



Service Matters

West Nile Virus Is Maybe in Our Back Yard

West Nile virus (WNV) has arrived in the Bay Area. On July 21, 2004, Santa Clara County reported a dead crow testing positive for WNV, marking the first evidence of the virus in the San Francisco Bay Area. WNV turned up in southern California in 2002 and as of this printing has spread to 41 of 58 counties in California. Latest Bay Area West Nile reports cite dead birds infected with WNV in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties.

WNV is spread when an infected bird is bitten by a mosquito, which then bites another bird, a horse, or human, and passes along the infection. The disease is particularly lethal to crows, magpies, jays, owls, and ravens, which is why they are indicators of WNV presence in an area.

Since WNV can't be eradicated as yet, the challenge for cities, counties, public health, and vector control is maximizing mosquito abatement, as well as controlling and minimizing WNV's impact.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture has compiled a *West Nile Virus Strategy and Communications Plan 2004*. This plan is the result of many state and local Bay Area agencies and mosquito abatement districts, including ABAG's San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP), partnering to handle WNV in the Bay Area. In speaking about this issue, Marcia Brockbank, SFEP Program Manager, said, "One of our top priorities is to restore wetlands—a restored, healthy tidal wetland can reduce mosquito populations because tidal fluctuations keep the water moving so that

mosquitoes don't have standing water in which to breed." Many plans have been developed by agencies to minimize wetlands and marshes as mosquito breeding areas through tidal wetland restoration, new designs for holding tanks, drainage, mosquito traps and pellets, and monitoring.

Communities and Mosquito Abatement

An equally important part of Bay Area mosquito abatement is the need to communicate to communities

the vital role they play in helping control WNV. It is important to enlist residents' help in eliminating standing water in backyards and neighborhoods, a prime breeding ground for this mosquito-borne disease. Some everyday sources include swimming pools, plastic pools, containers, bird baths, tree holes, ponds, street gutters or catch basins, roof gutters, and irrigated lawns or fields. All provide a habitat for mosquito development if they remain filled with water and stagnant for more than a few days.

The WNV education campaign also involves helping people minimize any kind of exposure to mosquitoes, since WNV is transmitted through a mosquito bite. Recommendations include the need to avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and the first two hours after sunset. If individuals are outdoors where there are mosquitoes, they should apply insect repellent containing DEET according to label instructions (DEET is N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). They should also wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, and socks for another layer of protection from mosquito bites.



West Nile cont. on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

The Bay Trail Project Turns 15!
Funding Regional Water Planning

page 2
page 2

Programs for Home Ownership
Reach for STARS
Calendar

page 3
page 3
page 4

Bay Trail and Regional Water Planning Grants

West Nile cont. from page 2

WNV Resources

The resources, information, and strategies provided in *West Nile Virus Strategy and Communications Plan 2004* are invaluable tools for any jurisdiction addressing this issue with its constituents and can be found in the "News" or "Tools" section at www.sfbayjv.org, the website for San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.



The Bay Trail Project Turns 15!

Fifteen years ago this September, the Bay Trail Plan was adopted by ABAG with the goal of developing a 500-mile loop trail around the Bay Area. The plan was prepared pursuant to Senate Bill 100 which mandated that the Bay Trail provide connections to existing parks and recreation facilities, create links to existing and proposed transportation facilities, and be planned in such a way as to avoid adverse effects on environmentally sensitive areas. The Bay Trail Project will celebrate this 15 year anniversary on **September 22nd at the Berkeley Marina Shorebird Park Nature Center**. Among the many attending who have contributed to the success of the Bay Trail Project is California State Senator Liz Figueroa, a featured guest and speaker. Senator Figueroa was instrumental in securing \$7.5 million in funding for the Bay Trail project in 2000, which has in turn funded over 60 trail planning and construction grants to local governments.

Since 1989, the region's cities, counties, and park districts have worked through ABAG to implement roughly half of the entire final alignment, over 250 miles of Bay Trail. That has translated across the Bay Area into shoreline trails for cyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters, and commuters. This success is attributed to

the cooperation among shoreline property owners; the hundreds of local, regional, state, and federal agencies with jurisdiction over the trail alignment; the trusts and foundations operating in the region; and the environmental and recreational interests that closely monitor the Bay Area's changes.



ABAG Helps Secure Funding for Regional Water Planning

According to a recent funding update from the state, **planning grants** to develop or complete an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) are slated to be funded at one million per hydrologic region per year for the next several decades under a proposal by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). There are ten hydrologic regions in California and the Bay region is one of them. These funds will create an estimated \$250 Million for integrated regional water management planning (IRWMP).

Lester Snow, DWR Director, has indicated a fall 2004 release date for request for proposals, after public comment is received on the *August 16th Public Draft: Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines for Proposition 50, Chapter 8* (Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board). Bay Area planning and local public works agencies and departments wishing to comment on the *IRWMP Grant Program Guidelines* may do so in writing by September 30, or attend a public meeting at the California Environmental Protection Agency on September 9th in Sacramento. Consult the DWR's website for information on opportunities for comment, the planning calendar, and a full planning overview: <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/b160/workgroups/chapterreviewgroup.htm>.

Over the last year ABAG and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), along with other regional agencies, have been strong advocates for identifying this category of regional planning funding for local governments, regional agencies, and non-governmental organizations from the voter-approved water bond, Proposition 50. The focus of ABAG and other agencies' efforts has been to raise awareness and identify the funding needed for good regional, local and watershed-based planning. This planning is seen as essential to paving the way for effective and well-supported water and watershed projects and programs. ABAG has also urged the state to create a category of support for disadvantaged communities and to phase grant awards to allow for more access to the funding. *For more information on ABAG efforts and integrated regional water management program grants, contact Kathleen Van Velsor at 510/464-7959 or KathleenV@abag.ca.gov.*

Bay Area Programs Open Door to Homeownership



California Home Source, a Lease-Purchase Home Ownership Program, serves low-and moderate-income working families in the Bay Area by building a new path to homeownership. Developed by ABAG Finance Authority for Nonprofit Corporations, in partnership with FreddieMac, CitiMortgage, and the California Housing Finance Agency, California Home Source is a \$48 Million initiative that represents the best of public and private sector partnership and ingenuity.



Since the Lease Purchase Program started in June 2003, \$8.7 million in Bay Area communities has been invested, serving more than 29 families, with growing momentum. A family with two children (a teenage son and a pre-teen daughter) buying a home in Antioch is the latest success story. They secured their home through California Home Source after years of trying other ways to make their dream of homeownership come true. The Program allows qualified residents to choose a home, lease it from a non-profit entity created by ABAG Finance Authority for Nonprofit Corporations, then purchase the home and assume the mortgage at the end of a 39-month lease term.

Local Housing Efforts Expanding the Partnership

The Lease-Purchase Homeownership Program is designed to be flexible and adaptable by local cities and counties, able to be intertwined with other local housing programs to maximize availability and outreach to all Bay Area

residents. For example, California Home Source is one of the local homebuyer programs that the North Bay Housing Coalition uses to create affordable housing units, home ownership options, and housing education serving Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties. They also offer Section 8 homeownership, First Time Homebuyer programs and Individual Development Accounts.

Other jurisdictions that have created and developed similar housing programs include San Jose whose Department of Housing consolidated a variety of workforce housing programs under one roof to ensure that affordable housing in San Jose receives priority attention. The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) offers an innovative Section 8 Homeownership Program for qualified low-income families who are generally priced out of the expensive Bay Area housing market. Through a combination of California Housing Finance Agency loans and grants, the City of Oakland Mortgage Assistance Program, OHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, and HUD's Section 8 Homeownership Program, a new buyer can layer different subsidies to afford a home. OHA's workforce development programs also help families receive assistance in securing employment, establishing good credit, and accumulating savings. These and other programs are part of efforts to open the door to affordable housing and homeownership. *Information regarding California Home Source is available on www.calhomesource.org or the toll-free number 800/807-8277.*

Public Agencies Invited to Reach for STARS

Employees of Bay Area local jurisdictions and other public agencies have a special opportunity to save money, secure high quality investment services at competitive costs, and enhance employees' self directed retirement future and assets. Twenty-seven cities, districts, and other public agencies including ABAG have done just that by participating in STARS—Self-Directed Tax Advantaged Retirement System.

STARS is a Deferred Compensation/Defined Contribution pool program formed in 2000 by ABAG and the City of San Carlos that gives agencies combined purchasing power and investment services while maintaining agency independence. STARS' administrative fees follow a declining scale starting at 25 basis points for total plan assets below \$25 million to 0 basis points when total assets reach \$100 million. As growth continues beyond \$100 million, the STARS program will offer reimbursement, enhancing returns over paying fees.

Currently, STARS assets are close to \$30 million and administrative fees are at the 20 basis points level.

STARS features three to five highly rated, well-established mutual funds in each of ten different asset categories, and accommodates 457(b), 401(a) and 401(k) plans. AIG/Valic provides personalized financial service for all participants and agencies, as well as plan transitions, educational workshops, individualized communication, and a user-friendly website.

Cities, counties, districts, and other agencies that have not done so are invited to join the STARS program. Contact Richard Averett, STARS Steering Committee Chair, and City of San Carlos Finance Director at (650) 802-4205, or Danny Swick, Managing Director—Government, AIG/Valic Retirement Services to enroll at (650) 358-2982.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 2004

Sept. 1 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Administrative Committee Meeting
MetroCenter, ABAG, Conference Room B

Sept. 15 10:00 a.m.
Earthquake Hazards Outreach Review Committee
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 102A

Sept. 16 11:00 a.m.
Lifelines and Transportation Hazards Review Committee
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Sept. 16 12 noon
ABAG POWER Executive Meeting
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Sept. 16 3:30 p.m.
Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee Meeting
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Sept. 16 5:00 p.m.
Finance and Personnel Committee
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Sept. 16 7:30 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting
MetroCenter, Auditorium

Sept. 17 1:30 p.m.
Regional Agency Coordinating Com.
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 171

Sept. 22 10:30 a.m.
Bay Trail Board Meeting
Berkeley Marina Nature Center

Sept. 29 9:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
ABAG-CALFED Task Force Meeting
Elihu Harris State Office Building
1515 Clay Street, Second Floor, Rm. 10

October 2004

Oct. 6 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fall General Assembly, "Taming Natural Disasters," 15th Anniversary of Loma Prieta Earthquake
Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland

Don't Miss This Two Day Forum!

Pacific Security Expo

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 5 & 6
Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel

*Bay Area Economic Forum & BASIC's
Second Annual Bay Area Conference on
Homeland Security*
October 5th

*ABAG Fall General Assembly
"Taming Natural Disasters"*
October 6th

For more information call
510-464-7900
or to register, visit our website at:
www.pacificsecurityexpo.com

Notable Numbers

15 Years Since Loma Prieta and 98 years since the San Francisco 1906 Earthquake

6.9

Magnitude was Loma Prieta Earthquake; the 1906 San Francisco earthquake magnitude was 7.8.

25 miles

Were ruptured by Loma Prieta, in comparison to a rupture length of 290 miles for the 1906 earthquake.

\$5.9 billion

In property damage was caused by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, with property damage at more than \$400 million in 1906 dollars for the 1906 earthquake.

\$100 million

Or 1.6% of damage costs from Loma Prieta were due to liquefaction, although most damage was due to ground shaking.

10 miles

Of state highway had to be resurfaced after Loma Prieta due to liquefaction damage, costing \$5.5 million.

85%

Of the total damage to San Francisco in 1906 can be indirectly blamed on liquefaction. Liquefaction-related damage to water supply pipelines prevented containment of the fire in San Francisco that destroyed about 500 city blocks.

ABAG Earthquake Hazards Program and U.S. Geological Survey

Scott Haggerty
ABAG President,
Alameda County Supervisor

David Cortese
ABAG Vice President,
Councilmember, City of San Jose

Gwen Regalia
ABAG Immediate Past President
Councilmember, City of Walnut Creek

Eugene Y. Leong
Secretary/Treasurer, Executive Director

Patricia M. Jones - Managing Editor

Kathleen Cha - Editor/Writer

Leah Zippert - Writer

Halimah Anderson - Writer

Vicki Rutherford - Design & Production



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>



Association of Bay Area Governments
P.O. Box 2050 • Oakland, CA 94604-2050
website: <http://www.abag.ca.gov> • e-mail: info@abag.ca.gov

