

Service Matters

Our Actions, Our Estuary

How healthy is the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary? The Ninth Biennial State of the Estuary Conference, which will be held at the Oakland Marriott from September 29th through October 1st, will answer that question with a comprehensive assessment of the Estuary’s ecological health. Sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, State Coastal Conservancy, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, and many local, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses, this three-day conference will provide the latest information about the Estuary’s changing watersheds, impacts from major stressors, recovery programs for species and habitats, and emerging issues. The conference theme “Our Actions, Our Estuary” underscores that all share the ownership and responsibility for sustaining a healthy estuary and recognizes that individual actions make a difference.

Expert speakers and panels will discuss the Estuary’s current and upcoming challenges, especially climate change and sea level rise, to help identify new actions needed to anticipate and respond to the likely changes in the years ahead. Questions posed and discussed will include: “How can we build resiliency from the ground up, city by city? What will the impacts of climate change and other stressors be on the Estuary’s fish and wildlife? How can we help mitigate for those impacts? And how can we better engage the Bay Area?”

Special events include two presentations. *The Jean Auer Environmental Award* will be given to an individual who has made a significant contribution toward enhancing environmental quality in the Bay-Delta Estuary. *The CCMP Award* will recognize outstanding environmental projects that implement one or more actions in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP is a blueprint for restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Late afternoon poster session receptions will also offer an opportunity to talk informally with those involved in current research and restoration activities.

9th Biennial State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference

**September 29, 30, and October 1, 2009
Oakland Marriott at City Center, Oakland**

Three-day, early bird rate (\$295 / \$95 student includes breaks, lunches, September 29th and 30th receptions, and on-line abstracts); one and two-day rates, as well as hotel rooms, are available. For more info, **contact Debbi Egter van Wissekerke at (510) 622-2304 or degtervanwissekerke@waterboards.ca.gov**



**SAVE THE DATES
Registration Opens in August**

From Project to Partnership

The twenty-two year old San Francisco Estuary Project, administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments, has a new name: **San Francisco Estuary Partnership**. “The new name better reflects the collaborative approach the organization takes to protect, restore, and monitor the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary,” Estuary Partnership Director Judy Kelly said. “We have outgrown the reference to it as a short-term project after so many years,” she added.

The Estuary Partnership, which includes governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, scientists, businesses, and citizens, has advanced restoration of many acres of wetlands around the Bay over these past years and continues work to address key issues affecting the Bay. These challenges encompass climate change and land use, with projects demonstrating low-impact development and green infrastructure tools, including green stormwater treatment using plants instead of pipes. The Partnership also heads up a nationally unique effort to prevent pesticide toxicity to aquatic life in urban waters.

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ABAG Energy Watch Partnership Concludes

The 2006-08 ABAG Energy Watch Partnership (Program) concluded this spring, successfully producing energy efficiency savings in public facilities and promoting energy efficiency community-wide. This joint partnership of ABAG and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provided energy efficiency technical and policy services to cities, counties and special districts (agencies) in seven of the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. The Program enrolled 70 agencies and provided technical assistance to 61 agencies. Forty-eight agencies completed projects to identify measures to improve the energy efficiency in public facilities, help agency staff implement the measures, and provide financial incentives upon completion of the implementation. The services provided by the Program encompassed over 600 energy efficiency projects and resulted in over 300 installed projects.

The Program offered a turn-key lighting retrofit service that identified lighting retrofit opportunities in public facilities, delivered investment-grade lighting audits and design services, provided pre-qualified installation contractors and equipment. The Program also facilitated the contracting process for agencies, ensured that installations were held to strict quality control standards, and provided a lucrative financial incentive to agencies (\$0.20/kWh saved, up to 100% of project cost) upon completion of the project.

The Program provided a range of facility project services to participating local governments. The primary program services involved investment-grade lighting and HVAC audits, computer power management services, direct installation of lighting projects, and retrocommissioning audits. Additional services included assistance with bid processes, review of and development of retrofit project designs, incentive application assistance, third party review of audit reports, and development of equipment specifications. Moving forward, the energy policy and planning assistance provided will continue under a new "Green Communities" Program to be launched later this year. For more information about ABAG Power programs, contact Jerry Lahr at 510-464-7908, or JerryL@abag.ca.gov.



San Francisco Bay Trail 20th Anniversary Celebration



Special guest California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer talked about how the Bay Trail started. He was honored by ABAG and other agencies for his role in creating the Bay Trail, authoring Senate Bill 100 in 1984 that put Bay Trail planning and implementation in motion.

Alameda County Supervisor and MTC Chair Scott Haggerty; Hayward Mayor Mike Sweeney; ABAG Vice President and Union City Mayor Mark Green; and General Manager Rita Shue, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District were among featured dignitaries speaking to more than 100 community attendees celebrating the Bay Trail at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center.



ABAG Program Spotlight

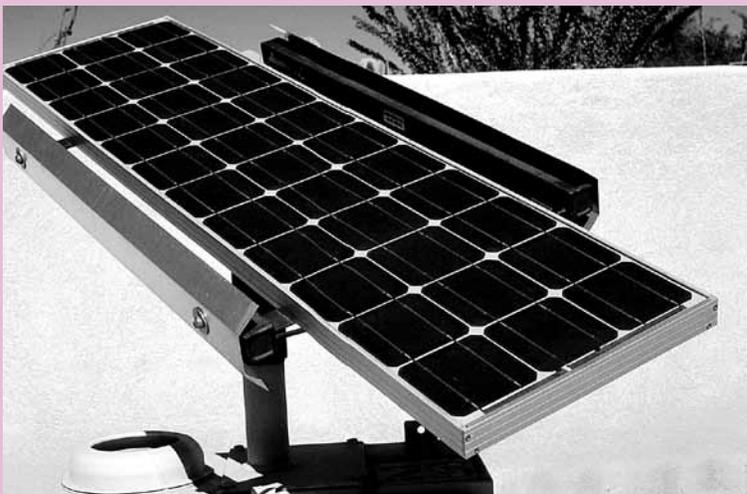
Report on Proposed Solar and Energy Efficiency District

ABAG is exploring the feasibility of creating a regional Solar and Energy Efficiency (SEE) District in partnership with PG&E.



The program would be designed to help private property owners with the cost of solar installation and energy efficiency retrofits, providing the upfront costs of solar, energy efficiency, and other renewable energy installations. The costs would be repaid from a new line item on participating property owners' tax bills. Property owners would be spared the upfront cost of solar panel installation, which can total approximately \$30,000.

The SEE District created would maximize available state and federal subsidies and work with existing PG&E incentives as part of the financing strategy. It is anticipated that the region's ability to spread the financing cost over a much larger market area would make the program more feasible and encourage broader retrofit participation for solar and energy efficiency improvements. An overview of this proposed Solar and Energy Efficiency District and an executive summary presented to the ABAG Executive Board are available at <http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/events/agendas/e031909a-Item%2009.pdf>. For more information, contact Ezra Rapport, ABAG Deputy Executive Director, 510/464-7927.



Solar Panels Installed to help increase energy efficiency

ABAG PLAN Offers Training Courses, Best Practices, and Grants

ABAG PLAN (Pooled Liability Assurance Network) provides risk management resources to members, especially important during tight budgetary times. For this next fiscal year, the 50 percent matching requirement for grants for members meeting the Best Practices requirements has been waived. This takes fiscal conservation beyond basic risk management, minimizing the cost of risk, and maximizing asset protection and insurance pool asset protection. ABAG PLAN has taken it further with the Best Practices program and associated grants, and training courses. For more information about ABAG PLAN, visit the website at <http://www.abag.ca.gov/plan/>.



City of San Mateo, one recipient of a Best Practices Certificate

Project cont. from front page

Last December, the Estuary Partnership received \$5 million from the U.S. EPA to begin working with a wide array of organizations including Save the Bay, Urban Creeks Council, San Francisco Estuary Institute, California Coastal Conservancy, California Land Stewardship Institute, Waterways Restoration Institute, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Community Conservancy International, Alameda County Flood Control District, California State Parks Foundation, Santa Clara County, and Marin Audubon Society. The project goals include: improve urban runoff water quality in low income neighborhoods; restore wetlands; remove mercury from the Guadalupe River watershed; stabilize stream banks on private lands using natural methods; reduce water diversions by North Bay vineyard owners and improve native fish habitat; and develop adaptation plans for wetland restoration projects that may be affected by sea level rise. For more information on the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Estuary, updated in 2007, and many other materials, including ESTUARY NEWS, visit <http://sfestuary.org>.

Mark Your Calendar!

JULY 2009

July 16

**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 17

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

July 21

**Urban Pesticides
Committee** **9:00 am**
MetroCenter, Room 171

July 29

**San Francisco Bay
Restoration Authority** **1:00 pm**
MetroCenter, Auditorium

August 2009

August 13

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

August 5

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

August 19

**ABAG POWER Executive
Committee** **12:00 pm**
ABAG Conference Room B



Notable Numbers

1,600 square miles
make up the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, the largest estuary on the West Coast.

23 million
Californians, two-thirds of the state's population, receive their drinking water from the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary System.

4.5 million acres
of farmland is irrigated by the Estuary System and millions of tons of agricultural commodities and commercial goods are shipped via its waterways.

More than 200 species
of birds, 130 species of fish, 52 species of mammals and 22 species of amphibians and reptiles are found in the Estuary.

Two-thirds
of the state's salmon pass through the Bay and Delta, as do nearly half of the waterfowl and shorebirds migrating along the Pacific Flyway.

From San Francisco Estuary Partnership

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