



# Service Matters

## ABAG Elects New Officers

### President Mark Green and Vice President Susan L. Adams Take the Lead

**U**nion City Mayor Mark Green has been elected ABAG President for a two year term beginning January 21, 2010, and Marin County Supervisor Susan L. Adams, Ph.D, RN, is slated to become Vice President. They follow in the footsteps of outgoing President Rose Jacobs Gibson, San Mateo County Supervisor, who will officially turn over the gavel at the January 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting in Oakland.

and in the economy. All of us will be required to look at the way we do things through a different lens.” Green has served as Mayor of Union City for sixteen years, first elected in 1993. He is also a board member of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

ABAG Vice President-Elect Susan L. Adams is in her second four-year term as Marin County Supervisor, serving as Marin County’s Director of Emergency Services. She also serves on a number of boards and commissions including the state and national Associations of Counties (CSAC and NACo), where she serves as Vice-chair of NACo’s Health Steering Committee and sits on the state Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental Health Issues.

On becoming ABAG Vice President, Supervisor Adams says, “ABAG is one of our Bay Area’s premiere regional planning agencies and I look forward to working with President Mark Green over the next two years on a broad spectrum of regional issues that will help enhance the links between land use and environmental quality of life in the Bay Area. With my background in health care, the lens I use is the link between a healthy planet and healthy people and communities.”



*ABAG President, Union City Mayor Mark Green*



*ABAG Vice President, Marin County Supervisor Susan Adams*

Mayor Green brings an outstanding history of public service to regional leadership and has served as ABAG Vice President for the past two years. He is also currently Chair of ABAG’s Regional Planning Committee and the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, and is Vice Chair of the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and the Bay Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee. Commenting on his new role, Mayor Green says, “I look forward to serving the Bay Area over the next two years and will be taking ABAG’s regional message into each county. The new decade will demand a higher level of regional cooperation as we try to solve some vexing problems in housing, planning, transportation, the environment,

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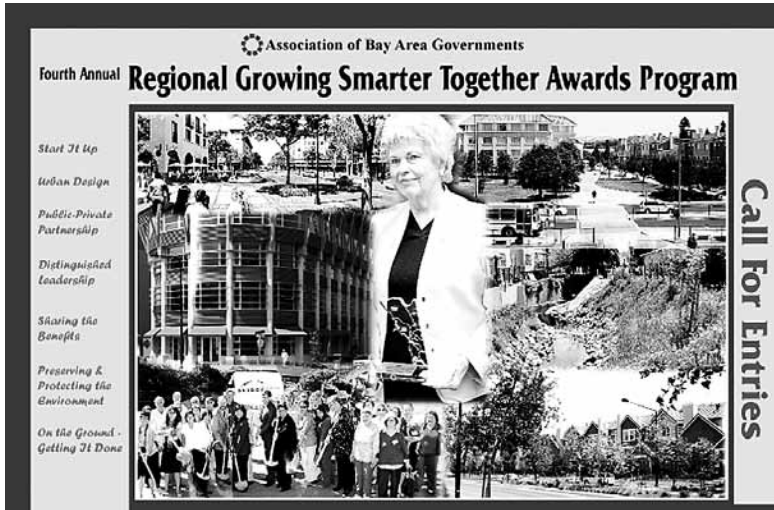
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## GROWING SMARTER TOGETHER AWARDS PROGRAM

Gain deserved regional recognition for your city, town, county, and individual accomplishments by participating in ABAG's fourth annual *Growing Smarter Together Awards* program. Growing Smarter Together Awards recognize excellence in planning and development by local governments

development. A program, policy action/regulation or plan that works to preserve and protect natural habitat, water and air resources, agricultural lands, or other types of regionally significant open space is the focus of the *Preserving and Protecting the Environment* category. The *Distinguished Leadership Award – Elected Official* recognizes the significant contribution and achievements and regional leadership of an elected official.

A distinguished panel of jurors will review select winning entries which will be celebrated as part of the 2010 Spring General Assembly held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Oakland. For complete guidelines, nomination criteria, and video highlights of past award-winning local government projects, visit [www.abag.ca.gov/smarter.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/smarter.html). The deadline for submittal is **Friday, February 16, 2010**. All entries must be received by 5 p.m. in ABAG's offices to be eligible for the 2010 awards.



that demonstrate a significant commitment to achieving the regional FOCUS planning goals and moving forward the region's Bay Area vision of sustainable, healthy complete communities. ABAG encourages member cities, towns and counties, and elected officials to submit their nominations of special projects, plans, policies, and personal achievements by **February 16<sup>th</sup>**.

The *Growing Smarter Together Awards* program is divided into seven award categories, showcasing the region's best practices in local planning and development and distinguished leadership. The *Start It Up Award* is given for a policy, action, or regulation that removes barriers or provides incentives for the implementation of the regional vision and FOCUS goals. The *On the Ground – Getting It Done: FOCUSed Growth Award* recognizes the implementation of city, county or town plan within Priority Development Areas. Collaborative efforts between government and private or non-profit organizations supporting the implementation of Bay Area FOCUS goals in the Bay Area in terms of projects or plans are the focus of *Public-Private Partnership Award*. The *Sharing the Benefits Award* recognizes the innovations jurisdictions have used to avoid displacement or other adverse impacts, while promoting community revitalization, social equity and environmental justice.

*Building a Better Bay Area - Urban Design Award*, introduced in 2009, highlights examples of innovative architecture and encompasses all aspects of the built environment such as a building, park, plaza, or streetscape that enhances the vitality of a community and surmounts the challenges of infill

### Past Winners of the Growing Smarter Together Awards

#### On the Ground - Getting It Done

- Plan for Central Hercules and Regulating Code for the Central Hercules Plan
- Pleasant Hill Villa Montanaro Apartments/Transit Oriented Development Project
- Union City Intermodal Station District

#### Preserving and Protecting the Environment

- Alameda County Peralta Creek Restoration Project
- Napa County Baseline Data Report

#### Public Private Partnership

- San Mateo County Housing Endowment and Regional Trust, HEART of San Mateo County
- Alameda County Surplus Property Authority, City of Dublin, Bay Area Rapid Transit; Dublin Transit Center
- Windsor Town Green Village Project

#### Sharing the Benefits

- San Ramon Housing Rehabilitation Program

#### Start It Up

- San Leandro Downtown Transit-Oriented Development Strategy
- San Mateo Rail Corridor Transit Oriented Development Plan

#### Building a Better Bay Area - Urban Design

- Berkeley Oxford Plaza and David Brower Center

#### Distinguished Leadership Award - Elected Official

- Gwen Regalia, past Walnut Creek Mayor and ABAG President



## Short Term Economic Conference

### “Bay Area Economic Outlook—Rebuilding the American Dream”

What is predicted for the regional economy over the next ten years? Local government officials and staff and business and community leaders are invited to learn about the Bay Area’s economic outlook at ABAG’s short-term economic conference on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Oakland.

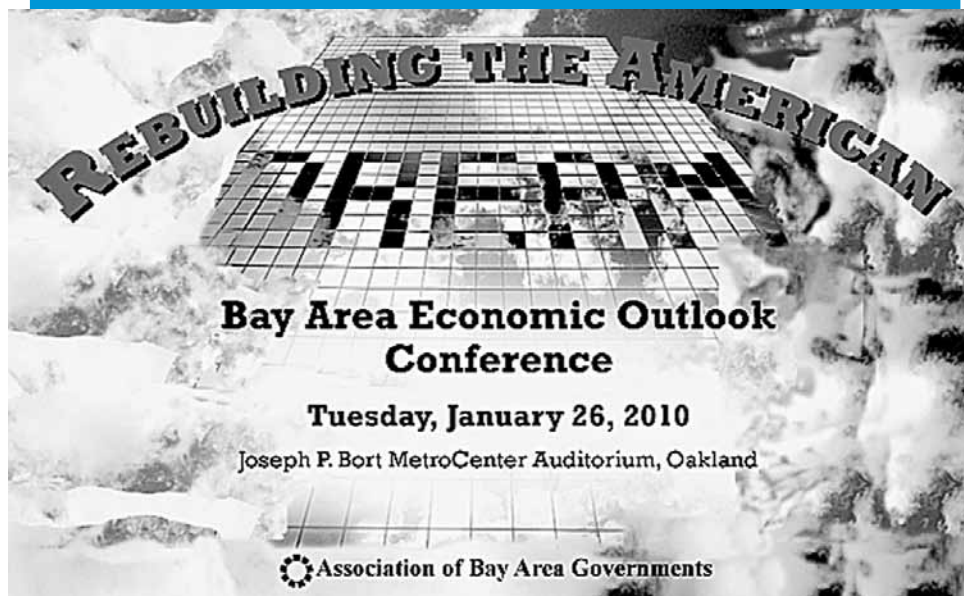
This annual ABAG conference provides a two-year regional economic outlook that assists both the public and private sectors in estimating future revenue and planning budgets.

Speakers are expected to shed light on whether the state and regional economy is ready to bounce back or continue to stagnate.

Howard Roth, Chief Economist for the California Department of Finance, will talk about the “California Economy in 2010—Digging out of the Rubble.” Dr. Paul Fassinger, ABAG Director of Research and Economist, will focus on the Bay Area’s short term outlook,

comparing it to other areas, and discuss the Bay Area Index of leading indicators. Trends in Bay Area taxable sales will be examined by Joe Fitz, Chief Economist, California Board of Equalization. ABAG Senior Regional Planner Hing Wong

will highlight Bay Area retail sales, providing a taxable sales forecast for each Bay Area County. In a presentation entitled “The Housing Market—Fledgling Recovery or Eye of the Storm,” Andrew LePage, Analyst for DataQuick Information Systems, will provide a regional overview of the housing market, analyzing latest sales, price, lending and foreclosure trends.



Registration fee for the half day conference which begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at noon, is \$100 for ABAG Members and \$125 for non-members. For a detailed agenda and to register, visit [www.abag.ca.gov/events](http://www.abag.ca.gov/events).

#### Legal Update for Law Enforcement Workshop

ABAG’s Pooled Liability Assurance Network (PLAN) is hosting a workshop entitled “Legal Update for Law Enforcement” on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Oakland. Presented by Martin Mayer of Jones & Mayer, the day-long workshop will provide a comprehensive update on legal issues and policies for law enforcement and other local government representatives. The range of issues covered will include the latest on Taser training, medical marijuana dispensaries and the law, constitutionality of Prop 215, land use regulations, prisoner release litigation, vehicle searches pursuant to arrest, interrogations without counsel, personnel policies, and other current legal changes.

The workshop will be presented from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, across from Lake Merritt BART Station. The workshop is free to PLAN members (*registration required*) with a nominal fee of \$50 for non-members. To register, go to: <http://www.abag.ca.gov/plan/training.html> or email Carol Johnson at [CarolJ@abag.ca.gov](mailto:CarolJ@abag.ca.gov). The website also has additional information about other courses offered through ABAG PLAN.

#### FOCUS Forum—Building Better Communities New Challenges & Opportunities

Better communities, complete with adequate housing, jobs, and transportation options, are the products of good planning. Yet planning even in a robust economy is difficult at best and is now challenged by the widespread hardship generated by the current economic downturn. However, these same conditions provide a rare opportunity to develop a comprehensive regional plan that could address environmental concerns; the challenges of an aging population; and the many economic, educational, and health woes facing of our communities. Public and private sector leaders are invited to join ABAG for a thought provoking presentation on these concerns by environmental and social justice leader Carl Anthony entitled “Building Better Communities & Opportunities” on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Carl Anthony, founder of Breakthrough Communities, is past founder/ Executive Director of Bay Area’s Urban Habitat Program and has served as Acting Director of the Community and Resource Development Unit at the Ford Foundation. This FOCUS Forum will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the David Brower Center, 2150 Alston Way, Berkeley. Attendees are asked to RSVP to [joannab@abag.ca.gov](mailto:joannab@abag.ca.gov) or 510-464-7968.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### JANUARY 2010

**January 14**

**FOCUS Forum:**

*Building Better Communities - "New Challenges & Opportunities"* **9:30 am**  
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley

**January 15**

**ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint Policy Committee** **10:00 am**  
MetroCenter, Room Auditorium

**January 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

**January 26**

**Bay Area Economic Outlook Conference** **9:00 am**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**January 27**

**California State Coastal Conservancy** **12 noon**  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor Conference Room, Oakland

### February 2010

**February 3**

**Regional Planning Committee (RPC)** **1:00 pm**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**February 4**

**Bay Area "Complete Count" Convening U.S. Census Bureau and ABAG** **1:30 pm**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

**February 11**

**Bay Trail Steering Committee** **1:30 pm**  
ABAG Conference Room B

**February 17**

**ABAG POWER Annual Board Meeting** **10:00 am**  
ABAG Conference Room B

**February 26**

**Regional Airport Planning Committee** **9:30 am**  
MetroCenter, Auditorium

## ABAG Milestones 2009

**2000** private businesses and public agencies become certified Green Businesses.

**300 of the proposed 500 miles** of the Bay Trail are completed with the Bay Trail Project celebrating in 2009 **twenty years** since the adoption of the Bay Trail Plan by the ABAG Executive Board.

**127** Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and **98** Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) identified by cities and counties and adopted by the ABAG Executive Board for inclusion in the FOCUS Initiative—the development and conservation strategy for the San Francisco Bay Area. **7.5 million** was made available to PDAs for Station Area Planning grants to finance planning efforts related to transit oriented development.

**\$7 billion** in tax-exempt financings issued by the ABAG Finance Authority for Nonprofit Corporations on behalf of more than 200 local jurisdictions in California.

**\$1.25 million** returned to ABAG POWER members as the final settlement and wrap up of the Electric Program.

**70** local government agencies and special districts complete energy-efficiency projects with the help of ABAG POWER's Energy Watch Program.

**31** Bay Area cities and towns receive property, liability and crime coverage from ABAG PLAN with over \$20 million in dividends returned and members saving over \$70 million in premiums.

### Participate in Bay Area "Complete Count" Convening

The U.S. Census Bureau Seattle Regional Census Center and ABAG are hosting a special "Bay Area Complete Count Committee Convening" on **February 4<sup>th</sup>** at the MetroCenter Auditorium in Oakland, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Local elected officials and city and county staff are specially invited to participate. This meeting offers Bay Area Census 2010 liaisons, local census officials, and community leaders a great opportunity to network and share ideas about the local census process and ways for communities to ensure "complete counts." **RSVPs are requested by January 19<sup>th</sup>** by calling 510-230-3243 or e-mailing [elaine.lia.bolden@census2010.gov](mailto:elaine.lia.bolden@census2010.gov).

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