth at least \$20,000, or direct annual public subsidies of more than \$100,000.

Details and actual wage rates have yet to be determined. Proponents estimate that as many as 1,500 workers will earn this living wage.

The **City of San Francisco** is also discussing a living wage ordinance. Representatives of labor, businesses,

and non-profits are debating this policy, which could become a major issue in next year’s mayoral election. Unions want San Francisco to set a high benchmark among cities that have already enacted living wage laws. They support an hourly pay rate in the range of \$8 to \$14 to be imposed on contractors seeking city work.

ADVICE FOR ABAG MEMBERS:

Councilmember Spees advises cities to study existing living wage laws and adapt the terms to the individual communities. He encourages local governments to create a consistent policy throughout the region, making the policy and its intended outcomes more effective.

San Jose Councilmember Charlotte Powers recommends working with all interested groups to gain community support for the policy.

HOURLY MINIMUM “LIVING WAGES”

San Jose (<i>proposed</i>)	\$12.50 with benefits; \$15.00 without
Santa Clara County	\$10.00 with benefits or suitable alternative
Oakland	\$ 8.00 with benefits; \$9.25 without
Los Angeles	\$ 7.25 with benefits; \$8.50 without
California’s Minimum Wage	\$ 5.75
Federal Minimum Wage	\$ 5.15

17 Cities Have Passed Living Wage Ordinances

Baltimore, MD	Milwaukee, WI
Boston, MA	Minneapolis, MN
Chicago, IL	New Haven, CT
Des Moines, IA	New York City, NY
Duluth, MN	Oakland, CA
Durham, NC	Portland, OR
Gary, IN	San Jose, CA
Jersey City, NJ	St. Paul, MN
Los Angeles, CA	

Report on the Well-Being of Working Families in California

A new report from the *California Budget Project* examines the economic well-being of California's families and finds that most have not recovered from the recession of the early 1990's. "While recent wage gains are a welcome reversal of longer-term trends, most of California's working families are still playing catch-up," said Jean Ross, Executive Director of the California Budget Project.

Key findings of the report, *Unequal Gains: The State of Working in California*, include: **declining incomes** [median income for a 4-person household dropped 6.1% between 1989 and 1996]; **declining real wages** [between 1979 and 1997, inflation-adjusted wages dropped for the bottom 80 percent of California earners; and the average inflation-adjusted wage for college educated workers dropped 3.9% between mid-1997 and mid-1998]; **growing inequality** [in 1994-94, the average income of the top five percent of California households was 19.6 times that of the bottom 20 percent— up from 12.5 percent in 1978-80]; **race and gender disparities** [average inflation-adjusted wages for Hispanic and African American workers were lower in 1997 than in 1989; and while half (51.1 percent%) of African American women without a high school diploma were unemployed as compared to 19.6 percent of all California women lacking a diploma]; and **California's poverty rate exceeds the national rate** (the share of California residents living in poverty increased by 28 percent between 1988-89 and 1995-96; California's poverty rate (16.8 percent) exceeded that of the nation (13.8 percent) in 1995-96; and California ranks 9th highest among all states in terms of the percentage of persons in poverty].

For more information, contact Jean Ross at the California Budget Project at 916/444-0500.

Ergonomics Information Available Online

It's been a few years since "carpal tunnel" became a familiar term in the workplace. The newest phrases to know are now "cumulative trauma injuries" (CTDs) or "repetitive strain injuries" (RSIs). And the place to get the most current information is, of course, the Internet. The following websites may be helpful in your research:

- * **CTDNews Online** - <http://ctdnews.com>
This site claims to be North America's leading source for information on CTDs and workplace repetitive stress injuries.
- * **Typing InjuryFAQ** - <http://www.tifaq.com>
This educational site for frequently asked questions ("FAQs") is provided by the CTD Resource Network, Inc. and contains information about RSIs, resources for dealing with the ailments, and descriptions of products to reduce injury risk and symptoms.
- * **UCSF/UCB Ergonomics Program** - <http://euler.berkeley.edu/ergo>
This site provides information about research and services available through the University of California's Ergonomics program.

VIDEO AVAILABLE - "Ergonomic Safety for Computer Operators," a video about proper workstation set-up, posture and work habits is available from ABAG— and may be borrowed FREE! Please call Albert Fierro at 510/464-7969 or e-mail AlbertF@abag.ca.gov for more information.

Save the Date:

STATE OF THE ESTUARY CONFERENCE

March 17-19,
1999

Palace of Fine Arts
Theatre
San Francisco

This conference is the biennial assessment of the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

Sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, and many federal, state and local agencies, organizations and businesses.

For more information, contact
The San Francisco Estuary Project
at 510/622-2465.

NOVEMBER

November 10 - 3:00 p.m.
Bay Trail Steering Committee
Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center

November 17 - 8:00 a.m.
Riding Out Future Quakes
Recreation Center,
1000 East Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City

(November 19)
The L&GO Committee will NOT
meet in this day.

November 19 - 5:00 p.m.
Finance & Personnel Committee
ABAG Room 102, MetroCenter

November 19 - 7:30 p.m.
EXECUTIVE BOARD
MetroCenter Auditorium

November 20 - 8:00 a.m.
Riding Out Future Quakes
Old Firehouse, 1600 Senter Road in
SJ Historical Museum, San Jose

November 20 - 10:00 a.m.
Homebase Regional Steering Committee
ABAG Room 106B, Metro Center

DECEMBER

December 2 - 1:00 p.m.
Regional Planning Committee
MetroCenter, Auditorium

December 8 - 3:00 p.m.
Bay Trail Steering Committee
Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center

ABAG PLAN Offers Affordable Municipal Insurance

Self-Insurance Pool Now 30 Members Strong

Formed in 1986, ABAG's Pooled Liability Assurance Network (PLAN) Corporation, is growing in strength and membership. PLAN is a self-insurance pool, providing liability and property insurance for Bay Area cities. Currently chaired by Kristi Chappelle, Assistant City Manager in Foster City, PLAN continues to operate with a strong focus on risk management and loss prevention.

GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE GROWS - PLAN has grown from \$5 million to \$7 million in general liability coverage, and by 2001 intends to be self-insuring up to \$10 million.

REBATES TO MEMBERS- With careful attention to preventing and managing claims, PLAN was able to return \$1.3 million in equity to its members this summer.

NEW MEMBERSHIP - PLAN Vice President Albert Fierro is pleased to announce that the **City of Colma** has recently joined PLAN, bringing total membership to 30 Bay Area cities and towns.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY - PLAN offers supplemental training for peace officers on the responsible use of weapons with a *Firearms Training System (FATS)*, which utilizes a "laser gun" and a video screen to practice de-escalation of dangerous incidents and weapons response. Officers and other municipal employees practice safe driving techniques on a series of *computerized driving simulators*. Both are brought directly to member cities aboard a PLAN-owned van or tractor-trailer rig.

PLAN has also launched a program to install *in-car video systems* in police vehicles. Videotape evidence helps prevent false personal injury claims filed against police officers, and also encourages good law enforcement practices.

For more information about PLAN membership, call Albert Fierro at 510/464-7969.



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
P.O. Box 2050 • Oakland, CA 94604-2050
website: <http://www.abag.ca.gov> • email: info@abag.ca.gov

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