



Service Matters

Planning and Development During Economic Downturns *Building New Partnerships*

Deputy Secretary Ron Sims, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) inspired attendees during ABAG's Fall General Assembly on October 22nd with his remarks about building partnerships to support sustainability, livability, and economic development in the 21st century. "Regionalization is our only way to be able to compete globally and be competitive for the rest of the century," Sims said. In presenting the federal perspective, he spoke about the importance of aligning interests and the integration of housing, transportation, and air quality to create healthy neighborhoods, which is reflected in HUD's new working partnerships with the Department of Transportation and EPA and the creation of the new Office of Sustainability and Integration. "HUD is not your regulator, but your partner in community development with a desire to see regions plan together for investments that make regions work," he explained. Sims is responsible for managing the Department's day-to-day operations, a nearly \$40 billion annual operating budget, and the agency's 8,500 employees.

The half-day General Assembly in San Francisco also featured a panel of Bay Area elected leaders, moderated by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who shared various ways to address the current economic downturn and move toward long-term sustainable and equitable local and regional development. Solano County Supervisor Jim Spring shared information about the Solano County 360 Committee visioning process and specific plans encompassing both

walkable, transit-served development, and land conservation in the Green Valley Area and the redevelopment of the Vallejo Fairgrounds. San Francisco City and County Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi provided insights into the role of community engagement, strategies for sustainable development, and growing jobs and housing, highlighting the potential of green technology. San Jose Councilmember Sam Liccardo discussed San Jose's strategies for working with developers to defer impact development fees and support large multifamily housing, the importance of identifying long term industrial-use land, and job-housing opportunities from the green tech industry.

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HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims and Rose Jacobs Gibson, ABAG President and San Mateo County Supervisor.

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(Left to Right) Panelists: San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, Oakland Councilmember Jean Quan, Solano County Supervisor Jim Spering, San Jose Councilmember Sam Liccardo. Moderator: Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

Oakland Councilmember Jean Quan described how Oakland is establishing better coordination between departments as a way of cutting costs and the city's new partnership with a non-profit housing land-trust to address foreclosures in three neighborhoods in East and West Oakland.

Luncheon speaker Will Fleissig, President of Communitas Development Inc. and an active member of Urban Land Institute and ReConnecting America, featured concrete strategies and next step methods for leveraging sustainability and funding Bay Area transit, economic development, and community livability. (View his presentation online at: <http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/events/ga/WillFleissigLeveragingSustainability-ABAG-10-22-09.pdf>.) Other General Assembly highlights included a host city welcome from San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom who

brought insights about jobs, housing, and new technology, and a special standing ovation for ABAG President Rose Jacobs Gibson acknowledging her service to the region and last General Assembly as president. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company provided financial support to help underwrite General Assembly costs. *Conference highlights can be found online at www.abag.ca.gov.*

FOCUS Forum: "Parks in Our Communities"

Attractive, public green space in dense urban and suburban neighborhoods is critical to making neighborhoods viable, complete communities. Although jurisdictions recognize the need to create parks and trails, today's local governments are facing tough funding decisions when trying to balance the full range of community needs that would include the need for funding open spaces. Local government staff and elected officials are invited to join ABAG and FOCUS partners on Thursday, November 12, for a discussion about how to create and fund these critically needed open spaces in our communities. Guest speakers Tim Wirth, Bay Area Program Director, Trust for Urban Land, and Jennifer Seeger, Program Manager, California Housing and Community Development, Housing Related Parks Program, will discuss opportunities and strategies for making parks an integral part of building communities, as the Bay Area moves forward in planning and development. The "Parks in Our Communities" FOCUS Forum event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at BCDC, in the McAteer Petris Room, 26th Floor, 50 California Street, San Francisco. *The event is free, but attendees are asked to RSVP to JoAnna Bullock, ABAG Senior Planner, at JoAnnaB@abag.ca.gov or 510-464-7968.*

Luncheon Speaker Will Fleissig, President, Communitas Development, Inc.

Help Keep Communities Healthy and Safe: “No Drugs Down the Drain”

Over half of the households in the United States either flush prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or throw them into the trash, primarily because there are not enough collection sites for safe and convenient disposal. As a result, over 80 percent of our waterways show traces of medications. The impacts on our human and environmental health are of great concern. To help address this continuing pollution of the Bay Area’s streams, rivers and Bay and help ensure that unwanted drugs will be disposed of safely and legally, ABAG’s San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) is a proud co-sponsor of a new permanent medicine disposal bin located in the lobby of the Elihu M. Harris State Building in Oakland. EBMUD, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, Senator Loni Hancock, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymember Sandre Swanson joined forces to make this bin available.

Athena Honore, ABAG SFEP Project Manager, said, “We are very pleased with the bin’s success right out of the gate—the bin has already filled up once and the hauler took away 40 pounds of medicines for proper disposal. None of these materials will now affect our Bay or landfills.” SFEP also collected almost 40 pounds of medications at the *No Drugs Down the Drain* bin at the recent *State of the Estuary conference*. Examples of the medicines that are being accepted at the collection bin, which is available for drop-off anytime during weekday business hours, include: antibiotics, birth control pills, anti-depressants, pain relievers, cold and flu treatments and veterinary medications. No controlled substances such as narcotics are accepted.

As part of the disposal process, all pills and capsules should be placed in a plastic zipper bag. Pill bottles should be recycled at home to protect privacy. Liquids can remain in sealed containers with the personal information marked out. The bin will not accept sharps or inhalers. For more information about setting up disposal bins in other Bay Area jurisdictions, contact SFEP at 510-622-2325 for contacts and process tips.



Pictured from left: Laura Thompson, ABAG Bay Trail Project Manager; Doug Button, President, South San Francisco Scavenger; South San Francisco Vice Mayor Mark Addiego and Mayor Karyl Matsumoto; Dan Sherman, Chair, South San Francisco Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee; Jon Bergschneider, HCP, Inc.; South San Francisco Councilmember Rich Garbarino; Sean Garrone, Chair, South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Commission; and South San Francisco Councilmember Pedro Gonzalez.

A Bay Trail Gap Completed

South San Francisco Mayor Karyl Matsumoto, members of City Council and others celebrated on October 21, the installation of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge that completes the final gap in South San Francisco’s eight miles of Bay Trail. The bridge was privately funded by South San Francisco Scavenger and HCP, Inc.



POWER Members Receive Financial Returns

At the annual ABAG POWER meeting, POWER Manager Jerry Lahr (pictured above) provided some long sought and long-awaited financial returns. Lahr announced the conclusion of the more than five-year litigation related to natural gas manipulation by natural gas suppliers. ABAG POWER received a total of \$557,301 which will be returned to members. Settlement checks will be issued in November to 38 current and 9 former members. Lahr also announced the return of \$1.25 million to ABAG POWER members (56 participants) as the final settlement and wrap up of the Electric Program.



Biennial State of Estuary Conference

U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson (pictured above on the right with ABAG Estuary Partnership Director Judy Kelly) headlined the 9th Biennial State of the Estuary conference held September 29 through October 1, which drew more than 700 scientists, resource managers, citizens, regulators, local government representatives, and media. Jackson underscored the direction and challenge of the conference and attendees’ efforts: “I’d like to see a huge leap forward like we saw in the 1970s with the Clean Water Act... we need to clean up pollutants in the Estuary—and in all of the nation’s waterways—especially the pollutants that can’t always be seen or smelled.” A full conference summary will be available in the December ESTUARY NEWS publication by ABAG’s SFEP.

Mark Your Calendar!

NOVEMBER 2009

- November 12**
FOCUS Forum:
Parks In Our Communities **9:30 am**
50 California Street, 26th Floor, San Francisco
- November 17**
Urban Pesticides Committee **9:00 am**
MetroCenter, Room 171
- November 19**
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
- November 20**
Regional Airport Planning
Committee **9:30 am**
MetroCenter, Auditorium

December 2009

- December 2**
Regional Planning
Committee (RPC) **1:00 pm**
MetroCenter, Auditorium
- December 10**
Bay Trail Steering
Committee **1:30 pm**
MetroCenter, Auditorium
- December 16**
ABAG POWER Annual Board
Meeting **12 noon**
ABAG Conference Room B



DO NOT Pour Fats, Oils or Grease Down the Drain

ABAG Vice President and Union City Mayor Mark Green (pictured) opened the fifth annual ABAG PLAN Sewer Smart Summit on October 27th, with more than 110 Bay Area public works directors, sanitary district operators, and engineers participating. Mayor Green helped launch the new 2009 "Be Sewer Smart" education campaign to reduce the costly impacts of sewer backups and backflows. The new program is all about better ways, especially during the holidays and rainy season, for residents to dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease—better known as the FOG program.



Notable Numbers

Bay Area Hazard Facts

- 1,417**
Bay Area properties with flood insurance are categorized by FEMA as repetitive flood properties with multiple claims amounting to \$98.2 million. \$65.4 million of these claims have been in Sonoma County.
- 18.5 %**
of Bay Area land is in a wildland-urban-interface fire threat area. Between 2000 and 2005, 52 percent of newly developed or redeveloped land was located in wildland-urban-interface fire threat areas.
- 23.3 %**
of Bay Area land is subject to liquefaction (turning to a quasi-liquid when shaken in an earthquake). 40 % of land newly developed/redeveloped between 2000 and 2005 is subject to liquefaction.

155,000
housing units are predicted to be uninhabitable following a great earthquake on the San Andreas or Hayward fault – about two-thirds of these units will be soft-story apartments or condos (multi-story buildings built prior to 1990 with parking or commercial on all or part of the first floor).

\$10,000 - \$15,000
is the typical cost of seismically retrofitting a soft-story apartment building unit.

\$5,000 - \$10,000
is the typical cost of seismically retrofitting a pre-1960 single-family home.

ABAG Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, October 22, 2009.

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